

Town of New Paltz  
52 Clearwater Road, PO Box 550  
New Paltz, NY 12561



For Release: Immediately (6/26/20)  
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### **New Paltz Community Preservation Plan Unveiled**

Members of the New Paltz Community Preservation Task Force presented a draft Community Preservation Plan to the New Paltz Town Board at its last meeting, on June 18. The Plan identifies New Paltz’s open space and historic preservation priorities and will be a tool to help guide these activities in the future. It combines and updates the Town’s Open Space Plan, Farmland Protection Plan and Historic Resource Survey and includes new geospatial information that has been collected in more recent years.

“Decades of conservation efforts by the town and conservation partners have really paid off, resulting in the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail, the River-to-Ridge Trail, Mill Brook Preserve, protected farmland and clean water. As a result, New Paltz is a more desirable place to live in and visit,” said Supervisor Neil Bettez. “Conservation has been a success story in New Paltz, but it isn’t done, and this plan gives us the ability to do more in the future,” he said.

“We know we live in a remarkable setting that has abundant forests, clean water, farmland that provides fresh food, open spaces that provide recreation close to home, stunning scenery and historic features that define our community character,” said Cara Lee, a long-time member of the Town’s Clean Water Open Space Protection Commission. “This new plan is a valuable tool that will enable the Town to work with interested landowners to protect what makes New Paltz so special,” she added.

The Task Force reviewed the Town’s prior plans and studies and identified well-established conservation goals and priorities according to Ingrid Haeckel, Chair of the Environmental Conservation Board. She went on to explain how this effort, combined with newer data, resulted in a comprehensive spatial database for New Paltz based on 35 data sets identifying water resources, natural areas and habitats, farmland, historic resources and more. GIS computer mapping software makes it possible to analyze the information to see where important natural resources occur in the community, on about 3,900 properties overall. This information can inform planning and conservation when there is a willing seller, or a property owner who wishes to protect his or her land, or an owner who seeks to enhance a historic home or other building.

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The New Paltz Community Preservation Plan can be found on the task force's webpage at the Town of New Paltz webpage, [here](#). A public hearing on the plan will be held in July.

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