

Town of New Paltz  
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### **Town of New Paltz Begins Community Preservation Plan**

The Town of New Paltz has contracted with environmental planner Ted Fink to develop a community preservation plan that will update and integrate the community’s open space and historic preservation plans. The new plan will draw on the extensive data and documents the town has developed on natural resources, agricultural and historic properties. Fink has already begun work with volunteers from the Town Environmental Conservation Board (EnCB), Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and Clean Water Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP) to assess the Town’s rich collection of studies and geospatial information, in order to set protection priorities for the future.

“This period of social distancing has, if anything, heightened awareness among residents about the value of New Paltz’s open spaces and public trails, and the restorative power of nature. It is as important as ever that we continue our work to set priorities and plan for conservation and stewardship of our natural areas, recreation assets, and historic properties,” said Ingrid Haeckel, chair of the Town’s EnCB. “We are delighted to be able to work with Ted Fink at this time,” she added.

Since 1976, Ted Fink has helped scores of communities design innovative land use programs to achieve growth while maintaining community character. In 1991, he created GREENPLAN, which provides community planning services to village, town and city legislative and planning boards. The firm also assists special boards or committees in preparing comprehensive plans and other specialized community planning projects. He has had extensive experience working with New Paltz in the past.

“New Paltz is known for its wealth of iconic scenery, open spaces, recreational assets, habitats, farmland and historic features,” said Fink. “I am happy to be working with New Paltz to set priorities and develop a community preservation plan, particularly since so much good work has already been done by volunteers in the Town, and the current and previous Town boards.”

“This is a forward-looking project that will help New Paltz secure future funding to protect priorities identified by the community,” said Neil Bettez, New Paltz Town Supervisor. “For that reason, I consider this effort a good investment in the future of our community,” he added.

As part of this process, the Town is conducting a community survey to learn what residents think. The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewPaltzSurvey>. Responses are due by April 30.

“We are encouraging all New Paltz residents to take this 3-minute survey, to help shape the plan that we will be developing,” said John Orfitelli, chair of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission.

For more information about the Town’s survey, call Kathy Preston at 845-255-0604x126