

Draft 7 (4/4/08) The Community's Vision of Ancram in 2030

Our vision statement describes what Ancram seeks to become – how it will look, feel and function in 2030. This vision is based on the ideas of the people of Ancram, contributed through a series of workshops held in the fall of 2007, a survey conducted in December of 2007, and ongoing public meetings. The vision below describes what those of us who live here today want Ancram to be like in 2030.

Ancram in 2030 will look and feel much like it does in 2008, maintaining its predominantly rural character. We have successfully met many of the challenges facing our community, and continue to address issues that impact us. Ancram focuses on establishing policies and programs to preserve the important elements which define its rural character, which include working agricultural landscapes, open space, a strong sense of community, well maintained hamlets, low density housing in the countryside, small businesses serving our needs, and infrastructure appropriate for a small, rural town.

Agriculture & Environment: In 2030, agriculture is healthy, thriving, and is the primary land use in Ancram. New farmers and farming activities exist alongside family farms which have been operating here for generations. Ancram and the entire region have experienced a resurgence of agriculture, driven by our proximity to major markets and consumers' demands to "buy local", healthier foods that use less energy to produce and transport. Our family dairy farms operate successfully, benefiting from innovative new approaches and marketing strategies. In addition, a variety of specialty livestock, fruit, and vegetable operations are well established, as are several large scale crop farms. Horse breeding, boarding and training continue to be important activities. Most of Ancram's farmland is protected from development.

We protect our environment and our important scenic views. Programs are in place to protect groundwater, streams, wetlands, woodlands, ridgelines and wildlife habitats. Concerns for the environment stimulate extensive use of alternative sources of energy, and we enjoy clean air and "dark skies".

Community: In 2030, Ancram is a family-friendly, caring community working together. We have high levels of volunteerism, a strong sense of community identity, pride in our past, and confidence in our future. Ancram supports efforts to preserve its past, helping restore many of the important historic places in Town. Town officials work to make Ancram a great place to live. They spend our money carefully, tax us fairly and deliver services efficiently and effectively. Living in Ancram is affordable for young families. Seniors are able to find the housing, services and support they need to live close to family and friends.

Ancram has adequate recreation areas, hiking and biking paths, parks, playgrounds and athletic fields. Activities sponsored by the Fire Company, the Churches, the Youth Commission and a variety of other local community organizations occur regularly, are widely attended, and add to a sense of community. We have excellent fire, police and emergency medical services. Our children and grandchildren live and raise their families here.

Development & Infrastructure: In 2030, water and septic issues and protection of our rural character control decisions affecting residential development, economic development and the development of infrastructure. Town roads are in good shape, are consistent with rural road standards, and dangerous intersections have been fixed. Speeding and traffic problems are rare. Ancram has a range of affordable housing alternatives, but residential growth does not interfere with agricultural activities. All commercial activities are managed to protect the Town's rural character.

The visual appearance of the Ancram and Ancramdale hamlets is greatly improved. Deteriorated buildings have been renovated or removed. Our town centers provide opportunities for people to meet, shop, eat out and just relax, with a variety of small shops and restaurants. Many residents work from their homes, with reliable access to modern telecommunication services. Medical and professional services and small businesses serve the Town's residents. The Ancram paper mill continues to operate profitably, providing jobs to the area.