

ROE JAN RAMBLE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

% Tom Goldsworthy, Committee Chair
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May 9, 2023

Via Email

Town Board
Town of Ancram
1416 County Route 7
Ancram, NY 12502

Town Board
Town of Copake
230 Mountain View Road
Copake, NY 12516

Town Board
Town of Hillsdale
2609 State Route 23
Hillsdale, NY 12529

Dear Members of the Town Boards:

We have begun our planning for the 2023 Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour. This year would mark the 11th anniversary since the first Ramble. It is our hope to hold this year's event on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

As we have in prior Rambles, we are writing to request that the three towns again approve this as a "Town sponsored event". We produce the event with no taxpayer funds, and rely entirely on the efforts of our volunteers, with the modest sponsorships of local businesses to defray expenses.

By denoting this as a Town sponsored event, you allow our volunteers to be covered under the Towns' general liability insurance. Our volunteers are local residents who work without pay, the event is not produced by any company or established organization, and the event takes place primarily on local roads and municipal property, therefore it is essential to have coverage under the Town's policies to allow the ride to go forward.

We expect that this year's Ramble will closely follow the same procedures as in the past:

- The routes will go through the three towns of Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale.
- Registration will be free & open to the public to participate.
- We will again encourage donations to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association for dedicated use in the three towns.
- All riders must commit to a legal disclaimer & waiver, as well as a separate Covid liability waiver.
- No taxpayer funds will be expended; the cost of the ride is paid for through local business sponsorships.
- Everyone working on the event is a volunteer, and no one receives any pay.
- The ride will begin and end in Copake Memorial Park.
- We expect the ride to begin in the morning around 8 am and last approximately 4-1/2 hours (for the longest route).

- Membership in the planning committee is open to all interested residents of the three towns.

Last year, we had over 600 participants, about half of whom were area residents from Columbia and Dutchess counties. 32 local businesses were sponsors of the Ramble in 2022, and we raised in excess of \$23,000 to support the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Since the advent of the Ramble in 2013, our participants have raised over \$130,000 in cumulative donations for the Rail Trail.

This year we again have plans for lunch to be offered by Community Christmas Baskets Ltd, (which provides food baskets to needy area families during the holidays). Last year they raised an additional \$2,500 in proceeds.

The Ramble is a special community event that has become a seasonal highlight of our area, and it continues to live up to our goals of:

- Engaging the community in an open, healthful and inclusive event
- Encouraging tourism to the three Towns
- Connecting with local businesses, and promoting them
- Raising funds for local initiatives like the Rail Trail
- Presenting the Roe Jan Area in a positive and favorable light

By approving our event at your next monthly meeting, you will give us a reasonable lead time to announce it and start making commitments.

We greatly appreciate your past support and enthusiasm for the Ramble, and on behalf of the members of the organizing committee, we thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Goldsworthy
Chair, Organizing Committee
Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour