

TOWN OF WAWARSING

Office of the Supervisor

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September 5, 2017

Ulster County Economic Development Alliance

P.O. Box 1800, 244 Fair Street

Kingston, NY 12402-1800

Subject: Application for Ellenville Million Grant Matching Program
Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study

To Whom It May Concern;

The Town of Wawarsing is seeking funding to do a feasibility study of the Colony Farm which will include the re-use of the Colony Farm and related vacant parcels for public purposes, including, but not limited to, use as an agricultural-tourism center, as an educational center modeling traditional and contemporary agricultural practices, as an assemblage of recreational open space with access to existing trails as protected lands conserving vital wetlands, view sheds and natural corridors with continual use as agricultural land preserving and enhancing existing flood plains and forests. Thus, maintaining the rural character of the Town of Wawarsing while providing new and vital economic opportunities for the Town.

Enclosed please find our application for Ellenville Million Grant Matching Program for the Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study with attachments.

Sincerely,



Leonard M. Distel

Supervisor

LMD/bb

Encs.

About the Applicant

Organization name:	Town of Wawarsing
Type of organization:	<input type="checkbox"/> For-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Not-For-Profit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____)
Contact name:	Leonard M. Distel
Contact title:	Supervisor
Contact phone:	(845) 647-6570 Ext. 6
Contact email:	wawsupervisor@hvc.rr.com

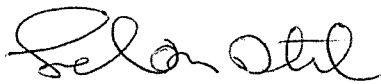
About Your Project

Title of project:	Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study
Description of project:	See Project Narrative from USDA RBDG Legal Notice
How does this project advance economic development in Ellenville/Wawarsing?	See attached description with advance economic development in Ellenville/Wawarsing question
Total project budget (including all expected uses of funds):	\$48,240.00
Amount of matching funds requested:	\$10,873.60

Grant Funds Awarded (list each source separately)

Grant Source	Grant Amount	Proof of Award* <small>*attach documentation to your application</small>	Status
USDA Rural Business Development Grant	Up to \$25,000 Or 26% of \$48,240.00 (\$12,542.40)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): <u>Letter of Conditions in hand</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> All grant funds are in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in-hand is \$_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement grant
Empire State Development Feasibility Study Grant	\$20,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commitment Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): <u>Incentive Proposal in hand</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> All grant funds are in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in-hand is \$_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement grant
		<input type="checkbox"/> Commitment Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> All grant funds are in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in-hand is \$_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement grant
		<input type="checkbox"/> Commitment Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> All grant funds are in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in-hand is \$_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement grant

<i>Other Sources (list each source separately)</i>			
Non-Grant Source	Amount	Type	Status (for cash sources only)
Town of Wawarsing Cash Equity	\$4,824.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Debt	<input type="checkbox"/> Full amount in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in hand is \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Funding commitment
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Debt	<input type="checkbox"/> Full amount in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in hand is \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Funding commitment
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Debt	<input type="checkbox"/> Full amount in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in hand is \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Funding commitment
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Debt	<input type="checkbox"/> Full amount in-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Amount in hand is \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Funding commitment



 Signature of Applicant

September 5, 2017

 Date

Leonard M. Distel

 Name

Town of Wawarsing Supervisor

 Title

Section D: Project Narrative

Town of Wawarsing

Planning Study for the Proposed Re-Use of Colony Farm and Related Parcels in Wawarsing, NY



I. An explanation of why the Project is needed, the benefits of the proposed Project, and how the Project meets the grant eligible purposes:

The Town of Wawarsing proposes a feasibility study to determine the most economically and ecologically productive re-use of Colony Farm, a huge swath of unused, New York State-owned property located in the Rondout Valley between the Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains. Though the nearly 500 acres of land offer a rich history, stunning landscapes, and convenient access to other state parks in the area, it lies dormant and inaccessible to the public. As a result, a major asset for potential agritourism-related economic growth is left untapped, and the Town of Wawarsing, a severely impoverished area of Ulster County and one of the few designated REAP zones in the country, is overlooked as hundreds of thousands of people visit neighboring parks, like the Minnewaska and Mohonk Preserves in nearby New Paltz. For this reason, the Town of Wawarsing requests \$50,000 through USDA's Rural Business Development Grant to fund a much-needed feasibility study that will provide a comprehensive plan for moving forward with the best and most effective redevelopment of this land, revitalizing Wawarsing as a recreational gateway community that will serve as an economic engine in the region for years to come.

In the early 1990's, the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) purchased four parcels of land adjacent to the Colony Farm parcel of land (already owned by NYS DOCCS) in the Town of Wawarsing in western Ulster County, New York. These nearly 500 acres were never used for any purpose by the Agency. The parcels had been used by local families for nearly 200 years as productive farms, but were now restricted-access DOCCS land. A group of community leaders recognized the inherent potential of exploring the possibility of returning the nearly 500 acres to productive agricultural, educational, and public recreational use. In 2012, this group, having organized into an informal "Friends of Colony Farm," met with the Town of Wawarsing Supervisor to map out a possible plan to reuse the parcels. Over subsequent years, a number of attempts were made to secure funding for a comprehensive strategic plan and feasibility study designed to research, assess, and define implementation strategies for the re-use of the five parcels. In April of 2016, the Wawarsing Town Board voted to submit a Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for just that purpose.

Located in the ecologically sensitive and fertile Rondout Valley in rural western Ulster County, the five parcels, comprising nearly 500 acres, are largely undeveloped open space, offering a picturesque blend of lowland agricultural parcels, wetlands, and forest, bordering the Rondout

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Creek and lying in the shadow of the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a distinctive alpine formation popular with climbers and hikers, and recognized as a National Scenic Byway. The Colony Farm parcel contains several barns, outbuildings, and a main house that originally supported the now defunct dairy farm. Much of the rolling upland property includes meadows, pastures, fields and woodlots extremely well suited to future passive recreational uses.

Over the past 15 years, the Town of Wawarsing has suffered severe economic distress after several manufacturing facilities—all major employers—began to downsize, and then closed permanently. Two of the largest facilities, originally owned by Channel Master, maker of TV antennas, were sold in the 1980's. Both sites, the 450,000 SF Imperial Schrade plant, a major cutlery manufacturing company, and the similarly sized Hydro-Aluminum / V.A.W. aluminum pipe manufacturing plant closed in the mid-2000's, resulting in the layoff of the remaining hundreds of skilled workers there. The community's economic distress was compounded in 2008, when the famed Nevele Hotel, itself a significant employer, closed its doors in bankruptcy, resulting in the loss of over 200 permanent jobs and hundreds of seasonal jobs.

The cumulative impact of these losses upon this once prosperous community has been dramatic and pervasive. The unemployment rate in the Town of Wawarsing, according to the United States Census Bureau 2010-2014 American Community Survey, is currently over 9%, which is twice that of Ulster County's (4.5%) and New York State's (4.8%) overall unemployment rates. (New York State Department of Labor, March 2016). According to the same American Community Survey (US Census Bureau) and other economic indicators, Wawarsing's population is 13,189, with nearly 30% of the populace falling below the poverty line, as compared to Ulster County's poverty level of 12.3%. Furthermore, in 1999, the USDA designated the Town of Wawarsing as a REAP Zone, due not only to its poverty, but its geographic isolation, historic dependence on agriculture, and economic upheaval. Additionally, the school district's population is declining and the quality of public amenities and infrastructure is poor. In keeping with local, county, and regional planning initiatives, the Town of Wawarsing recognizes that its future economic revitalization depends upon a diversified approach, one that capitalizes upon its natural assets and ties the Town into a broader regional vision that seeks to attract recreational and agricultural tourism.

Toward this end, the Town of Wawarsing is collaborating with Open Space Institute, Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation, Ulster County, and the Friends of Colony Farm, a group of community leaders led by organic farmer John Adams, to determine the best possible public uses for the unique properties described previously. The NYS

DOCCS has formally expressed its support of these pursuits to someday make these parcels available to the public for future recreational, educational, and agricultural use (see attached letter). The Town of Wawarsing will use RBDG grant funds to contract with a

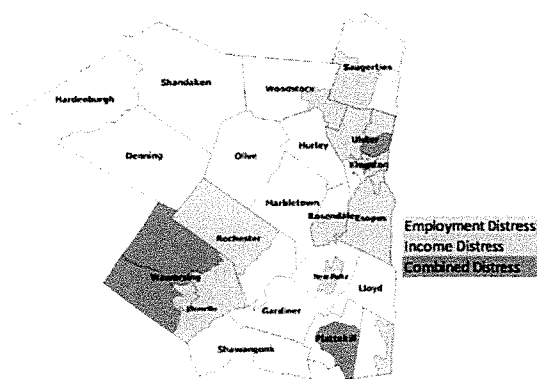


Figure 18: ULSTER COUNTY ECONOMIC DISTRESS

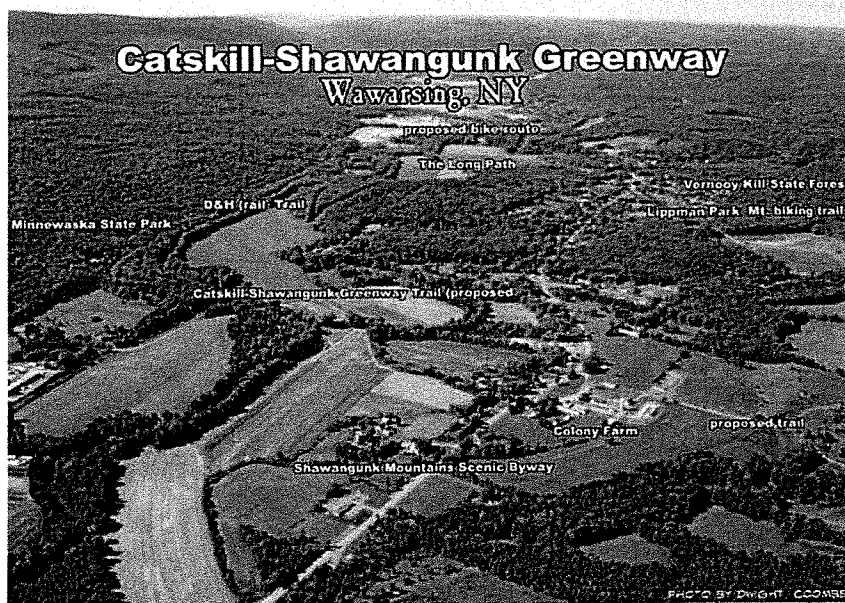
Figure 1: Hudson Valley Region Distress Criteria Statistical Report, Hudson Valley Regional Council, April 2015

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highly specialized planning firm with specific experience in devising strategic plans for publicly or possibly nonprofit-owned multi-use recreational, educational, and agricultural entities. It is believed that the results of this study will give the project partners, listed above, the knowledge to move forward with a new ownership model for the land, enabling it to be transformed into one or more of the following entities:

1. A productive working farm, with possible leases to local farm families;
2. An educational facility, to inform the public about model agricultural practices, farm productivity, farm life, and healthy lifestyles;
3. Public purpose space, such as parkland, access to nearby trails, state parks, wetlands and open spaces;
4. As an important economic driver, based on new agricultural and tourism opportunities in this underserved part of Ulster County: employment, visitation, cost & income projections for above scenarios;
5. A business model for re-use, including R.O.I., jobs created, maintenance costs, insurance costs, etc.

