

Office of the Assessor

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Town of Durham
County of Greene
Gordon W. Bennett, Sole Assessor
7309 Route 81
East Durham, New York 12423

July 25, 2016

Dear Property Owner;

This letter is to inform you of the work about to commence in an attempt to inventory all buildings on every property in the Town of Durham. The information is crucial in our efforts to revalue assessments in the near future. Accurate, correct, and current information is the necessary basis of all appraisals to be conducted in future Revaluation projects.

There have been several collections, taking on several different forms, in the past years to achieve this end. The current collection, as decided by the Town Board upon a recommendation of the Assessor, will be a full “scratch” collection. In order to be able to capture change on property characteristics, the data collector will have no information on your property. This will allow us to use the information on file already as a base and then compare to the newly collected info for identifying changes.

The data collectors used will be employees of the Town of Durham and will have an identification letter with them. Please ask to see it when you are speaking to them. The collectors will, if no one is at home, on our first visit measure all buildings from the exterior. A second attempt to find you at home will be made after 5 PM during the week or on Saturday. In order to have an accurate inventory of the buildings on your property we ask that a short interior tour of the home be conducted. The data collector will only be looking at the real estate, not at your personal belongings. Construction grade, condition and room count will be determined from this tour. If you do not wish to allow an interior tour you could answer question concerning the interior at the door. The best case scenario for us would be for us to get interior tours of all homes in the Town. This would insure a fair and accurate assessment in the coming months. Vacant property will require no contact from the owner. If you do not wish to participate in the project and have no one allowed on your property, we would ask that you inform this office in writing within two weeks of your receipt of this letter. In the coming months requests for information on vacant properties over 25 acres will be mailed. These requests will be made to help to identify the composition of large tracts of land.

The cooperation of all property owners in this project is extremely important. I would ask that any property owner with questions call the office regarding any procedures we may use. Office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm.

Thank You,

Gordon W. Bennett
Sole Assessor, IAO