

Historic Farming Community Moving Forward

Ancram's Revitalization Continues!

"We can encourage Ancram's revitalization by appreciating and preserving our impressive historic, cultural and natural resources.

Success in these programs will help renew our community and stimulate economic development.

Our skilled and energetic volunteers—those who donate time and/or money—are the keys to our success."

*-Art Bassin
Ancram Supervisor*

Why Ancram Revitalization ?

Because it is part of the Comprehensive Plan vision to "keep things the way they are, only better"!

Many revitalization activities are already underway or completed.

For example, we are working to improve the safety of the 82/7 intersection in Ancram, revising zoning, protecting our agriculture & farmland, renovating highway facilities, equipment, and roads, adding the playground to our Town Hall property.

But we can't look only for the new...we must preserve the old... like Simon's General Store currently used for special events, the Opera House, concerts and yoga, ... the old Borden's Milk Factory, now our salt shed, and the Ancram cannon memorial.

Revitalization will require preserving Historical, Cultural and Natural Resources.

Our Comp Plan survey showed that 75% of residents are interested in historic preservation, and over 90% wish to preserve our natural resources.

Developing a heritage preservation plan shows the town's commitment. It can be used to help attract investment and grants to improve the condition of our historic structures, and this helps encourage economic development.

Before we can preserve our heritage, we need to identify what we have.

"Historical-Cultural Survey of Ancram, Ancramdale and Boston Corner" approved by Board.

This survey will be conducted by historical consultant Ruth Piwonka, working with the Revitalization Committee.

Funding will be through a combination of seed money from the Town, private donations and hopefully, grants.

This combined approach has been successful with other community projects such as painting the Town Hall, the Playground, providing a handicap ramp for the Ancramdale polling place, and Kid's Camp.

Ancram's Conservation Advisory Council will lead the Natural Resource Preservation Plan.

CAC has already begun mapping our habitats and will be working with the Revitalization Committee to add important natural resources to the Plan.

Ruth Piwonka will survey our historic and cultural resources. Here's her background:

- ~ Consultant in Hudson Valley regional history, art, and architecture.
- ~ Executive Director of Columbia County Historical Society 1976-1983.
- ~ Author: *A Visible Heritage. Columbia County, New York. A History in Art and Architecture* with Roderic Blackburn, *A Portrait of Livingston Manor.*
- ~ Variety of projects in Columbia County, including several National Register of Historic Places nominations and several museum projects at Columbia County Historical Society. Written widely on the region's seventeenth and eighteenth century Dutch history and material culture.
- ~ Community involvement: Village Trustee, Water Commissioner, ZBA, Comp Planning Committee.
- ~ Served on boards of Columbia Land Conservancy, Friends of Lindenwald, Historic Cherry Hill.
- ~ Moved to Kinderhook in 1969, where she raised two daughters.
- ~ Presently, Kinderhook town and village historian.

Town of **Ancram**

1416 County Route 7
Ancram NY 12502

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Revitalization Report

Questions?
Contact Art Bassin
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Please make tax-deductible donations to Ancram Historic Survey, c/o Town Hall, address above. Anything you give is greatly appreciated!

Survey starts September 4!



Ruth Piwonka, noted Columbia County historian and author, joins forces with Ancram for survey of our historic and cultural assets.

Ancram's Town Board approves a proposal for a "Historical and Cultural Survey of Ancram, Ancramdale and Boston Corner".

Identifying our historic and cultural assets is a necessary first step to protecting them. While we have many historic materials collected and stored in Town Hall, we have not yet taken a full inventory of all our assets.

This survey will be conducted by Ruth Piwonka, Columbia County's best known and most accomplished historian of County art, architecture and history. Her preliminary work from old maps has identified about 265 "historic" structures in town, which she plans to map and describe their significance.

Look for Ruth in her dark green 4-door 2002 Toyota Echo. She will be spending the next 6 months or so driving around town, photographing and identifying these historic structures. Don't be worried if you see her... she's not "casing" your house or collecting information for the tax assessor! You don't need to do a thing. But... if you have some special information or artifacts you'd like to let her know about, just say hi. Ruth would be delighted to learn more, and it will make our survey more complete.

Ruth will be working closely with Ancram Town Historian Clara Van Tassel, Robin Massa and other members of the Ancram Revitalization Committee.

More inside about Ancram's Revitalization activities!