The Colony Farm parcels cannot be overstated in their importance to the future vitality of this area. Now functionally vacant and overgrown in sections, the Colony Farm parcels present an opportunity to re-use and develop the land as an agritourism site, preserve open spaces and viewsheds, and link nearby state and local parks and trails. In October 2016, Governor Andrew Cuomo set out on a “Ride the Catskills” motorcycle tour to announce a series of actions to promote tourism in the Catskill Mountain region, including a \$7.3 million plan to develop Minnewaska State Park



Preserve. However, on this ride, Governor Cuomo passed through the Town of Wawarsing without making any stops, which is in large part due to the fact that the Town does not offer many sites worth showcasing in this type of press tour. Located only six miles from Minnewaska, redevelopment of the Colony Farm property is essential in attracting more of Minnewaska’s tens of thousands of visitors deeper into the Valley, spurring economic growth in impoverished areas of the Catskills that need it most. Because the Colony Farm parcels are currently controlled by the NYS DOCCS, they are off-limits to the public and underutilized. However, through the assessment of land and location and with the vision and participation of local stakeholders, all of which will be considered within the proposed Feasibility Study, this

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land has the potential to transform the Town of Wawarsing and surrounding communities into a hub of agricultural and recreational activity that attracts new investment and tourism dollars and creates greater economic and employment opportunity.

In regards to the recreational contribution of this project, Colony Farm could ultimately consist of a myriad of new and enhanced recreational opportunities for all ages, to include expanded hang gliding (which already takes place at Colony Farm), hiking, biking, picnicking, horseback riding, and farmers' markets, among other possibilities. The land could also accommodate festivals and large-scale events that attract new tourism to the area, and it will expand access to and connectivity between state and local parks, preserves, and waterways. All such opportunities will attract visitors to the Town and in turn contribute to its economic growth and overall revitalization. Additionally, the land and former dairy farm have the potential to create value-added products, including ice cream, Greek yogurt, and artisan cheese, contributing to NY State's vibrant agricultural industry and enhancing the agricultural landscape of the Mid-Hudson Region.

Historically, it should be noted that in the 1920s, Colony Farm was created as a model prison farm, facilitating the rehabilitation of young male prisoners in a dairy farm reformatory environment, a uniquely idealistic endeavor for its time. Penal physician Dr. Walter N. Thayer Jr. was responsible for the "Napanoch Plan" named after the nearby hamlet, which became a model for prisoner rehabilitation across the country. Thus, New York State became a leader in humane treatment and rehabilitation of prisoners due to the initial effort at Colony Farm. This forgotten aspect of prison reform can become an element in the interpretation of Colony Farm to tourists and educators.

This project meets the RBDG program's eligible purposes because it will support a feasibility study that is the necessary first step in determining how to best develop a major asset in a poverty-stricken rural area and designated REAP zone that will result in direct and indirect job creation and economic growth. This project aligns with RBDG's opportunity-type grant, and will be used to develop an in-depth feasibility study to guide all future plans for effectively re-using the 500-acre parcels of Colony Farm. Attached to each of the above scenarios will be, in addition to varying levels of job creation, a significant attraction of tourists and out-of-town visitors who will also support economic development in the Town by utilizing local establishments such as restaurants, bed and breakfasts, the theater, etc.

II. Area to be served, identifying each governmental unit, i.e. town, county, etc., to be affected by the Project

The Colony Farm and surrounding parcels to be studied by the proposed feasibility report are located in the Town of Wawarsing in Ulster County, New York, and will most directly affect the economic development of that area. The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) will also be affected as it currently owns the (underutilized) land and is in support of the project. It is believed that portions of Ulster and Sullivan Counties will be positively affected by increased traffic and tourism in the area as well.

III. Description of how the Project will coordinate Economic Development activities with other Economic Development activities within the Project area

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The proposed feasibility study and its projected outcomes align directly with the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council's (REDC) Strategic Plan. The Mid-Hudson REDC is one of ten units across New York State created by the Governor to spur and support economic development in the State. Out of fifteen strategic goals put forth by the Council for the region, this project supports five of them:

1. Leverage the region's outstanding natural resources, its tourism industry, and agriculture in a "natural infrastructure" strategy that protects agriculture and the environment and recognizes these as important to tourism and as quality of life attributes that are critical to attracting and retaining high-quality jobs for all key industry sectors.
2. Develop non-mandated programs that encourage, educate, and foster green development projects as part of developing a green Hudson Valley economy.
3. Make the Mid-Hudson region more attractive to young educated professionals in order to stop "youth flight" and "brain drain" in the region.
4. Build on the unique location of the Hudson Valley (situated between the majestic Hudson River, the Delaware River, and Long Island Sound) and promote waterfront development in order to enhance tourism, recreation, and trade.
5. Align public-private support to ensure implementation of the regional Plan and consideration of new opportunities.

Furthermore, redevelopment of this 500-acre property will come at an opportune time, as traffic past the parcels on the Route 209 Corridor will increase significantly when the Montreign Resort Casino (Sullivan County, New York) opens. Montreign is part of the larger Adelaar resort, a proposed \$1 billion four-season destination resort poised to become one of the most comprehensive destination gaming resorts in the Northeast, and will feature a variety of world-class leisure and recreational options. Adelaar is expected to create more than 5,000 construction and permanent jobs.

Additionally, the famed Nevele Hotel that closed its doors in bankruptcy in 2008, resulting in the loss of over 200 permanent jobs and hundreds of seasonal jobs, is the focus of a proposed \$150 million redevelopment project to turn the once-prosperous resort into a state-of-the-art sports complex. According to the "Community Mitigation Plan Agreement Relating to the Nevele Resort" for the original proposal to redevelop the Nevele Hotel into a casino, provisions were included to offer guests discounts at New Paltz's Minnewaska Preserve and Mohonk Preserve so that visitors would have exciting day trip opportunities. Even though this proposal didn't come to fruition, it is indicative of a larger issue, which is that the Town of Wawarsing does not currently offer an appealing open-space site for a day trip. Rather than spending their dollars within the Town of Wawarsing itself, these visitors would be directed out of the impoverished community where the Nevele is located and into neighboring New Paltz. However, a revitalized Colony Farm would act as a solution to this problem, keeping visitor's dollars within the community in order to sustain much-needed growth.

Finally, this project complements the economic development work being coordinated by the Hudson Valley Farm Hub, part of the Local Economies Project, in the northern Rondout Valley. The Hudson Valley Farm Hub is a center for resilient agriculture located on 1,255 acres of farmland in Hurley, NY, that serves as an educational resource for advances in food and farming,

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and particularly works to build a resilient local economy via sustainable agriculture. The Colony Farm would complement the work of the Hudson Valley Farm Hub by serving as a southern anchor for farmland preservation and agritourism in the Hudson Valley Region, offering a point of access for agritourism in the Rondout Valley for tourists coming from 44-55 and Minnewaska State Park.

IV. Business to be assisted, if appropriate; and Economic Development to be accomplished

Specific businesses have not yet been targeted at this stage of the project. Once the feasibility report is complete, it is believed that a number of educational, agricultural, tourism-related and recreational non-profits and small businesses will begin to use the land. This will lead to business assistance, creation and/or expansion. As stated above, the transformation of the underutilized parcels into a tourist destination will have a multiplier effect on the surrounding amenities, creating employment and economic development within and around the Town of Wawarsing as well.

A May 2010 “Study of the Economic Impact of the Local Economy of Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve, and Sam’s Point Preserve” reported that these three Shawangunk Ridge Park Preserves attract close to 400,000 visitors annually who spend over \$13 million while in the area, spending an average of \$33.24 per visitor. Visitor spending generates nearly \$460,000 in local sales taxes alone. Direct effects of visitor spending are valued at \$5,371,000 with secondary effects at \$2,418,000. This economic activity is responsible for a total economic impact of over \$12 million on the local economy, with more than 350 direct and indirect jobs supported. (Study of the Economic Impact of the Local Economy of Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve, and Sam’s Point Preserve, May 2010).

Additionally, Glynwood published a paper in 2014, “From ‘Agri-tainment’ to Engagement: A New Era of Agritourism for the Hudson Valley,” that explored the importance of more participatory forms of agritourism. According to the report, further development of more hands-on agritourism experiences—“an approach that synchronizes a craft-oriented aesthetic of sustainable agriculture with tourism”—would: “Allow farms to diversify and increase revenue; act as a form of regional economic development; create substantive urban-rural linkages; attract monetary investment in farms; strengthen the connection between sustainable food production and regional ecosystems for visitors; and bolster the Hudson Valley’s identity as a food and farming region” (2). The study determined that “Farmer-friendly strategies that connect the food and travel sectors are needed in order to encourage consumer demand for local products and support for farmers as they launch and expand agriculture businesses” (4). According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, there are 26 farms that offer agritourism and recreational services in Ulster County, generating \$1,109,000 in income. While these numbers are impressive, there is more potential for a large-scale agritourism market in Ulster County and the region as a whole. Colony Farm represents a critical missing link in the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor. In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, redevelopment of this land will protect “floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands” as well as stimulate “tourism-based economic activity, including agritourism, in Wawarsing.” While the exact economic impact of Colony Farm’s adaptive re-use cannot be predicted until the proposed feasibility report is complete, the cited numbers suggest

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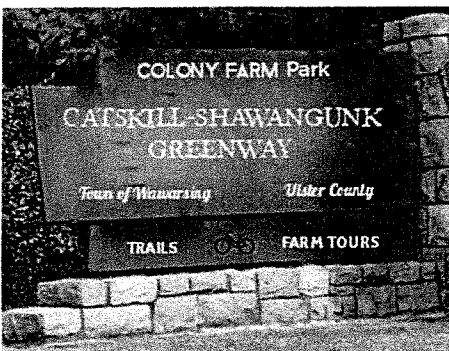
considerable impact and growth is probable based on development of a highly accessible and complementary regional agritourism destination.

V. An explanation of how the proposed Project will result in newly created, increased or supported jobs in the area and the number of projected new and supported jobs within the next 3 years

As previously discussed, the exact number of newly created, increased, or supported jobs in the area cannot be accurately predicted at this stage. However, according to the Shawangunk Ridge Park Preserves study, neighboring state parks support 358 direct and indirect jobs annually. The Town of Wawarsing anticipates job creation on this scale as a result of adaptive re-use of the Colony Farm parcels (Study of the Economic Impact of the Local Economy of Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve, and Sam's Point Preserve, May 2010).

