

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes 11/20/25

Meeting starts: 6:30pm. Minutes taken by Rich Azoff, CPC Secretary

Members present: Rich Azoff, Sam Dederick, Lauren Marcello Ruberg, Aden Hughes, Susan Weeks, Bob Dederick

Also present: Leeanne Thornton, Mike Ivino

Absent: Laura Diffenderfer, Stephanie Bassler, Carole Ann Mayone

October 2025 meeting minutes were approved

Town Board Report:

Leeanne reported on the Saugerties Merchants' Conversation at the Orpheum

The town budget did not need to exceed the tax cap, and the budget passed.

A professional hydrologist spoke at the TB meeting about water resources at Winston Farm.

The CPC budget was reduced in the town budget to \$6500/year.

Business

The affordable housing grant: Sam expressed initial opposition to using taxpayer money to study affordable housing. The committee discussed pros and cons of the grant. Aden recommended that we apply for the grant because this money is already budgeted to be awarded so why not make the attempt to receive it, but in the interim we continue to act as if we are not going to be the recipient and pursue other avenues towards our goals.

CPC voted unanimously to support the Affordable Housing Grant Application.

Susan, Stephanie and Sam went to a presentation on Community Preservation presented by Scenic Hudson. At the class there was a presentation on the option of taxing new housing purchases to pay for land acquisition. Such a measure would have to be passed by the Town Board and put up for voter referendum. Several local towns have adopted this.

Topics for next year:

- Affordable housing
- Short Term Rentals
- Zoning Changes
- Battery Storage
- Water studies
- Floating zones

It was decided that our topic for attention in 2026 would be decided in January.

This is the last meeting in which Laura Diffenderfer and Stephanie Bassler will be members of the CPC. The remaining CPC members thank them for their helpful and active participation in the committee and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Our next meeting will be in January 22, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Minutes respectfully submitted: Richard Azoff