

**Town of Ancram
Workshop Summary: Positives**

A. The top 10 most commonly expressed positive features in Ancram (both workshops) were as follows:

(In order from most commonly expressed to least)

Community appearance/Character
Community/People
Agriculture
Recreation/Cultural
Location/Access
Environment
Infrastructure
Business/Economic Development
Traffic/Roads
Zoning/Land Use
Government

B. The top 10 positive features that received the most priority stickers by participants (both workshops) were as follows:

(In order from most stickers to least)

Community appearance/Character
Agriculture
Infrastructure
Community/People
Environment
Business/Economic Development
Zoning/Land Use
Recreation/Cultural
Traffic/Roads
Government

C. Overall, there were many similarities between the two workshops and within the category, both groups valued these resources similarly. These positive features can be summarized as follows:

Community Appearance/Community Character: Rural character, rural and agricultural character, wide open spaces, natural areas, natural beauty, small town feel, quiet and peaceful, historic and historic buildings, sense of community, rural views. This was by far, the single most important positive feature of the Town.

Traffic and Roads: dirt roads, good highway network, local control of roads, good roads and well maintained although another thought was that bad roads slow speeders.

Business/Economic Development: lack of big box stores and large businesses were seen as a positive, year-round attractions are available to bring in business, paper mill.

Zoning and Land Use: This was not a highly ranked topic but for people who felt it was positive, they mentioned the scenic overlay zone, lack of large development, 3-acre minimum lot size, diversification of parcel sizes.

Infrastructure: fire department and rescue squad seen as very positive feature.

Agriculture: farms and open land still exist, a viable agriculture base still exists, good farmland, fresh produce available, good farming opportunities.

Recreation/Cultural Facilities: hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation available, access to parks, recreational areas such as ski resort and golf is good.

Community/People: people are supportive, have good will, good people, diversity of people, family ties, nice people, sense of community. This was a very positive feature of Ancram.

Government: Town government is accessible and willing to look forward to future.

Environment: Environmental features such as topography, clean air and water, lakes and waterfronts, wetlands, land preserved already, and abundance of natural resources were important.

Location/Access: Access to transportation and cultural centers were important. Proximity to urban areas as well as the Berkshires and Catskills were important.

D. By far, the workshops showed that community appearance and community character were the most important positive features of Ancram. Both workshops rated this the highest. Both workshops also indicated that agriculture was very important. These two topic areas received not only the most priority stickers, but the most overall attention by participants. There were some differences in other top 10 positive priorities and predominance of issues between the Saturday and Monday workshops as follows (in order from highly rated to less highly rated). The colors below indicate that two categories received the same “score”.

Monday Commonly Expressed Items	Monday Priorities	Saturday Commonly Expressed Items	Saturday Priorities
Community Appearance and Character	Community Appearance and Character	Community Appearance and Character	Community Appearance and Character

Monday Commonly Expressed Items	Monday Priorities	Saturday Commonly Expressed Items	Saturday Priorities
Community and People	Agriculture	Agriculture	Agriculture
Recreation and Cultural	Business/Economic Development	Community and People	Infrastructure
Agriculture	Community and People	Environment	Community and People
Location/Access	Recreation and Cultural	Location/Access	Environment
Environment	Infrastructure	Infrastructure	Business/Economic Development
Infrastructure	Zoning/Land Use	Business/Economic Development	Zoning/Land Use
Traffic/Roads	Traffic/Roads	Traffic/Roads	Recreation and Cultural
Business/Economic Development	Government	Zoning/Land Use	Traffic/Roads
Zoning/Land Use	Environment	Government	Government