VI. A description of the applicant's demonstrated capability and experience in providing the proposed Project assistance or similar Economic Development activities, including experience of key staff members and persons who will be providing the proposed Project activities and managing the Project

Founder of the "Friends of Colony Farm", John Adams, will coordinate this project. Mr. Adams has significant experience with agricultural development in western Ulster County. Since 1981, he has owned and run an organic farm. He is on the Ulster County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board, Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee (hiking and biking liaison), NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) Region 3 Open Space Advisory Committee, the Town of Wawarsing Environmental Conservation Committee, and the Ellenville-Wawarsing Complete Streets Committee. In the past he has served on the Sullivan/Wawarsing Rural Economic Area Partnership, Agriculture and Environmental Committees, Rondout Esopus Land Conservancy Board of Directors, Sullivan County Area Farmers' Market Association, Joint Economic Team for Wawarsing & Village of Ellenville, Wawarsing Comprehensive Plan Committee, Ellenville Farmers' Market (founding member), Shawangunk Mountains Wild Blueberry & Huckleberry Festival (co-founder), and the Ellenville Gateway Committee.



Additionally, the grant will be administered by the Town of Wawarsing Supervisor's designee, whose responsibilities will include contract and grant administration, fiscal accounting and project management. Consultant firms that specialize in agritourism/recreational venues and community development were provided with a Scope of Work to request a project estimate. Once funding has been approved, a firm will be hired by a selection committee chosen by the Town Supervisor, and including a member of the grant writing team, the Friends of Colony Farm, a

representative of the citizens of Wawarsing and associated local political leadership. The selected firm will then carryout the proposed feasibility study over the course of approximately nine months.

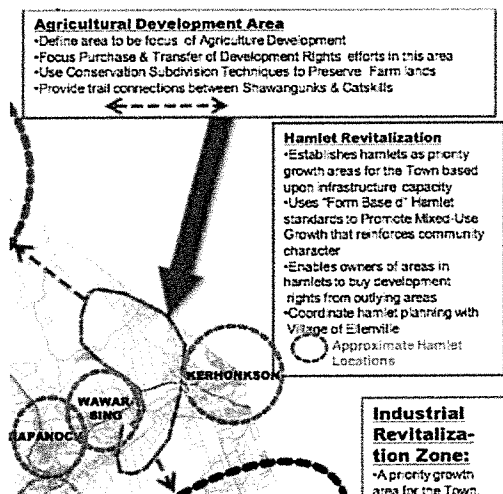
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Finally, Hank Alicandri, Director of Sam's Point Preserve and Chairman of the Town of Wawarsing Environmental Conservation Commission, will represent and report on this project at all of the Town's Environmental Conservation Commission meetings.

VII. The method and rationale used to select the areas and businesses that will receive the service

The 500 acres of land, to be studied by the proposed feasibility report, were chosen as an ideal location for development based on the fact that the parcels have long been under- or un-utilized, are State controlled, and are in a prime location—between the well-established hiking trails of the Shawangunk and Catskill Mountains, and on a well-traveled interstate highway in a municipality sorely in need of economic development. The land borders the Rondout Creek and is near the renowned Shawangunk Mountains and Scenic Byway, which attract approximately 500,000 visitors to the area each year (NYS Open Space Conservation Plan, 2009), as well as Minnewaska State Park, which attracts 250,000 annual visitors (NYS Council of Parks Annual Report, 2013). The Town of Wawarsing's elected representatives passed a resolution supporting the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway Trail on August 16, 2012. As part of this initiative, the Town specifically listed the potential of an "agricultural tourism venue at the Colony Farm located on State Route 209 in the Town of Wawarsing."

The Town of Wawarsing's proposal to adaptively re-use the Colony Farm parcels would help to implement at least two goals of the Sullivan/Wawarsing USDA Rural Economic Area Partnership Strategic Plan (1999) in the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway: the Farmland Protection Program and Trail Development Program. The Farmland Protection Program seeks to "allow the purchase of agricultural conservation easements on the USDA designated prime soils within the Rondout Valley" (42); the Trail Development Program seeks to "expand the network of trails and pedestrian connections to recreation areas and provide for other needed recreational amenities" (24).



The Ulster County Open Space Plan (2007) refers to the land that is included within or surrounded by Colony Farm as one of the State's greatest open space resources (Executive Summary). This section also states the importance for communities to "plan ahead" to protect, preserve, and develop, which is the precise intent of the proposed Feasibility Study. Nearly every Resource listed within this plan (Executive Summary, Resource Strategies) will be included within the Feasibility Study, as each is either included in or in close proximity to Colony Farm and the related parcels, including open space, water resources,

working landscapes (forest and agricultural land), landforms and natural features, ecological communities, and recreation sites. Strategies for these resources that are of particular relevance to this project include: protecting and improving connectivity of open spaces (3-5); maintaining viable agricultural land to advance economic development (3-20); and strengthening recreational resources (3-31), to include trail systems (3-33). The Feasibility Study will address how the re-use of Colony Farm would advance each of these goals, assessing the potential linkage of

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existing and isolated parks, trails, and bodies of water, and evaluating scenic open spaces close to the Shawangunk Ridge, Minnewaska, and Mohonk Preserve, etc. The Open Space Plan also indicates County support and possible funding for projects that are consistent with the recommendations of this plan and that develop comprehensive plans at the local level (4-16). This is particularly relevant to this project, as the proposed Study will guide the potential re-use of Colony Farm.

The Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan (2013) lists as one of the region's strategic priorities to "Benefit from and Preserve the Region's Unique Assets through Tourism (9-5)." As part of this goal, the plan lists agritourism as one of the Region's assets and one with potential to grow (9-6). The Feasibility Study will assess how best to leverage the Region's agricultural assets and enhance its agritourism industry by developing productive and educational working farms, offering leases to local farm families, and establishing a farmers market. The plan also cites "Colony Farm/Catskills-Shawangunk Greenway" as a project idea for economic development (C-18).

The Ellenville Million Task Force (2015) recommended projects directly aligned with the potential re-use of land examined within this Feasibility Study. These projects include: 1) Upgrading parks and rail trails: The proposed Study will examine the best ways to leverage Colony Farm's unique positioning among some of the region's and state's most popular parks and trails and promote greater connectivity between them. 2) Pursuing marketing campaigns to attract more tourists to the area and promote outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and hang-gliding: The Feasibility Study will assess the most effective ways to establish the land as an agritourism destination and increase year round tourism.

Lastly, the Town of Wawarsing's Comprehensive Plan (2006 & 2015 Draft) and Open Space Inventory (2014) directly address Colony Farm and the related parcels in regards to agricultural development and connectivity between the Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains.

Furthermore, a number of statewide plans support this type of project. The NYS Open Space Conservation Plan's goals are directly aligned with this Project (2). In addition to enhancing recreational opportunities and protecting the region's natural resources, plans for Colony Farm include leases to local farm families and an educational facility to inform the public of agricultural practices. The Plan also lists specific priorities, including fostering healthy communities by connecting open space corridors (30). Connectivity will be a critical part of the Study; Vernooey Kill State Forest, Minnewaska Preserve, Mohonk Preserve and Sam's Point Nature Conservancy, among others, are all in the immediate Colony Farm area and can be better linked with the addition of the subject land. Another priority within the Open Space Conservation Plan is safeguarding our State's natural and cultural heritage, specifically farmland (43). The land examined in the Feasibility Study was part of a dairy and prison farm for years and could leverage this agricultural history and capability to establish itself as an agritourism destination, complete with working farms. The Plan also lists a series of priority project areas in the Lower Hudson Valley in close proximity to the subject land: Rondout Wetlands (70), Karst Aquifer (71), and Shawangunk Mountains (76). It also names the "Catskill-Shawangunk connection in Wawarsing (NYS Department of Correctional Services –Wawarsing Farmland)" (76) and the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway (77), where Colony Farm is located.

Section D: Project Narrative

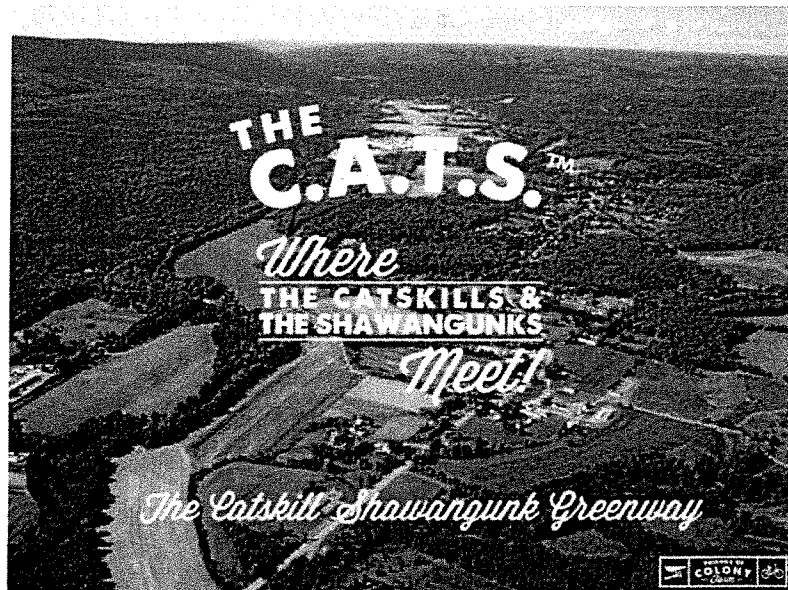
The 2014 Draft NYS Open Space Conservation Plan cites the "Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway area in Wawarsing . . . including farmland owned by [DOCCS]" (90) as a "priority farmland cluster" critical to agricultural economy and wildlife habitat. The land is again cited as a "prime example" for landscape connectivity that would protect open space and floodplains, connect parks and trails, and stimulate "tourism-based economic activity, including agritourism, in Wawarsing" (100).

The NYS Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) highlights the need for comprehensive planning with public participation (11). The proposed Feasibility Study has already garnered the support of numerous state, regional and local entities and organizations. These groups will be included throughout the Study and public information presentations will be held. SCORP also cites Ulster County as having a need for "parks" and "biking" (31); both will be included in the Study. SCORP also lists a number of goals that will be central elements of the Feasibility Study (pages 34, 39, 40, 41, and 42). Recommendations toward these goals encourage planning, the reuse of existing facilities and for multiple purposes, new recreational opportunities for underserved communities, public-private partnerships, and the protection of open space. The Project is in line with these recommendations: Colony Farm remains functionally vacant in a distressed community but has the capacity to become a multi-functional agritourism destination that provides greater connectivity between parks and trails and preserves open spaces.

The businesses that benefit from the feasibility report will be selected after the report is complete and the Town of Wawarsing, in conjunction with the NYS DOCCS, decide how to best proceed. Decisions will be made based on the businesses success in similar areas or the businesses' alignment with the needs of the area.

VIII. A brief description of how the work will be performed including whether organizational staff or consultants or contractors will be used

The Town of Wawarsing will seek bids from reputable firms with experience in providing feasibility studies for future agritourism sites.



How does this project advance economic development in Ellenville/Wawarsing?

The funding for the project is a Rural Business Development grant and an Empire State Development grant. Re-development of the defunct prison farm for food manufacturing, agricultural production, recreational tourism, and agritourism in order to revitalize the local economy and bring money into Wawarsing is the purpose of the project.

