

July 13, 2022

To: Neil Bettez, Supervisor  
Town of New Paltz

Dear Neil:

Mohonk Preserve respectfully requests that the New Paltz Town Board consider authorizing a municipal resolution at an upcoming board meeting, preferably on June 21, in support of a grant application being submitted to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The grant, if awarded, will provide partial funding needed to rehabilitate and renovate the interior of the Brook Farmhouse in order to utilize the property for much-needed conservation programmatic use. The project will also improve energy efficiency while respecting the building's unique historic features.

Brook Farmhouse, a 19<sup>th</sup> century, two-story 2,850 sq. ft. wood frame house with basement and one-story addition, will be the new home of the Daniel Smiley Research Center (DSRC), named after a prominent 20<sup>th</sup> century conservationist and founding board member of Mohonk Preserve. At the DSRC, professional staff, visiting researchers, interns and citizen science volunteers actively monitor the changing ecology of the Shawangunks regionally important ecosystem, maintaining over 100 years of continuous data on weather, species, and landscape change, which is made available for scientific use.

The Brook Farmhouse and the related farm fields are a part of the 836-acre Foothills property that the Preserve acquired for permanent protection in 2013, with the help of New York State funding. It is also a popular scenic location along the expansive network of historic carriage roads and foot trails that run throughout the Shawangunk Mountains.

The municipal endorsement is a grant requirement. We deeply appreciate your willingness to consider the draft resolution provided with this correspondence. The grant application deadline is July 29, 2021 and any necessary additions or changes to the draft resolution are at the discretion of the Town Board.

Thank you again and let me know if you have any questions or are in need of any additional information. If this can be included on the upcoming agenda the Preserve can have a staff person attend the meeting, if you would like, to answer any questions that may come up.

Sincerely,

Kevin Case  
President & CEO

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**Mohonk Preserve**

