

Comprehensive Plan Committee Town Board Update - 1/10/08

1. Meetings -- The Comprehensive Planning Committee met once in December and again on Monday 1/7. We plan to meet weekly over the next few months as we start work reviewing the results of the questionnaire and crafting the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Survey/Questionnaire – Based on returns, it looks like we sent out about 1550 surveys on November 16. A combination of the heavy Thanksgiving mail flow and the third class bulk mailing permit caused the surveys to arrive a week to 10 days later than we expected. We extended the return date to 12/7 from 11/26, and then again to January 15. We mailed out a final post card last week reminding people to send in the survey. We have gotten in about 425 surveys so far, about a 28% response rate, which is about 70% of the number of people who voted in November, and probably represents 50% of the Towns households.

3. 16-22 Year Old Planning Workshop – We held a planning workshop with four 16 to 22 year olds on 12/29. The meeting covered the same ground as was covered by the Planning Workshops on 9/29 and 10/1. We had invited the 28 high school students we identified who attend the four Area high schools, and communicated through the 180 individuals on the email list to invite college age and working individuals in the age group. The concerns and conclusions of this group were very similar to the concerns and conclusions of the 9/29 and 10/1 Workshops.

4. Grant Applications – We have identified a second opportunity for a grant for up to \$25,000 to support the development of a Farmland Protection Plan, which we are working on and plan to apply for by the end of February. This opportunity was referred to us by Trish MacArthur. In December, as was reported last month,

we filed an application for a \$21,000 grant to support economic development in Ancram.

5. 2007 In Review – A seven person Comprehensive Planning Committee was established by the Town Board in April 2007, and was expanded to nine people in October 2007. In July the Committee secured Town Board approval to retain Community Planning and Environmental Associates to assist the Town to develop a comprehensive plan and the NY Rural Water Association to conduct a water study of the Town. The Committee also secured Town Board approval for a \$60,000 budget for the overall comprehensive planning effort, which we hope to complete by the end of the summer 2008. Through the end of 2007 the Committee has spent approximately \$20,000 of the \$60,000 budget. We conducted planning workshops on 9/29, 10/1 and 12/29, and sent around a survey to all residents in late November. The Comprehensive Planning Committee established some ground rules early in the process to hold open meetings and to share all agendas, minutes and work products with anyone in town interested via a website and an email communications list. A complete record of the Committee's activities can be found on www.townofancram.org by clicking on the Comprehensive Planning link. The Committee applied for a \$21,000 grant in 2007, and expects to hear back on the grant during the 1Q08.