

Ancram Comprehensive Plan Efforts Move Into Final Phases

Ancram, February 4, 2008 – At its meeting on February 4 the Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee reviewed the results of the questionnaires which had been returned by Ancram residents and property owners. The 434 questionnaires returned represents a 28% response rate, which, according to Nan Stolzenburg, the Town’s planning advisor, is an excellent outcome and results in a statistical confidence level of over 95%. According to Comp Plan Committee Chair Art Bassin, the 434 surveys returned represented over 40% of the registered voters in Ancram and about 75% of the people who voted in the 2006 Town elections.

The review of the survey results came a week after the Comprehensive Planning Committee reviewed and discussed first drafts of the Town’s “Community Profile” document, which describes in detail the kind of town Ancram is today, and “Vision” document, which describes what kind of place Ancram wants to be in 20 years. The “Vision Statement”, which was based on the surveys and the workshops held in September and October, will provide the framework for the development of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, and will drive the goals and strategies the Town will pursue in implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to the draft Vision and the survey results, which will be posted and available on the Town website (www.townofancram.org), Ancram has received the results of a Groundwater Protection Study/Plan done by the NY Rural Water Association. The Groundwater Protection Plan is also available on the Town website, and will be presented to the Comprehensive Planning Committee at a special meeting, which is open to the public, on Saturday, February 16 at 10 AM at the Ancram Town Hall.

Once the Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee has fully absorbed the information from the Vision document, the surveys, the Community Profile and the Water Study, it will start to develop goals and strategies for implementing the Comprehensive Plan. These activities should take place in March and April, according to Chair Bassin, and a draft comp Plan should be available by May or June.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee has also announced the resignation of Committee Member Kyle Lougheed, and is in the process of soliciting interest from Town residents for a replacement for Mr. Lougheed. Anyone interested in joining the Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee should contact Committee Chair Art Bassin at 329-0921 or at abassin@aol.com.

The Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee plans to meet on Monday, February 11 at 7 PM, Saturday February 16 at 10 AM and Monday, February 25 at 7 PM. All meetings are open to the public.