

Historic Farming Community Moving Forward

Ancram CAC Wins \$7500 Greenway Grant for Natural Resource Conservation Plan

"I'm happy to report we've started 2014 with increased interest in community development activities.

Thanks to all the work done by Ancram's volunteers, we keep Ancram moving forward!"

*-Art Bassin
Ancram Supervisor*

Announced in November 2013, this award resulted from the application prepared by our Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), Jamie Purinton, Chair, and supported by the Town Board.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Council was chartered by NYS in 1991 to help towns pursue natural resource conservation planning. Ancram's Plan will:

-Develop policies and programs to protect groundwater, watersheds, streams, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitats

-Support community development consistent with the Comp Plan;

-Promote public access and environmental education within the Rail Trail (to be extended through Boston Corner) and our scenic roads and vistas;

-Complement our Agricultural, Heritage Resource and Comp Plans.

"An important part of our plan is the preparation of the town-wide habitat map," says Jamie. "It really helped our application that our CAC had already completed 50 percent of the job!"

Jamie adds, "and we've identified another \$10,000 of grant opportunities to help us complete this project."

Ancram has been a leader in environmental matters in the county since 2010.

Our Comp Plan and zoning require developers of major subdivisions to preserve open space and include biodiversity information in their site planning process.

Ancram's CAC is also a leader because of their biodiversity mapping, environmental education programs and publications, input into town environmental regula-

tions and support from our Town Board.

"We collaborate and share our projects and plans with other towns, at Columbia County CAC roundtables and through the County Environmental Management Council," says Jamie. "Our plan will become a conservation tool that we can share throughout our region."

"This award marks the Town's fourth major planning effort funded to a significant extent by grants won by our volunteers," commented Art Bassin.

"This time, volunteers will contribute time valued at \$30,000 of the total \$55,000 project cost," he said.

"We are carrying out the Comprehensive Plan," says Art, "not only in terms of what we said we would do, but how the community wanted it done—grants and donations of residents' time and money, not tax dollars."

Highlights February 2014

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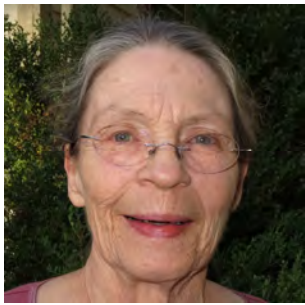


Girls from Troops 1084 & 1312 joined Neighbors Helping Neighbors at Town Hall this past Thanksgiving to decorate and fill food boxes for local families. The girls also helped at a food drive at the IGA Hillsdale, collecting non-perishables and cash donations. Front L to R: Cheyenne Poucher, Ashlyn & Amya Anderson. Rear: Troop Leaders and moms: Sarah Anderson and Stephanie Poucher. NHN also sends thanks to all who contributed to its annual fund drive making all its programs possible. Photo courtesy of Mike Citrin.

Twenty five people attended the Heritage Resources Committee meeting on Sunday January 26. This was the largest gathering of volunteers working on the 8 community development projects that have been developed by the committee.

Contact Scott Newman, Chair, or Art Bassin to contribute time or money to any of these projects.

1. Historic Survey & District Designation



Ruth Piwonka, noted Columbia County historian, turned over the historic district survey narrative and data to Town Historian Clara Van Tassel. Ruth ex-

pects to complete the project by the end of March and be ready to file an historic district application by early summer.

2. Historic Display Vestibule, Town Hall

Lynne Perrella, the originator of the display space and designer of the exhibits, reported on the very successful first exhibit on Ancram's One-Room Schoolhouses. The space was dedicated in July 2013 at the 10th anniversary celebration of Town Hall. A presentation about one-room schoolhouses and their place in American educational development was presented by Roger Mooney, who lives in one of the schoolhouses. The exhibit was open until January 2014 when it was taken down to be archived and the area prepped for the next

historic display, "Rail Tales". An opening party is planned for Feb 23. See page 3.

3. Cemetery Repairs

Bob Murphy heads this effort. Last summer, volunteers came together to paint the Union Cemetery fence across the street from St. John's church in Ancram. Bob and his team will be selecting the next cemetery project in the next few months.

