

Ancram Comp Plan Workshops Draw 130

Ancram, October 10 – Over 130 residents and property owners attended the Comprehensive Planning Workshops at the Ancram Town Hall on Saturday morning September 29 and Monday evening October 1. The planning workshops were run by Nan Stolzenburg and Don Meltz of Community Planning and Environmental Associates, the consulting firm retained by Ancram to advise and guide it through the comprehensive planning process.

The workshops got started with an overview of the Comprehensive Planning Process. Following the overview, Ms. Stolzenburg asked the participants, who were sitting at round tables in groups of 6 and 7, to work together to make a list of the things they liked about Ancram – the ‘positives’, and then to make a list of the things they did not like – the “negatives”. After identifying the positives and negatives the participants were asked to list what they think should be done to protect and preserve the “positives”, and also to identify what should be done to eliminate the “negatives”.

Following this exercise, the participants were asked to imagine they were 15 to 20 years in the future, and Ancram had just been named the “most perfect Town in America”. The groups were asked to write down what the characteristics of this “most perfect town” would be, and how they would describe their “vision” for this “most perfect town”.

The workshops concluded with each table presenting a report of its positives, negatives and “vision” statements. “This was a very productive set of meetings”, commented Comp Plan Committee Chair Art Bassin. “We were very pleased that we had such a large number of people attend, and it was very interesting that there was so much overlap in the points of view from all the tables at both meetings.”

The results of the workshops will be written up by the end of October and made available on the Town’s website, and will be circulated to the Comprehensive Planning Committee’s email communications list. “Most importantly, though”, said Bassin, “the workshops will guide the development of the questionnaire we are preparing which will ask the entire Town for its opinions on a variety of planning issues and opportunities.” The survey will be sent to all Ancram residents and property owners in mid-November, and is the second step, following the workshops, in the process of securing the Community’s inputs and involvement in the Comprehensive Planning Process.

Anyone interested in additional information about the Ancram Comprehensive Planning process should go to the Ancram website at www.townofancram.org or contact Comp Plan Committee Chair Art Bassin at 329-0921 or abassin@aol.com.