

Town of Ancram
16-22 Year-Old Planning Workshop
December 29, 2007
11AM - 1 PM

Four 16-22 year olds participated in Ancram's 12/29 Planning Workshop held from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Town Hall.

The Workshop was hosted by Comp Plan Committee Vice Chair Barry Chase and Chair Art Bassin.

The four participants were asked to identify the 10 things they liked most about living in Ancram, the 10 things they liked least, and how they wanted Ancram to be in 20 years.

The things liked the most were:

1. The Town Park, pool, basketball court; Youth Commission (3 mentions)
2. Friendly Community, small town atmosphere (3 mentions)
3. Nice Town Hall
4. Firehouse Activities
5. Church Dinners
6. Agricultural environment/rural open spaces (3 mentions)
7. Family in the area
8. Outdoor recreational activities –hunting, fishing, camping

The things liked least were:

1. No cell service (3 mentions)
2. No police (2 mentions)
3. Some bad roads (2 mentions)
4. Not much for kids to do
5. Traffic problems in Ancram and Ancramdale (2 mentions)
6. A very narrow economic base – weekenders and the Mill were the only sources of income
7. High real estate prices
8. Curfew – lights out at the Town Park at 9 PM

In 20 years (or sooner) they wanted Ancram to have:

1. Better roads and more money for the highway department.
2. "Responsible agriculture" and more farming.

3. Affordable homes that are consistent with the Town's rural setting; no big developments; lower prices. "I want to be able to live here".
4. More stores for food, gas and other convenience items.
5. More recreational facilities and more activities – baseball/softball field, football/soccer field, skate park.
6. More police and better law enforcement.
7. Good cell service.

In conclusion, the four participants were asked what the Comprehensive Planning Committee had to "really get right" to make sure the Comprehensive Plan captured what was most important to them. They said:

1. Protect what we have now; keep things the way they are. We do not want Ancram to become like Lakeville or Millerton, where there are mob scenes most of the time.
2. Make sure we have affordable housing and a balance of housing ranging from the very expensive to mid-range priced to affordable for individuals just starting out.
3. Protect the "sense of community" we have. Since kids in Ancram go to four different schools, the only way they get to know each other is to have a lot of community activities like the Firehouse dinners and activities, the Youth Commission activities, the church dinners, tractor pulls and things like that. The Town needs to do more to promote this "sense of community" and more Town activities and recreational facilities would help do that. Town should consider doing an annual "Community Day", or an "Agriculture Day", or both.