Governor Cuomo came to the area two years ago to announce improvements to Minnewaska State Park and at the time he stated that Minnewaska would become the gateway park to the Catskills. In the past, visitors to Minnewaska have returned to New Paltz after a day at the park, unaware of the Ellenville area. The DOCCS farmland forms a land bridge between Minnewaska in the Shawangunks and the Catskill Park, that the NYS Open Space Plan calls the "Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway", and recommends for agritourism and trail development. Colony Farm can also be a gateway to the Catskill Park, with 1300 feet of road frontage on the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway. Currently, there is not even a sign to indicate the tens of thousands of acres of Catskill Park land accessible from Wawarsing.

Colony Farm and the Greenway will change Wawarsing's image from a "prison town" to a "parkland" and a "trails town" while coexisting with the prisons that will remain on the other half of the DOCCS' 1440 acres. It will create a new tourist attraction that will contribute to making the area a tourist destination again and bring in tourist dollars. A New Paltz outfitter calls the western slope of the Shawangunks the 'Sleeping Giant' because of its recreational potential.

Colony Farm and the Greenway can be a Rt 209/ Scenic Byway trailhead for the O&W Rail Trail and the Ulster County Rail Trail System, with connectivity via the proposed "Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway Trail". The farmland will serve as the view shed for the rail trail.

Some of the food products that might be manufactured at Colony Farm are NYS Greek yogurt, artisan cheeses and ice cream. Proposed new zoning would make it easier to add cafes and eateries to farms in the immediate Colony Farm area.

The Greenway area can accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, rail trail users, kayakers and hang glider pilots. Amenities are needed to retain recreational tourists.

The recreational activities and scenic beauty will attract second home owners who will subsidize the Ellenville School District.

In short, the project will re-brand the Ellenville Area by transforming the vicinity of the Rt. 209 and Rt. 44-55 intersection into the Catskill-Shawangunk gateway.

TOWN OF WAWARSING
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING

August 30, 2017 –11:00 AM

PRESENT	Supervisor Distel	Councilman Houck
	Councilman Durso	Deputy Town Clerk Collier
	Councilman Johnson	

ABSENT Town Clerk Shamro, Councilman Bradley

**TOWN BOARD TO APPROVE FAIRWEATHER CONSULTING, 124 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2,
NEW PALTZ, NY TO DO A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE REUSE OF COLONY FARM
AND RELATED PARCELS**

On a motion by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Durso, the Town Board approves Fairweather Consulting of 124 Main Street, Suite 2, New Paltz, NY to do a feasibility study for the reuse of Colony Farm and related parcels. Total cost of study is \$48,240.00.

TOWN BOARD ADJOURNS SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING AT 11:16 AM

On a motion by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Houck, the Town Board adjourns special workshop meeting at 11:16 am.

MOTION VOTE	AYES	4	NAYS	0	ABSENT	1
				MOTION CARRIED		

Jacqueline Collier
Deputy Town Clerk

**PROPOSAL OPENING
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE RE-USE OF THE COLONY FARM
AND RELATED PARCELS
AUGUST 16, 2017 - 12 NOON**

(1 proposal)

Fairweather Consulting
124 Main Street Suite 2
New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 255-0611

Total Project Cost	\$ 48,240.00
Task A-Initial Data Gathering and Assessment	\$ 12,480.00
Task B-Public/Stakeholder Outreach	\$ 5,520.00
Task C-Identify and Assess Scenarios for Parcel Ownership & Control	\$ 4,680.00
Task D-Identify and Define Possible Models for Active Re-Use of the Parcels	\$ 10,500.00
Task E-Identification of Possible Models for Passive Re-Users of the Parcels	\$ 10,560.00
Task F-Action Plan	\$ 4,440.00

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Wawarsing

The Town of Wawarsing is seeking a Consultant to do a feasibility study of the Colony Farm which will include the re-use of the Colony Farm and related vacant parcels for public purposes, including but not limited to, use as an agricultural-tourism center, as an educational center modeling traditional and contemporary agricultural practices, as an assemblage of recreational open space with access to existing trails as protected lands conserving vital wetlands, view sheds and natural corridors with continual use as agricultural land preserving and enhancing existing flood plains and forests. Thus, maintaining the rural character of the Town of Wawarsing while providing new and vital economic opportunities for the Town.

Applications can be picked up at the Town Clerks Office, 108 Canal Street, PO Box 671, Ellenville, NY and RETURNED to the Town Clerks Office on or before August 16 , 2017 at 12 noon.

The Town of Wawarsing is an equal opportunity employer.

By Order of the Town Board
Town of Wawarsing
Roxanne Shamro, Town Clerk



Corrections and Community Supervision

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANTHONY J. ANNUCCI
Acting Commissioner

September 11, 2017

RECEIVED
TOWN OF WAWARSING
RECEIVED
TOWN OF WAWARSING

SEP 14 2017
SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Honorable Leonard M. Distel
Town Supervisor
Office of the Town Supervisor
108 Canal Street
P.O. Box 671
Ellenville, NY 13428

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Re: Colony Farm "Agri-tourism" Feasibility Study

Dear Supervisor Distel:

Acting Commissioner Annucci has asked me to respond to your letter to him dated August 21, 2017, regarding the Colony Farm "Agri-tourism" Feasibility Study.

We are pleased to see the Town of Wawarsing secure funding for a feasibility study of "agri-tourism" on the Colony Farm property.

As previously indicated, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) wants to consider the results of the Town's feasibility study before ultimately making a decision on the future of the farm.

Please send the Report upon availability and set forth the Town's plan for potential acquisition, so we may review accordingly.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Martuscello III
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Anthony J. Annucci, Acting Commissioner
William Lee, Superintendent, Eastern NY Correctional Facility
Rosemarie Wendland, Superintendent, Ulster Correctional Facility
Thomas Corcoran, Assistant Commissioner
George A. Glassanos, DOCCS Deputy Counsel
Ellisa R. Weber, Director, Facilities Planning and Development
Keith D. Rupert, P.E., DOCCS Supervisor of Technical Services



Corrections and
Community Supervision

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANTHONY J. ANNUCCI
Acting Commissioner

June 15, 2016

Honorable Leonard M. Distel, Supervisor
Town of Wawarsing
108 Canal Street
PO Box 671
Ellenville, NY 12428

RE: Colony Farm "Agri-tourism" Feasibility Study
Application for NYS Consolidated Funding Grant

Dear Supervisor Distel:

Your correspondence dated July 8, 2014 (attached) enclosed a copy of the Town's application for a New York State grant, which if secured, will allow for the study of the "Colony Farm," a state-owned aggregation of agricultural parcels of land under the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's (DOCCS) jurisdiction. Your letter describes the focus of such a study to be "agri-tourism." The copy of the Town's application that I received did not contain a map of the Farm so I am enclosing a copy of an aerial that very generally depicts the boundary lines of the various farm parcels and is regarded by DOCCS as the "Colony Farm." Please notify me if the Town's grant application covers any other lands.

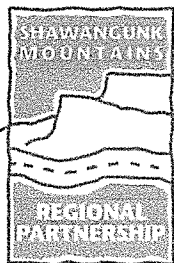
The Colony Farm is fairly distant from both the Eastern NY Correctional Facility and the Ulster Correctional Facility and is currently being utilized for haying. In addition, DOCCS continues to utilize portions of the property for official uses.

DOCCS supports the Town's application and you may use my correspondence as an indication of that support. Decisions regarding ultimate use and disposition are matters to be addressed after the Town study is completed.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Annucci
Acting Commissioner

cc: Kevin P. Bruen, Deputy Commissioner and Counsel
Patrick Griffin, Assistant Commissioner
Kathy Gerbing, Supervising Superintendent, Otisville Correctional Facility
William Lee, Superintendent, Eastern Correctional Facility



THE SHAWANGUNK MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

c/o Chairman John Valk, Jr. PO Box 247, Wallkill, New York 12589 845-895-2900

Ms. Meghan Taylor, Regional Director
Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Council
Empire State Development Corporation

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The Shawangunk Mountains Regional Partnership wholeheartedly supports the Town of Wawarsing's application to secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels currently owned by the New York State Department of Corrections.

In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, and protect "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands."

The area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, and the New York State-designated Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway, which was created by our partnership of towns and villages.

We support the Town of Wawarsing's diligent efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community based on new agricultural and tourism opportunities in this part of Ulster County.

This is certainly in keeping with the Corridor Management Plan developed for the Byway, and approved by the New York State legislature and executive.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

Al Wegener
Executive Director

7/3/15.

Board of Representatives: Shawangunk Supervisor, John Valk Jr.-Chairman; Rochester Supervisor, Carl Chipman-Vice Chair; New Paltz Town Supervisor, Susan Zimet-Vice Chair; Crawford Representative, Phil Jonison; Village of Ellenville Mayor, Jeff Kaplan; Gardiner Supervisor, Carl Zatz; Marbletown Deputy Supervisor, Brooke Pickering-Cole; Montgomery Supervisor, Mike Hayes; Village of New Paltz Mayor, Jason West; Rosendale Supervisor, Jeanne Walsh; Wawarsing Supervisor, Len Distel; Executive Projects Manager, Mohonk Preserve Ellen Sticker-Secretary; Executive Director, Al Wegener



4 Crotty Lane
Suite 100
New Windsor, NY 12553

phone: 845.220.2244
fax: 845.220-2247
www.hvedc.com

April 26, 2016

George R. Popp, Area Specialist
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
225 Dolson Ave., Suite 104
Middletown, NY 10940-6569

Dear Mr. Popp:

I strongly support the Town of Wawarsing's application to secure Rural Business Development Grant funding from the USDA for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels, totaling nearly 500 acres, currently owned by the New York State Department of Corrections. In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, protecting "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands" and "stimulating tourism-based economic activity, including agritourism, in Wawarsing."

We embrace the Town's vision to study the re-use of Colony Farm, which now lies dormant, but which once served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison since the late 1920's. The area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a National Scenic Byway. Over the last 15 years the residents of the Town of Wawarsing have been devastated by a series of serious economic disruptions, including the closing of several major manufacturers and the bankruptcy of the Nevele Hotel. This has exacted a terrible toll upon the community, resulting in an unemployment rate of nearly 17% (nearly 10 percentage points higher than the rest of Ulster County, and New York State overall), leaving a large portion of the population (22%) struggling beneath the poverty line.

We support the Town of Wawarsing's diligent efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community. In particular, we support the Town's desire to explore a vision for the Colony Farm parcels to perhaps become:

- An agritourism venue, with attractive tourist and recreational amenities;

***The Hudson Valley.
Right where you need to be.***

- Productive working farms again, possibly leased to local farm families;
- An educational facility to inform the public about model agricultural practices, farm productivity, farm life, and healthy lifestyles;
- Preserved lands with agricultural and conservation easements;
- An area with multiple public purposes, such as access to nearby trails, state parks, wetlands and open spaces;
- An assemblage of contiguous, connected parks, trails and open spaces for recreational purposes, while enhancing the local ecology and environment;
- A preserved viewshed area, with protected natural resources;
- An important economic driver, based on new agricultural and tourism opportunities in this underserved part of Ulster County;
- An access point and trailhead for Town residents and visitors into the Rondout Creek.