4. Historic Churches



The Ancramdale Presbyterian Church pictured here and St. John's Lutheran

Church in Ancram were both built in 1847. Both are in need of repair. This committee will work with John Alvarez, an architect specializing in restoration of historic churches, to assess the best approaches and costs to repair these two structures. Of particular interest is St. John's Horse Shed - it is the last in the county and needs repair. Committee members: Clara Van Tassel, Jim MacArthur, Lucy Eldridge, Monica Cleveland, Art Bassin.

5. Ancram Hamlet Septic Alternatives

Gerry Fultz, Ancram resident pictured on page 3, chairs this group working with Scott Newman and Gregory Long. They will pursue grant money for engineering support to evaluate long-term solutions. And they will also be seeking information on practical, cost effective



Heritage Resources Committee 1-26-14



individual home systems that could be used in the near term for the empty buildings in the center of Ancram.

6. 82/7 Intersection

A second phase to improve the safety of the intersection looking west up Route 82 is to follow up on the successful

2013 effort.

7. Stiehle House. Kit White, president of the not-for-profit Ancram Preservation Group, said APG would begin to



make necessary repairs to stabilize the structure. "The APG is looking forward to working with the Town and all interested parties," says Kit.

8. Fundraising

Art Bassin reported on fundraising efforts to benefit the Heritage Resources Committee activities.

"We have raised about \$38,000 so far, of which \$12,000 covered construction of the Historic Display Vestibule, and \$10,000 was for the historic district survey." This leaves \$16,000 for other 2014 programs.

Fundraising continues. Your tax-deductible checks may be made to the Town of Ancram.

Trade in your flag!

American Legion Post 1160 will replace your torn, tattered, soiled flag and dispose of your old one free of charge.

The respectful way to dispose of a flag is by a brisk fire, one at a time. Some posts separate each stripe and burn individually.

"We want to create an awareness that there is an appropriate way to dispose of the flag," says Jerry Roberts. A member of Post 1160, he built this beautiful pine box on display in Ancram Town Hall from repurposed barn siding. "We also want young people to appreciate the flag more." Copake has asked Jerry to make a box for their town hall too!

All Aboard!

Opening Party for our next exhibit, "Ancram Rail Tales"



Making Stops in Ancram, Ancramdale, Cook's Siding, & Boston Corner

Enjoy Photographs, Archives & Artifacts of Ancram's Historic Railroads

Guest Speakers:
Dick Hermans, Chairman, Harlem Valley Rail Trail
Jim Miller, Ancram railroad historian and aficionado

**Sunday, February 23, 2 PM
Fun & Refreshments
Ancram Town Hall, 1416 Route 7**



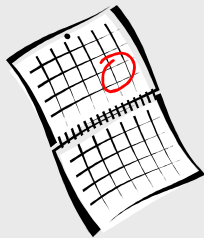
February 2014 TownNews

Got some news?
Contact Art Bassin
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329-0921
abassin@aol.com

Getting your news by
email saves the town
money and keeps you
more up-to-date.
Contact Madeleine Israel
to make the change,
329-7483
airjazz@taconic.net

Community Calendar

Feb - May 2014



“Fox Hill Station”, by Boston Corner artist Peter Helck, was one of many images of trains painted by Helck over his long career as fine artist, magazine illustrator and advertising artist. Helck wrote, “By 1900, I was already drawing my first love, steam locomotives!” Check out his web-site www.peterhelck.com for more about this prolific Ancram artist.

- Feb 20 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm.
- Feb 22 Sat** **Farming Our Future**, Taconic Hills School, 9am—4pm
- Feb 22 Sat** **Chicken BBQ** at the Firehouse.
- Feb 23 Sun** **Ancram Rail Tales**. Party and Presentation 2pm. Town Hall. See pg 3.
- Mar 3 Mon** **Conservation Advisory Council**, Town Hall, 7 pm.
- Mar 6 Thu** **Planning Board**, Town Hall, 7:30 pm.
- Mar 20 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm.
- Apr 3 Thu** **Planning Board**, Town Hall, 7:30 pm.
- May 3 Sat** **Children’s Book Fair**, Hudson.
- May 3 Sat** **Roast Beef Dinner**, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Ancram.
- May 10 Sat** **Community Clean-up Day**, Highway Garage



Peter Helck, Boston Corner artist (1893-1988), loved trains, autos, and the Ancram countryside. Left, a busy scene at a local train station. Right, Boston Corner farmer Ernest Roberts on his tractor plowing one of our typical rolling fields. These will put you in the mood for “Ancram Rail Tales” Feb 23!

