

**Subject: Ancram Opera House Project**

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**To:** Ancram Town Board

After welcoming a presentation from the Ancram Opera House, the Strategic Investment Committee is unanimously recommending that the Town invest **\$67,500** in current “cash reserve” funds in their project to expand Ancram services through the development of a “community room” space in their newly acquired building/extension on Rt. 7.

The community room will enable AOH to expand its story-telling workshops and performances for Ancram families with kids in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades at Taconic Hills: more teacher training, more workshops with students and parents, more capacity to produce those stories on the AOH stage. Their Taconic Hills program, a fundamental and significant part of what AOH does every season, has been a success for several years, and specifically engages Ancram families who find it challenging to participate in activities *at* the school. AOH also hopes to expand this program to serve Ancram families with kids in the Pine Plains school system.

AOH’s capital project to build out the 1326 County Route 7 building has a budget of \$750,000, including significant public support from NY State. The cost of the community room is budgeted at \$135,000; AOH is asking the Town to invest in half of the cost (\$67,500) and will raise the balance from private contributions. The Committee believes that such an investment leaves the Town free to **also** invest in several other areas.

AOH Directors Paul Ricciardi and/or Jeff Mousseau, one or more representatives of their board, and one or more of the parents who participate in the program would like to present to (and answer any questions from) the Ancram Board at your **April 20 meeting**. The Strategic Investment Committee strongly supports their request.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Will Weiss, Chair, Ancram Strategic Investment Committee