

Comprehensive Plan Committee Town Board Update - 10/11/07

- 1. Weekly Meetings** -- The Comprehensive Planning Committee continued to meet regularly in September. The primary focus during the past month was to prepare for the Community workshops and the design of the survey questionnaire.
- 2. Workshops** -- Over 130 Ancram residents and property owners attended the planning workshops, which were held Saturday 9/29, and Monday 10/1 at the Town Hall. They were run by our consultants, Nan Stolzenburg and Don Meltz. The purpose of the workshops was to give the Community an overview of the comprehensive planning process and get from the workshop participants their thoughts on the planning issues and opportunities facing the town, and their preliminary ideas on how to address them.
- 3. Survey/Questionnaire** -- The next step in understanding how the Community feels about the issues and opportunities raised during the Workshops will be the survey, which we are in the process of finalizing, and plan to send to all residents and landowners in November.
- 4. Expand Committee to Nine Members** – Since Nancy Broe’s resignation 90 days ago, we have been discussing the size and composition of the Committee. We have concluded it would be helpful to increase the size of the Comprehensive Planning Committee from seven to nine members. This expansion of the Committee will insure there are enough members at Committee meetings to conduct business even if one or two members are unable to attend, and will permit the Committee to broaden its base and become even more representative of the Community. We would appreciate it if the Town Board would approve the

recommended increase of the size of the Committee from seven to nine.

5. Seeking New Members – The Committee ran two ads last week in the Independent to recruit new members, and have had three individuals express interest in joining the Committee. The Committee met with Chris Sommerhoff last Monday, and are pleased to recommend that the Town Board appoint him to the Committee as the eighth member. In addition, we plan to meet with Gene Aleinikoff later this week or next, and recommend that the Town Board appoint Mr. Aleinikoff to the Committee as well, assuming the meeting with Mr. Aleinikoff goes well next week. Mr. Aleinikoff is an attorney, has been a resident of Ancram for 40 years, was an Ancram Town Justice for 6 years and head of the Cable Committee for two years. The third volunteer for the committee, Jane Shannon, has indicated she will not be in Ancram during January or February, so the Committee decided it was not appropriate to appoint her to the committee at this point, but to wait until she returns in the spring and review the matter again then.

6. Financial Report – The Comp Plan Committee has incurred expenses of approximately \$5100 through the end of September. Approximately \$4100 related to consulting fees paid to Community Planning and Environmental Associates, and approximately \$1000 was related to the costs of the mailing inviting people to the Workshops. Our total budget is approximately \$60,000 for the estimated 12 month length of the Comprehensive Planning project, for an average budget of \$5000 per month. Over the last 90 days we have been spending at about half the average budgeted rate, but our spending rate will probably increase and eventually exceed the \$5000 monthly average once the survey process is underway and we begin to analyze survey results and start writing the draft “Plan”.