We are excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. That is why we strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,



Laurence P. Gottlieb
President & CEO

April 28, 2016

George R. Popp, Area Specialist
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
225 Dolson Ave., Suite 104
Middletown, NY 10940-6569

Dear Mr. Popp:

The Town of Wawarsing's proposed project for a comprehensive planning and implementation study is necessary for determining the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels, totaling nearly 500 acres, currently owned by the New York State Department of Corrections. In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, and protect "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands."

One option for re-use of these 500 acres of dormant land, which served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison for decades, would be to allow new farm businesses use of the land for grass-based livestock production. Use of the land in this manner would be instrumental in job creation and rural development in the economically devastated Town of Warwarsing, which has experienced a series of serious economic disruptions over the past 15 years. In the event that the feasibility study finds grass-based livestock production the most suitable re-use of this property, several indirect new jobs would be created, relative to the number of parcels and producers the property could support.

We are excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. We hope these job projections support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

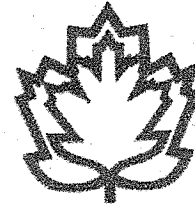


David S. Llewellyn

Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Administration Building
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427
Tel: 845-786-2701
Fax: 845-786-2776

James F. Hall
Executive Director

Philip H. White, President
David H. Mortimer, Vice President
Barnabas McHenry, Secretary
S. Lloyd Tulp, Treasurer
James E. Hanson II
Keith J. Cornell
Daniel Bryce O'Brien
Jeannette Redden
Sophie Heymann
Steven B. Harz



July 26, 2016

Meghan Taylor, Mid-Hudson Regional Director
Economic State Development, Mid-Hudson Region
33 Airport Center Drive, #201
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Ms. Taylor:

On behalf of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, I wholeheartedly support the Town of Wawarsing's 2016 Consolidated Funding Application to secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the most economically and ecologically productive re-use of Colony Farm. Colony Farm encompasses nearly 500 acres of unused, New York State-owned property that offers a rich history, stunning landscapes, and convenient access to other state parks. In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, protecting "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands" and "stimulating tourism-based economic activity, including agritourism, in Wawarsing."

We embrace the Town's vision to study the re-use of Colony Farm, which now lies dormant, but which once served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison since the late 1920's. The area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a National Scenic Byway. Over the last 15 years, the residents of the Town of Wawarsing have been devastated by a series of serious economic disruptions, including the closing of several major manufacturers and the bankruptcy of the Nevele Hotel. This has resulted in an unemployment rate of over 9% (twice that of the rest of Ulster County and New York State overall), leaving a large portion of the population (nearly 30%) struggling beneath the poverty line. Furthermore, in 1999, the USDA designated the Town of Wawarsing as a REAP Zone, due not only to its poverty, but its geographic isolation, historic dependence on agriculture, and economic upheaval.

We support the Town of Wawarsing's efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community. In particular, we support the Town's desire to explore a vision for the Colony Farm parcels as:

- An agritourism venue, with attractive tourist and recreational amenities
- Productive working farms again, possibly leased to local farm families
- An educational facility to inform the public about model agricultural practices, farm productivity, farm life, and healthy lifestyles
- Preserved lands with agricultural and conservation easements

Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Administration Building
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427
Tel: 845-786-2701
Fax: 845-786-2776



- An area with multiple public purposes, such as access to nearby trails, state parks, wetlands and open spaces
- An assemblage of contiguous, connected parks, trails and open spaces for recreational purposes, while enhancing the local ecology and environment
- A preserved viewshed area, with protected natural resources
- An important economic driver, based on new agricultural and tourism opportunities in this underserved part of Ulster County
- An access point and trailhead for Town residents and visitors into the Rondout Creek
- A tourist gateway to the state parklands of the Catskills, together with the adjacent Minnewaska State Park.

We are excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. Again, we strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Matthew Shook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Shook, Director of Special Projects and Development
Palisades Interstate Park Commission



Meghan Taylor, Mid-Hudson Regional Director
Economic State Development, Mid-Hudson Region
33 Airport Center Drive, #201
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Ms. Taylor:

July 22, 2016

Friends of Colony Farm has asked The Town of Wawarsing to re-apply for the 2016 NYS CFA awards once again, after the 2015 OPRHP grant application was not reviewed because the date on the letter of support from DOCCS was from the previous calendar year. The letter has been updated to June 15, 2016 by DOCCS and reiterates that the state is looking to the results of the Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study to inform its decision on the future use of the 500 acre, former state prison farmland.

Governor Cuomo visited our area in the fall of 2015 to announce funding for Minnewaska State Park and his vision of Minnewaska as the gateway to the state parks of the Catskills. Colony Farm is just a few minutes away from the entrance to Minnewaska and has 1300 feet of road frontage on the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway. The farm is a steppingstone to the parklands of the Catskills and a potential entrance to Vernooey Kill State Forest and the abutting Catskill Park and Lippman Town Park. It is a short hop off the routes of the O&W Rail Trail and Long Path as well, via the proposed Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway Trail endorsed by the Town and the county trails advisory committee. Colony Farm can connect to the Town's existing mountain biking trail system and Colony Farm already is home to a hang gliding practice hill for new pilots, an attractive new venue, just off the scenic byway.

Colony Farm can be repurposed as a working farm with farm tours and facilities for the manufacture of value added food products such as artisan cheeses, Greek yogurt and ice cream. It's a lovely site for a retail dairy store, ice cream shop, cafe or restaurant that can attract Minnewaska visitors down into the Rondout Valley. It can contribute to the greater Ulster County Rail Trail System's vision of connectivity with agritourism venues. It is possible that Colony Farm could remain publicly owned like Great

Brook Farm State Park in Massachusetts, a popular farm tour and biking destination that brings in 100,000 tourists per year. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ56cs1Pxrw>)

The Town of Wawarsing has a heritage of farm to table resorts and Colony Farm could uplift the adjoining 85 acre motel property next door into a tourist lodge for hikers, bikers and agritourists. The agritourism project is completely compatible with, and complementary to, the proposed Nevele redevelopment and would add to Wawarsing's renaissance of outdoor recreational tourism and provide a local attraction for Nevele guests. Most importantly, preservation of the former prison dairy as a working farm would mitigate the loss of the Kelly Farm at the Nevele site.

Being state land on the state scenic byway, the farm could host a Taste NY Store and/or Catskills Agritourism Welcome Center. Its stunning views and timeless landscape make it an ideal film location.

The feasibility study will be the first step in the creation of the "Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway" from the underused prison property. Colony Farm is ideally located to connect the public recreational lands of the Catskills to the public recreational lands of the Shawangunk Ridge. The creation of the greenway will transform the Ellenville area's image from prison town to a parkland, a recreational gateway community and a destination. Colony Farm is the first step on a journey from Minnewaska to the Catskills. New Paltz has long been the sole recipient of Minnewaska tourist dollars and a stated goal of the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway was to redistribute visitors from the overcrowded New Paltz area to the undiscovered Rondout Valley Catskills. Friends of Colony Farm has already secured the domain name TheCATS.org for future promotion of our town as an agritourism and recreational tourist destination. (Where THE Catskills And The Shawangunks meet!) The western slope of the Gunks has been called "The Sleeping Giant" by a recreational outfitter in New Paltz.

We've put together both a slide show and a Powerpoint presentation using the work of the professional photographers in our Friends group. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnP47dvUNDw> (slideshow)

Please recommend the Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study for funding by the state. It is likely that this is the third and final application by the Town if we do not begin to have funding success. We have overwhelming support from the community and both the region's conservation AND economic development organizations. We hope you will get to visit Colony Farm sometime soon!

Sincerely,

John A. Adams
for Friends of Colony Farm

June 26, 2015

ASSOCIATION

Meghan Taylor, Regional Director
Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Council
Empire State Development Corporation

**SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study
Consolidated Funding Application to NYS**

Dear Ms. Taylor:

On behalf of Cragmoor Association, I express enthusiastic support the Town of Wawarsing's application to secure funding for a comprehensive feasibility study to determine the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels totaling approximately 500 acres that is currently owned by the NYS Department of Corrections. This feasibility study will be a critical step in connecting the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor I Wawarsing, and in so doing will lead to protecting "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands."¹

Cragmoor Association unreservedly endorses any study of the re-use of Colony Farm, which now lies dormant but since the late 1920s until recently, served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison. The area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a National Scenic Byway. Over the last 15 years the residents of the Town of Wawarsing have been devastated by a series of serious economic disruptions, including the closing of several major manufacturers and the bankruptcy of the Nevele Hotel. This has exacted a terrible toll upon the community, resulting in a 17% unemployment rate – nearly 10 percentage points higher than the rest of Ulster County, and higher than NYS's overall unemployment rate. A large portion of the region's population (22%) struggles beneath the poverty line, while many others grapple with relatively high taxes, fighting to justify staying in a region seemingly plagued with a stagnant, unhealthy economy.

We support the Town of Wawarsing's diligent efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community. In particular, we support the Town's desire to transform Colony Farm into a facility with one or all of the following characteristics:

- An agritourism venue, with attractive tourist and recreational amenities
- Productive working farms again, possibly leased to local farm families
- An educational facility to inform the public about model agricultural practices, farm productivity, farm life, and healthy lifestyles
- Preserved lands with agricultural and conservation easements

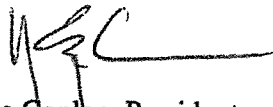
¹ 2014 New York State Open Space Plan

- An area with multiple public purposes, such as access to nearby trails, state parks, wetlands and open spaces
- An assemblage of contiguous, connected parks, trails and open spaces for recreational purposes, while enhancing the local ecology and environment
- A preserved viewshed area, with protected natural resources
- An important economic driver, based on new agricultural and tourism opportunities in this underserved part of Ulster County
- An access point and trailhead for Town residents and visitors into the Rondout Creek.

We are excited by the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, pursuant to the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide future use of the property. Again, we strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for clarification or more information regarding our support for this important conservation and economic development effort. I can always be reached at (917) 656-4838 and a Lonnie.coplen@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Lonnie Coplen, President
Cragsmoor Association, Inc.

Cragsmoor Association Board of Trustees

Lonnie Coplen, President	Chuck Davison, Vice President
Dick Peters, Treasurer	Tom Gale, Secretary
Jack Grifo, Trustee	Kathleen Muldoon, Trustee
Bernard Rock, Trustee	Danny Socolof, Trustee
John Stanger, Trustee	Karen Wells, Trustee

"The purpose of the Cragsmoor Association, Inc., (CA) is to encourage and assist efforts to conserve, maintain and enhance the scenic, historical, wilderness, wildlife, open space and outdoor recreational values of the physical environment of Cragsmoor and its neighboring regions for the cultural, physical, spiritual and economic benefit of our residents and visitors and to do any other acts or things incidental to or connected with the foregoing purpose or in advancement thereof."





