

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held via teleconference on the 7th day of May, 2020, at _____ o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bettez, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____
Council Member David Brownstein	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____

WHEREAS, The Town of New Paltz is distinguished by its unique landscape setting, including the Shawangunk Ridge, the Wallkill River Valley, woodlands, wetlands, farmland, scenic features; and

WHEREAS, New Paltz’s historic features are fundamental to our unique community character and are integral to our landscape and sense of place;

WHEREAS, the protection of our natural resources provide clean water, fresh local food and resiliency in the face of climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, these features contribute to the quality of life for all New Paltz residents and visitors and are important to the economic future of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Town’s Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Plan, and Farmland Protection Plan all call for additional protection of these resources in the face of encroaching development; and

WHEREAS, New York State has recently enacted a *Community Preservation Act* which enables communities that have a *Community Preservation Plan* to create a *Community Preservation Fund* for open space and historic resources, derived from a local Real Estate Transfer Tax;

WHEREAS, New Paltz’s existing plans can be updated and consolidated into a single *Community Preservation Plan* in accordance with the criteria set by the *Community Preservation Act*; and

WHEREAS, With a *Community Preservation Plan* our community will be eligible to establish a *Community Preservation Fund*, if approved by the community by referendum.

THEREFORE, the Town will:

- Create an ad-hoc committee, made up of members of the Environmental Conservation Board, the Clean Water Open Space Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission and other interested residents to carry out the following activities:
 - Draft a comprehensive Community Preservation Plan based on New Paltz’s existing planning documents for adoption by the Town Board that will identify open space, farmland and historic preservation priorities;
 - Educate the public about New Paltz’s natural and historic priorities, funding needs and potential opportunities for a new funding source;

- Evaluate and make recommendations about the opportunity to participate in New York State’s Community Preservation Act and make recommendations on a referendum to enact a Community Preservation Fund

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the legislative policy of the Town to consider, evaluate, and support the adoption of these proposed activities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor, upon the advice of the Board shall charge the ad-hoc committee to make recommendations to the Board and to the Supervisor regarding open space, farmland and historic resources, and funding for their protection, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee will explore technical, environmental, and economic considerations to aid the community in selecting protection priorities and funding sources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee, the staff of the Town, and Town consultants should develop plans to implement appropriate practices so that the Town can continue to be a conservation leader and an outstanding steward of our irreplaceable resources.

<u>VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____	_____
Council Member David Brownstein	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.