

Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
March 17, 2008

Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase Gene Aleinikoff, Bonnie Hundt, Kyle Lougheed, Chris Sommerhoff , Leah Wilcox, Nan Stolzenburg

Absent: Jim Bryant, Don MacLean

The Comp Plan Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Art Bassin at 7 PM.

The minutes for the 3/3 Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Draft 3 Vision Statement -- The Committee began a review of Draft 3 of the Vision statement. Mr. Bassin commented he had tried to develop a combined vision/goals document as the Committee had discussed at the last meeting, but had been unable to make it work. Instead, Mr. Bassin said he edited the previous version of the Vision into one organized around the three important “themes” that were in question 12 of the survey – Agriculture & Environment, Community and Development & Infrastructure. He indicated he tried to shorten the Vision to under one page, and tried to write it in conversational language so it was easier to read and free of jargon. The Committee and Ms. Stolzenburg made extensive suggestions to change and improve Draft 3 of the Vision. Mr. Bassin indicated he would revise the Vision and incorporate all the suggested changes into Draft 4.

Draft 1 Goals -- Ms. Stolzenburg distributed a set of preliminary goals which support the Vision. The committee reviewed and discussed the goals and the need for goals that were specific enough to be measurable and realistic enough to be done over time. Ms. Stolzenburg indicated she would incorporate the committee’s suggestions into the next draft of the goals.

Cross Tabs/Strengths/Weaknesses/Challenges -- Ms. Stolzenburg distributed copies of five cross tabs, a summary of Ancram’s strengths and weaknesses based on the workshops held in September and October, and a list of the challenges facing the Town, taken from the Planning Issues list the Committee has been maintaining. The Committee briefly reviewed this material and agreed to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Bassin suggested anyone who was interested in additional cross tabs should send him what they would like, and he would consolidate the list and request Ms. Stolzenburg do them for us.

Revised Draft Comp Plan Document -- Ms. Stolzenburg then distributed a revised draft copy of the Comp Plan which includes a complete table of contents, a brief history of the town, workshop summaries and work papers, a demographic analysis, survey results, the water study, environmental descriptions, cultural social characteristics of the town, etc. Some portions of the Plan Document are still not available (maps and an analysis of the maps, final vision statement, goals and strategies, build out analysis, recommendations for next steps etc) but are being worked on and should be available in draft form in the next month or so. Ms. Stolzenburg asked the Committee to review the Draft Comp Plan materials in depth and comment on the accuracy and completeness of the materials.

Ms. Stolzenburg commented that the Committee also needed to decide how they wanted the Comp Plan document to be organized. One option is to have a fairly short “Comprehensive Plan outlining the Plan’s process and methodology, conclusions, vision, goals, strategies and recommendations supported by appendices with all the supporting documents and work papers. The other option is to have a longer Plan Document which integrates all the supporting materials in the body of the Plan, as it is presented now. The Committee will focus on the organization of the Plan Document at a later date.

The Draft Comp Plan Document has not yet been posted on the web site because several important sections are still not available, but will as soon as the missing sections have been added.

Next Public Meeting – The Committee decided to host a public meeting on Saturday April 26, from 9.30 to 11.30 AM to review progress on the Plan to date, summarize the results of the workshops and survey and present for discussion the Vision and Goals that the Committee has developed based on the workshops and Survey. The Committee debated whether one Saturday meeting would be sufficient or whether it would be better to do meetings on both Saturday and Monday and concluded one meeting would be sufficient.

Next Meetings -- The Committee set its next meeting for Monday 3/24 at 7 PM. The focus of that meeting will be Gravel Mining, with representatives from the gravel mining industry joining us to help the committee understand the issues involved in gravel mining from the perspective of the gravel miners. Mr. Bassin asked all Committee members to prepare three questions each for the gravel mining industry experts, and circulate them to the rest of the Committee by email. Mr. Bassin also mentioned that Nan Stolzenburg would be back at the 3/31 meeting, and again at the 4/21 meeting. The full April meeting schedule will be set at the next (3/24) meeting.

Committee meeting adjourned at 9.15 PM.