Connecting People with Nature since 1920

600 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Meghan Taylor, Regional Director
Economic State Development, Mid-Hudson Region
33 Airport Center Drive, #201
New Windsor, NY 12553
July 15, 2016

Dear Ms. Taylor:

We wholeheartedly support the Town of Wawarsing's 2016 Consolidated Funding Application to secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the most economically and ecologically productive re-use of Colony Farm, a huge swath of unused, New York State-owned property totaling nearly 500 acres of land that offers a rich history, stunning landscapes, and convenient access to other state parks in the area. In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, protecting "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands" and "stimulating tourism-based economic activity, including agritourism, in Wawarsing."

We embrace the Town's vision to study the re-use of Colony Farm, which now lies dormant, but which once served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison since the late 1920's. The area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a National Scenic Byway. Over the last 15 years, the residents of the Town of Wawarsing have been devastated by a series of serious economic disruptions, including the closing of several major manufacturers and the bankruptcy of the Nevele Hotel. This has exacted a terrible toll upon the community, resulting in an unemployment rate of over 9% (twice that of the rest of Ulster County and New York State overall), leaving a large portion of the population (nearly 30%) struggling beneath the poverty line. Furthermore, in 1999, the USDA designated the Town of Wawarsing as a REAP Zone, due not only to its poverty, but its geographic isolation, historic dependence on agriculture, and economic upheaval.

We support the Town of Wawarsing's diligent efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community. In particular, we support the Town's desire to explore a vision for the Colony Farm parcels to perhaps become:

- An agritourism venue, with attractive tourist and recreational amenities
- Productive working farms again, possibly leased to local farm families
- An educational facility to inform the public about model agricultural practices, farm productivity, farm life, and healthy lifestyles
- Preserved lands with agricultural and conservation easements
- An area with multiple public purposes, such as access to nearby trails, state parks, wetlands and open spaces
- An assemblage of contiguous, connected parks, trails and open spaces for recreational purposes, while enhancing the local ecology and environment
- A preserved viewshed area, with protected natural resources
- An important economic driver, based on new agricultural and tourism opportunities in this underserved part of Ulster County

- An access point and trailhead for Town residents and visitors into the Rondout Creek
- A tourist gateway to the state parklands of the Catskills, together with the adjacent Minnewaska State Park.

We are excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. Again, we strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward K. Goodell". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "E" and "G".

Edward K. Goodell
Executive Director
New York- New Jersey Trail Conference



April 25, 2016

George R. Popp, Area Specialist
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
225 Dolson Ave., Suite 104
Middletown, NY 10940-656

Dear Mr. Popp:

New York State prisons were located in close proximity to fertile farmland to facilitate the development in inmates of farming skills that would support their productive reintegration in society. Regrettably, austerity caused the State Department of Corrections to abandon farming activities that served this end, including those at the Colony Farm of the Eastern Correctional Facility.

However, this decision makes available a resource that may now be harnessed in support of regional farming, a core economic development goal for our region, and one that has been the focus of considerable research at this Center. I write therefore to strongly support the Town of Wawarsing's application to secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels, totaling nearly 500 acres, currently owned by the New York State Department of Corrections.

Notwithstanding the current economic recovery, high unemployment and an elevated poverty rate persist in the Town of Wawarsing, which includes the Village of Ellenville. The failure to license a gaming facility in the community, a most recent setback, caused the Ulster County to bring particular focus to helping to address local needs. The application before you will additionally assist the Town of Wawarsing in its efforts toward economic renewal.

There is considerable synergy between the further development of regional farming and important environmental, educational, recreational and quality of life goals. This makes even more important the proposed Town plan that would intelligently guide the future use of the Colony Farm property. That is why I give this application my strong support.

Sincerely,


Gerald Benjamin

Director, The Benjamin Center

Distinguished Professor, Political Science

Associate Vice President, Regional Engagement

THE BENJAMIN CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES AT SUNY NEW PALTZ

1 Hawk Drive • New Paltz, NY 12561-2443 • (845) 257-2901 • Fax (845) 257-6918 • www.newpaltz.edu/beniamincenter

July 3, 2013

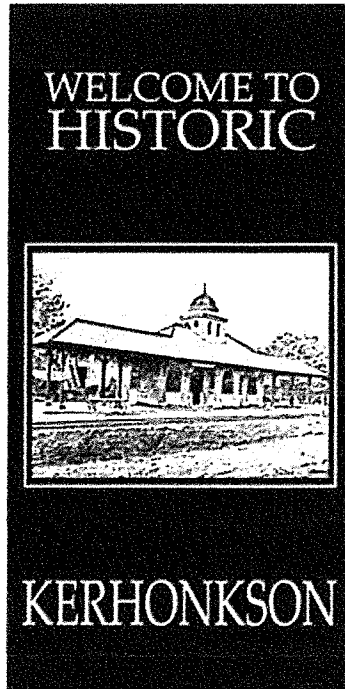
To Whom It May Concern,

The Renegade Mountain Bike Board is writing this letter in support of Mr. John Adams efforts to re-purpose the Colony Farm. The Renegades fully support the efforts of a multi use trail to be built upon the Colony Farm land for purposes such as but not limited to hiking and biking. The Renegades Mountain Bike Club is an all volunteer club committed to building sustainable trail throughout the local region.

Thank you,

The Renegades Mountain Bike Board Members

Matthew Boice
Douglas Nikkla
Jeremiah Brown
James Pfeister
James Gebhard
Wendy Prystal



July 21, 2016

Meghan Taylor, Mid-Hudson Regional Director
Economic State Development, Mid-Hudson Region
33 Airport Center Drive, #201
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Ms. Taylor:

I wholeheartedly support the Town of Wawarsing's 2016 Consolidated Funding Application to secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the most economically and ecologically productive re-use of Colony Farm, a huge swath of unused, New York State-owned property totaling nearly 500 acres of land that offers a rich history, stunning landscapes, and convenient access to other state parks in the area. In direct agreement with the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, protecting "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands" and "stimulating tourism-based economic activity, including agritourism, in Wawarsing."

We embrace the Town's vision to study the re-use of Colony Farm, which now lies dormant, but which once served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison since the late 1920's. The area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a National Scenic Byway. Over the last 15 years, the residents of

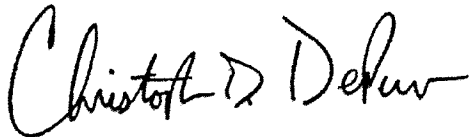
the Town of Wawarsing have been devastated by a series of serious economic disruptions, including the closing of several major manufacturers and the bankruptcy of the Nevele Hotel. This has exacted a terrible toll upon the community, resulting in an unemployment rate of over 9% (twice that of the rest of Ulster County and New York State overall), leaving a large portion of the population (nearly 30%) struggling beneath the poverty line. Furthermore, in 1999, the USDA designated the Town of Wawarsing as a REAP Zone, due not only to its poverty, but its geographic isolation, historic dependence on agriculture, and economic upheaval.

We support the Town of Wawarsing's diligent efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community. In particular, we support the Town's desire to explore a vision for the Colony Farm parcels to perhaps become:

- An agritourism venue, with attractive tourist and recreational amenities
- Productive working farms again, possibly leased to local farm families
- An educational facility to inform the public about model agricultural practices, farm productivity, farm life, and healthy lifestyles
- Preserved lands with agricultural and conservation easements
- An area with multiple public purposes, such as access to nearby trails, state parks, wetlands and open spaces
- An assemblage of contiguous, connected parks, trails and open spaces for recreational purposes, while enhancing the local ecology and environment
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- An access point and trailhead for Town residents and visitors into the Rondout Creek
- A tourist gateway to the state parklands of the Catskills, together with the adjacent Minnewaska State Park.

We are excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. Again, we strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher D. DePew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "DePew".

Christopher D. DePew, President & CEO
The Friends of Historic Kerhonkson Inc.
44 Webster Avenue
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Supporting The Town Of Wawarsing's Consolidated Funding Application Regarding The Colony Farm Agri-Tourism Project

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Maloney and Legislators Berky, Delaune, Lapp, Litts, Maio and Rodriguez)

Legislator Ronald G. Lapp, Jr. and Legislators Briggs and Lopez offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature is committed to encouraging economic growth and promoting tourism in Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2016, the Town of Wawarsing unanimously approved support for a Regional Economic Development Council Consolidated Funding Application for the Colony Farm Agri-Tourism Project; and

WHEREAS, the funding application would secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels, totaling nearly 500 acres, currently owned by the New York State Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, as documented in a letter dated June 15, 2016, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is on record indicating its support of the funding application and notes, "the decisions regarding the ultimate use and disposition are matters to be addressed after the Town study is completed"; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2016, the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Town of Wawarsing pursuing the Colony Farm Agri-tourism feasibility study for this year and advised the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee to support this measure; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has a history of supporting this funding application as demonstrated by the unanimous adoption of Resolution No. 263, dated July 21, 2015; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby supports the Town of Wawarsing's Consolidated Funding Application to provide for a comprehensive strategic plan designed to research, assess, and define implementation strategies for the re-use of the Colony Farm property and four subject parcels; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature encourages the Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council to award this project funding as part of the 2016 regional investment; and, be it further

Resolution No. 325 July 19, 2015

Supporting The Town Of Wawarsing's Consolidated Funding Application Regarding The Colony Farm Agri-Tourism Project

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chairs Dennis Murray and Leonard S. Schleifer, Regional Council Director Meghan Taylor, Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Director Suzanne Holt, Town of Wawarsing Supervisor Leonard Distel, and the Friends of Colony Farm Steering Committee,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Fabiano, R. Parete and Roberts)

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit on July 5, 2016

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 19th Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 20th Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

COUNTY OF ULSTER

PO BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402

Office of the Comptroller
(845) 340-3529
www.youreyesonulster.com



Elliott Auerbach
Comptroller

Joseph Eriole, Esq.
Deputy Comptroller

Alicia DeMarco, CPA
Director of Internal
Audit and Control

July 23, 2015

Meghan Taylor
Regional Director
Mid-Hudson Regional Council

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Please add my name to the long list of advocates who have thrown their support behind the Town of Wawarsing's application to secure funding for a comprehensive planning and implementation study to determine the best public uses of the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels, totaling nearly 500 acres, currently by the New York State Department of Corrections.

As a lifelong Wawarsing resident and former Ellenville Mayor, I embrace the Town's vision to study the re-use of Colony Farm, which now lies dormant, but which once served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison since the late 1920's. I understand that the area is in the ecologically sensitive Rondout Valley, and borders the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge, a National Scenic Byway.

I am very well aware of the economic challenges that the area has forced over the past decade. The Town of Wawarsing has been dramatically impacted by a series of serious economic disruptions, including the shuttering of several major manufacturing and the closing of the Nevele Hotel. This has exacted a terrible toll upon the community, resulting in an unemployment rate of nearly 17% (nearly 10 percentage points higher than the rest of Ulster County, and New York State overall), leaving a large portion of the population (22%) struggling beneath the poverty line.

