

Ancram Comp Plan Committee Holds Strategy Workshops

Ancram, January 21, 2009 – The Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee has scheduled four special workshops in February to review progress on the Comprehensive Plan and to discuss the Plan’s Strategies.

The meetings will be held at the Town Hall on Mondays, February 2 and February 9 at 7 PM and on Saturdays, February 7 and February 14 at 9.30 AM. Invitations to the meetings, along with a booklet containing the draft 2030 Vision Statement, a one page summary of the “Top Ten Things” to know about the Ancram Comprehensive Plan, and a “Summary of Goals & Strategies” will be mailed out this week to all households and businesses in Ancram. They should arrive in the mail by January 24.

In addition to the materials being mailed, the Town’s Comprehensive Planning Committee has prepared a “Detailed Strategies” document, a “Frequently Asked Questions” document, and a “Glossary of Terms.” These materials will be available in print at the Town Hall starting January 26, at the Workshops, and also will be available by email and on the Town web site.

The Workshops will focus on the Strategies being proposed to attain the Comprehensive Plan’s 2030 Vision and Goals. The Workshops will begin with a presentation of what has done over the past year to develop the Vision, Goals and Strategies, will present the proposed Strategies to achieve each Goal, and will solicit questions, comments and suggestions from the Community regarding the Strategies and the overall planning effort. The format of the Workshops, according to Comp Plan committee Chair Art Bassin, will be about 45-60 minutes of presentations, followed by 90 minutes of questions and answers.

“There has been an enormous amount of work done during the last year,” Bassin commented, “and everything the committee has done has been shared with the Town on a continuous basis through open meetings, emails and postings on the town web site, www.townofancram.org. So none of this information will be new to the Community, but seeing it pulled all together in one place, on one day, really allows you to see what has been done, and is more impactful than seeing it or reading about it as it happened over the last year.”

According to Bassin, the draft Vision, Goals and Strategies are based on interactions with the people of Ancram at previous workshops, through the survey, and in a series of regular weekly committee meetings, small group meetings and periodic community meetings, which have been held on an ongoing basis.

The objective of the meetings in February is to reaffirm that the Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee has correctly heard and understood what the Town wants its future to be like, and that the Community understands and is comfortable with the strategies, policies and programs recommended by the Comprehensive Planning Committee to achieve the Vision and Goals.

The Ancram Comprehensive Planning effort began in April 2007. Ancram conducted community planning workshops to identify planning issues and priorities in the Fall of 2007, completed its community survey in January of 2008, developed and presented the 2030 Vision and Goals, which were based on the workshops and survey, in April 2008, and finalized the Strategies to implement the 2030 Vision and Goals in December 2008.

In addition to this extensive public input to the process, the Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee developed a detailed town data Profile and Inventory document, had a Groundwater Protection Plan done by the NY Rural Water Association, and conducted studies on revitalizing the center of Ancram, on improving conditions at a dangerous intersection in Town, on the structural conditions of several buildings in the center of Town, and on septic options and alternatives for Ancram.

“Our Strategies are based on extensive public input and expert advice,” commented Bassin. “The Comp Plan committee is pleased with how the Plan has come together, and we are looking forward to sharing the details of the Strategies – what we think the town should do to achieve the Community’s Vision and Goals. It has taken the Committee almost 9 months to figure out the Strategies, and it will take another couple of months to work through the communications process with the Community to ensure everyone is comfortable that the Plan makes good sense and will meet our needs.”

After the February Strategy Workshops, the Comp Plan Committee will assess the public’s comments, and make whatever modifications to the Plan seem required before finalizing the Plan and holding public hearings on the Plan. Subsequently, the Ancram Comprehensive Plan will be formally presented to the Town Board for review, additional public hearings and adoption.