I support the Town of Wawarsing's diligent efforts to find appropriate and sustainable solutions that will lead to economic revitalization for the community. I am excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. Again, I strongly encourage you to support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

Elliott Auerbach
Comptroller

The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people, to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound.

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 16, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,


I write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Wawarsing for funding from the Rural Business Development Grant Program through the United States Department of Agriculture. Funding will be used to perform a feasibility study for the uses of Colony Farm.

The Town of Wawarsing is located in Ulster County and is home to approximately 13,000 residents. The Town falls within the borders of a federally-designated Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone because of its demonstrated need for economic development assistance. Colony Farm is farmland associated with a former state correctional facility, which the Town hopes to be able to utilize in efforts to create economic vibrancy.

The requested funding will be used to identify productive uses of Colony Farm, which has been closed for approximately 10 years. A feasibility study will examine potential job creating uses that will include educational farming opportunities and hiking trails that will tie into the current rail trail system. Funding will enable the Town of Wawarsing to transform Colony Farm into an asset that will enhance economic development for the region.

I ask you to please give application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate contact my staff member Laura Driscoll at (202)224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate



Empire State
Development

December 8, 2016

The Honorable Leonard Distel
Town of Warwarsing
108 Canal Street, PO Box 671
Ellenville, NY 12428

Re: ESD – Strategic Planning and Feasibility Study Program
Catskill-Warwarsing Greenway/Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study, CFA 65009

Dear Supervisor Distel:

In 2011, Governor Cuomo launched the Regional Economic Development Councils and the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to provide each region with the tools to create and implement their own roadmap for economic prosperity and job creation. This community-based model uses local assets to drive local economic growth and has resulted in unprecedented partnerships and collaboration that are building a reinvigorated economy.

After five successful rounds, the 2016 CFA made over \$750 million in economic development resources available from over thirty programs across eleven state agencies. The Agency's programs provide resources for projects focused on community development and job creation, tourism, waterfront revitalization, energy and environmental improvements, sustainability, and low-cost financing. Empire State Development is proud to have contributed over \$260 million to this year's Consolidated Funding Application.

As announced by Governor Cuomo on December 8, 2016, we are pleased to inform you that Town of Warwarsing has been recommended for an award of up to \$20,000 from the Empire State Development Strategic Planning and Feasibility Study Program. ESD's «Mid-Hudson Regional Office will contact you to clarify specifics about the project in order to issue a formal Incentive Proposal. The Incentive Proposal, which must be signed and returned to ESD, will outline funding requirements, including next steps, disbursement terms, minority- and women-owned business hiring goals, employment requirements, environmental and historic preservation review requirements, and other terms and conditions required by the ESD funding processes. You are reminded that under the proposed project with ESD, any work performed, or costs incurred, prior to the date on this letter may result in award reductions or possible termination of the project at ESD's discretion.

If you applied for funding from other programs or other State agencies, you will receive information from those programs/agencies separately.

Congratulations, and we look forward to working with you on this important project.

Best regards,

Howard Zemsky
President & CEO, Empire State Development
Commissioner, NYS Department of Economic Development

cc: Meghan Taylor, Mid-Hudson Regional Director

RECEIVED
TOWN OF WARWARSING

DEC 12 2016

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

TOWN OF WAWARSING

Office of the Supervisor

LEONARD M. DISTEL

108 Canal Street

P.O. Box 671

Ellenville, New York 12428

Phone: 845-647-6570 Ext. 6

Fax: 845-647-1046

TTY: 845-647-1046

E-Mail:

wawsupervisor@hvc.rr.com

Councilpersons

Stephen Bradley

Michael Durso

Terry Houck

Dan Johnson

July 3, 2017

George Popp
USDA Rural Development
225 Dolson Avenue
Suite 104
Middletown, NY 10940

Subject: Colony Farm

Dear George,

We are pleased to announce that the Town of Wawarsing is planning to issue a request for proposals seeking a qualified firm to conduct an in depth feasibility study of the best future uses for the Colony Farm property. As you know, this beautiful property – currently owned by the NYS Department of Corrections but unused for more than a decade – could be a tremendous asset to the Town and the Mid-Hudson Region.

The Town plans to use a recently announced grant of \$25,000 from USDA and a separate award of \$20,000 from Empire State Development to provide the majority of the funding needed to pay for the future study. From previous research, we believe that bids from firms wishing to conduct the study on our behalf will fall into a range of from \$45,000 to \$120,000.

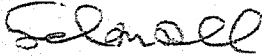
As we prepare the RFP package, we are simultaneously seeking additional funding to further support our efforts. Meanwhile, the Town stands ready to provide supplemental funding if necessary in order to complete this promising and important first step in finding a compelling new use for the Colony Farm Property.

The RFP being currently developed will seek the consultant's comprehensive assessment of the Colony Farm's future use in several key areas, including:

1. Agricultural
2. Tourism
3. Recreation
4. Environmental Conservation
5. Economic Development

We thank you and the USDA for your continued assistance in helping the Town of Wawarsing realize this long held dream. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard M. Distel".

Leonard M. Distel
Town Supervisor

LMD/bb



United States Department of Agriculture

need letter from minisue in ventive proposal

July 12, 2017

Leonard Distel, Supervisor
Town of Wawarsing
108 Canal Street
P.O. Box 671
Ellenville, NY 12428

~~Request for proposal~~
① Requester obligation of funds
② letter of conditions
③ letter back by around Aug 2
NO RFP until the letter
comes from USDA

SUBJECT: Letter of Conditions

Rural Business Development Grant – Colony Farm Feasibility Study Project
\$25,000 Grant

Dear Supervisor Distel:

Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) hereby establishes conditions, which must be understood and agreed to by you before further consideration, may be given to your application. Any changes in project cost, sources of funds, scope of services, and/or any other significant changes in the project or applicant must be reported to and approved by RBS by written amendment to this letter. Any changes not approved by RBS shall be cause for discontinuing processing of the application.

This letter is not to be considered as grant approval or as a representation as to the availability of funds. The docket may be completed on the basis of a grant not to exceed \$25,000.00.

The grant will be considered approved on the date a signed copy of Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds," and Form RD 4280-2, "Rural Business-Cooperative Service Financial Assistance Agreement," is mailed to you.

Please complete and return the attached Form RD 1942-46, "Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions," if you desire that further consideration be given your application. BY SIGNING FORM RD 1942-46, "LETTER OF INTENT TO MEET CONDITIONS," YOU ARE HEREBY AGREEING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT IS A NON-CONTINUING, NON-RENEWABLE GRANT AND ANY APPROVAL OF THIS GRANT IN NO WAY CONSTITUTES AN ASSURANCE THAT FUTURE GRANTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

If the conditions set forth in this letter, except those to be met at grant closing, are not met within 60 days from the date hereof, Rural Business-Cooperative Service reserves the right to discontinue the processing of the application. This is not appealable.

Grantees expecting funds from other sources for use in completing projects partially financed with RBS funds will present evidence of commitment of funds from other sources. This evidence will be made available before grant closing. The funds provided by the applicant or other sources will be disbursed prior to the use of Rural Development grant funds.

The funding period of this grant will begin on the date the grant has been obligated. The projected period for completion of this project is one year.

USDA Rural Development

225 Dolson Avenue, Suite 104, Middletown, NY 10940-6569

Telephone: (845) 343-1872 ext. 4 • Fax (855) 889-1632 • TDD: (315) 477-6447

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,



GEORGE R. POPP
Area Specialist

ENCLOSURES FOR LETTER OF CONDITIONS

- ◆ RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds"
- ◆ RD 1942-46, "Letter of Intent To Meet Conditions"
- ◆ Scope of Work (Approved)
- ◆ SF 425, "Federal Financial Report"
- ◆ Procurement Standards Handbook (if applicable)
- ◆ SF 270, "Request For Advance or Reimbursement"
- ◆ SF-3881, "Electronic Funds Transfer Payment Enrollment Form"
- ◆ Form AD-1047, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions"
- ◆ Form AD-1048, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions"
- ◆ Form AD-1049, "Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants) Alternative I - For Grantees Other Than Individuals"
- ◆ Rural Area Certification
- ◆ Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement"
- ◆ Civil Rights Handout
- ◆ "And Justice for All" Poster
- ◆ "Equal Employment Opportunity is the Law" Poster
- ◆ "Sample" Project Performance Report

JOHN J. BONACIC
SENATOR, 42ND DISTRICT

CHAIR
COMMITTEES ON
JUDICIARY
RACING, GAMING & WAGERING

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE LEADER
FOR STATE/FEDERAL RELATIONS



**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**

COMMITTEES
ALCOHOLISM
BANKS
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
FINANCE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RULES

January 9, 2017

Honorable Leonard M. Distel
Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing
P.O. Box 671
108 Canal Street
Ellenville, New York 12428

Dear Supervisor Distel:

Congratulations to the Town of Wawarsing for securing \$50,000 in grant funding to study potential re-use of the Colony Farm project, the 500 acres of former farm land at Eastern Correctional Facility in Napanoch. I was pleased to work with the current administration to provide this funding.

Please be assured, I will continue to work to provide such funding to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of our community.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Bonacic".

JOHN J. BONACIC
State Senator

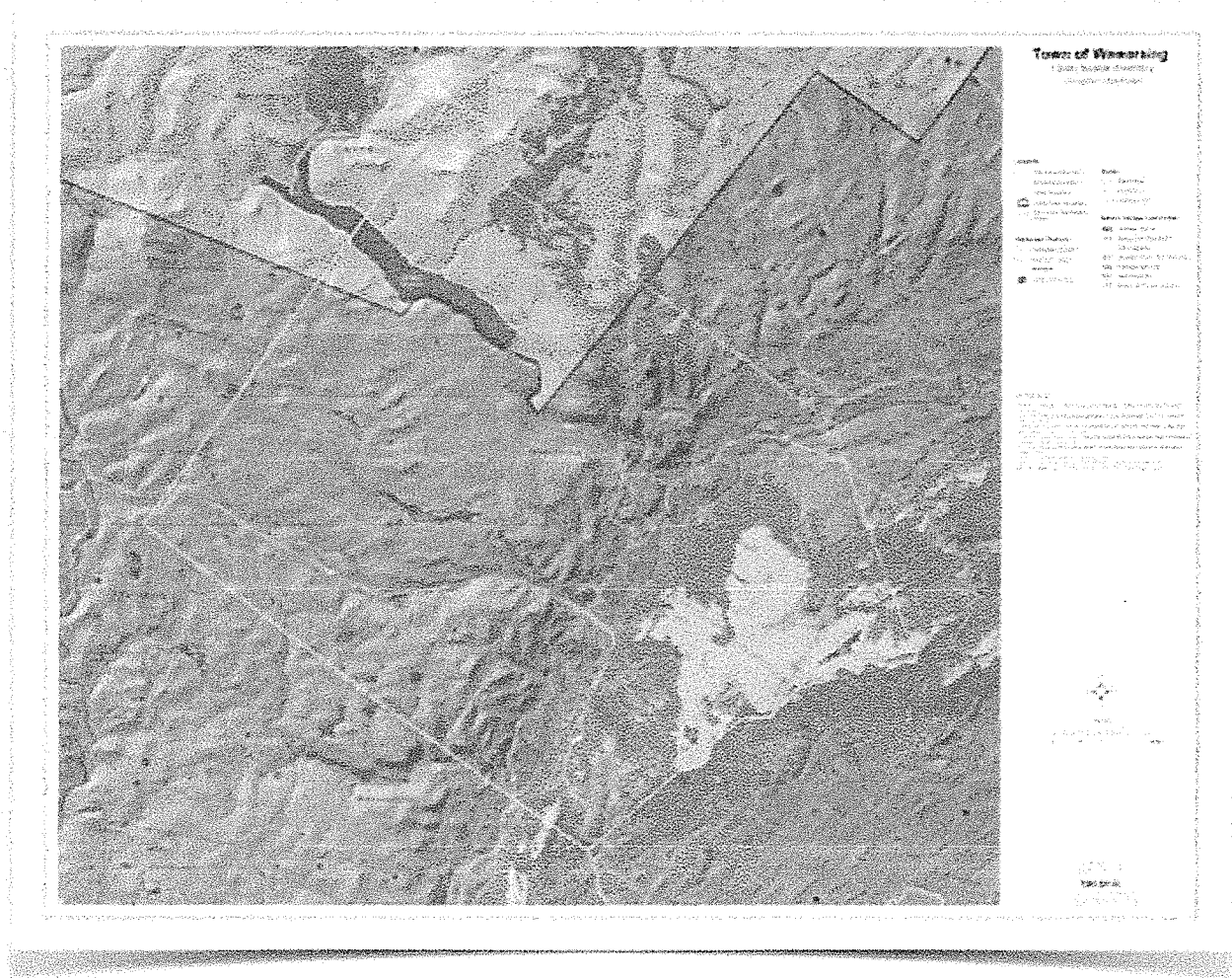
JJB/lbh
RECEIVED

TOWN OF WAWARSING

JAN 12 2017

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

ALBANY OFFICE: ROOM 509 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NY 12247 (518) 455-3181
DISTRICT OFFICE: 201 DOLSON AVENUE, SUITE E, MIDDLETOWN, NY 10940 (845) 344-9111
SATELLITE OFFICE: 111 MAIN STREET, DELHI, NY 13753
EMAIL: BONACIC@NYSENATE.GOV



Ecological Communities Map

Connectivity Corridors

As previously noted, the closest point between the Catskill Mountains and the Shawangunk Ridge is located along Route 209 between Napanoch and Kerhonkson. This area has been identified in many orders of open space planning magnitude as a critical link between these high quality ecosystem areas.

Along with the above, this area also includes several other compatible but overlapping landscape layers. Port Ben lies at the crossroads between the 2 major non-motorized transportation routes of the Long Path and D&H O&W Rail Trail. This area also contains many of the NYS owned farmlands associated with the state correctional facility, including Colony Farm, which is on the north side of Route 209 and adjacent to the Vernoo Kill State Forest.

HUDSON VALLEY ORGANIC

April 25, 2016

George R. Popp, Area Specialist
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
225 Dolson Ave., Suite 104
Middletown, NY 10940-6569

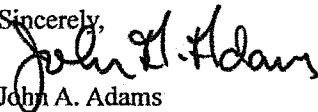
Dear Mr. Popp:

The Town of Wawarsing's proposed project for a comprehensive planning and implementation study is necessary for determining the best public uses for the Colony Farm property and other associated parcels, totaling nearly 500 acres, currently owned by the New York State Department of Corrections. As directly stated by the 2014 New York State Open Space Plan, this feasibility study will help connect the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway along the Route 209 Corridor, and protect "floodplain areas and priority undeveloped agricultural lands."

One option for re-use of these 500 acres of dormant land, which served as a dairy farm in support of the Eastern Correctional Facility prison for decades, would be an agritourism venue, like Great Brook Farm State Park in Massachusetts (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ56cs1Pxrw>). Use of the land in this manner would be instrumental in job creation and rural development in the economically devastated Town of Warwarsing, which has experienced a series of serious economic disruptions over the past 15 years. In the event that the feasibility study finds agritourism the most suitable re-use of this property, we estimate approximately 10 direct jobs and 100 indirect new jobs would be created.

We are excited about the prospects of a thoughtful public re-use of the Colony Farm parcels, as generated by the Town of Wawarsing's vision for a strategic plan that would intelligently guide any future use of the property. We hope these job projections support the Town's effort to secure funding for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,



John A. Adams
Hudson Valley Organic, LLC
Friends of Colony Farm

04 Stakeholder Input


Due to the rapid schedule for development of this interim planning document, stakeholder input has been limited to engagement of the Commission and of municipal elected officials in the Town and the Village. In the future, additional stakeholder input – including public workshops, interviews with key stakeholders such as the school district, chamber of commerce, and civic groups – will be valuable in defining long-term goals for the Ellenville/Wawarsing parks and recreation system.

On October 6, 2016, staff of UCEDA conducted a workshop with at the Commission's regular monthly meeting. During the workshop, participants were asked to provide input to help guide the creation of this interim planning document. Input was solicited on the following topics:

- Identifying parks and recreation resources in the community
- Assessing the current condition of existing parks and recreation resources
- Identifying "high-priority" improvements or expansions to the current parks and recreation system

The input was collected through a small-group mapping exercise, where participants used markers to provide input on prepared maps of the recreation and parks facilities in the Town and Village.

Following the mapping exercise, commission members were asked to identify and then vote for the improvements or initiatives that they believe are most urgent and should be included in this three-year planning document. The results are summarized here, in order of priority:

- 
1. Expansion of Berme Road Park, including better connections into the Village, parking improvements, kiosk/signage, pavilion, bathroom facilities (6)
 2. Improvements to the DOCCS section of the Wawarsing O&W Rail Trail (5)
 3. Improvements to the Northern section of the Wawarsing O&W Rail Trail from DOCCS to the Rochester Town line (3)
 4. Establish a connection between the Ellenville O&W Rail Trail and Berme Road Park (3)
 5. Open access to Colony Farm and establish a "wildlife" bridge between the Shawangunks and the Catskill Mountains (2)
 6. Improvements to the Southern section of the Wawarsing O&W Rail Trail from DOCCS to the Ellenville Village line (2)
 7. Improvements at the Mill Street Park, including lighting, asphalt path resurfacing, benches
 8. Improvements at Bob Mangles Botanical Garden, including trees, benches and possible conversion back to a baseball field
 9. Extend the O&W Rail Trail from Canal Street south to the Nevele property
 10. Create an "exercise trail" along the O&W Rail Trail
 11. Establish a shuttle service from Berme Road Park to Sam's Point
 12. Create a dedicated youth recreation facility

October 24, 2016

Goal 4: Improve Park Safety, Maintenance and Accessibility

Efforts to improve the visitor experience go beyond aesthetic or functional improvements – they must include enhancements to ensure visitor safety, comfort and accessibility. Key priorities here include:

- Improved and additional lighting at anchor parks
- Security cameras in areas of heightened security concerns
- Application of “crime prevention through environmental design” standards in all future projects
- Establishment or clarification of maintenance and monitoring roles/responsibilities
- Attention to necessary budgeting goals to support recreation and parks operations and maintenance
- Establishment of new operational policies and procedures (permits, rentals, special events, camping, vehicles, etc.)
- Ongoing improvements to ensure handicap accessibility
- Evaluation, selection and completion of high priority maintenance projects

Goal 5: Develop Long-Term Parks and Recreation Master Plan

While the goals above are expected to generate tangible results, including increased park visitation and enhanced economic development opportunities, the Commission should look to develop a full parks and recreation master plan for the Village and the Town in the coming years. This plan would address areas including:

- Evaluation of future park expansion/acquisition, facilities enhancements,
- Extension of the O&W Rail Trail through the Village and Nevele property to the southern Town border,
- Access to DEP lands,
- Creek access,
- Berme Road park mine,
- Swimming facilities,
- Organized sports facilities,
- Zoning amendments,
- Camping facilities, horseback riding,
- Commercial lodging and accommodations,
- Hang-gliding,
- Agriculture-related recreation and Colony Farm,
- Complete-streets connections,
- Branding and promotion,
- Community engagement,
- Funding,
- Maintenance and capital planning

Colony Farm AgPark in the CATSKILL-SHAWANGUNK GREENWAY

The Town of Wawarsing has passed resolutions in favor of creating the “Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway” at Colony Farm and the surrounding state-owned farmlands, a total of 500 acres. The Commissioner of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Services has written in support of the town’s application for funding the “Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study”, as have many of our town, county and state public officials. The feasibility study was first recommended by former Congressman Hinchey’s office, then by Hudson Valley Economic Development. Congressman Gibson supports the C/S Greenway.

Colony Farm is a 250 acre dairy that could be the home to an agpark with facilities for making artisan cheese, ice cream and Greek yogurt. Its road frontage on the Rt. 209 Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway just 10 minutes from the entrance to Minnewaska State Park makes it an attractive site for a retail dairy store, ice cream shop and café and possibly a Rondout Valley Agritourism Welcome Center, picnicking and a farmers market. Colony Farm could be restored to production such as “grass-fed” milk from pastured cows. Similar farms attract 100,000 annual visitors.

The Ulster County Planning Department’s Summary of Requests for the redevelopment of the former prison farm in Wawarsing also includes trails for hiking and biking that would create a critical mass of trails in what the NYS Open Space Plan calls the “CATSKILL-SHAWANGUNK GREENWAY”, using the O&W Rondout Valley Rail Trail as its backbone. Bike routes will bring trail connectivity between the rail trail, Minnewaska and Catskill Park.

The Mid-Hudson Sustainability Plan includes “Colony Farm / Catskill ShawangunkGreenway”- a project idea to “re-purpose the former NYS prison farm in Wawarsing as (the) Catskill- Shawangunk Greenway and hang-gliding site”. The site is already approved by the Corrections Dept.

Agritourism at Colony Farm would redefine the Ellenville area’s image as the recreational gateway community for the public parklands of The Catskills And The Shawangunks (The C.A.T.S.!) and bring outdoor fun back to our town. The Ellenville area is the gateway to the Catskills! Please support the funding of the Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study.

Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study notes...

The Town Board of the Town of Wawarsing has unanimously adopted Resolution #35 of Aug. 16, 2012 that “approves the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail”;

The NYS DOCCS supported the Town’s NYS CFA application to fund the Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study/ Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway Study.

The Town has been awarded \$20,000 from the NYS Empire State Development Feasibility Study Grant. NYS ESD is the state agency that repurposes former prison land.

The Town has been awarded up to \$25,000 from a USDA RBDG grant.

Matching money is required by the grants and to complete the study.

The Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee has passed a resolution in favor of the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway Trail;

The Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board unanimously passed a motion on May 16, 2012 in support of the preservation of Colony Farm and its valuable farmland in the Rondout Valley area and its importance to the agricultural heritage of Ulster County and the Rondout Valley;

The 2016 NYS Open Space Plan states that “The Rondout Valley of Ulster County, including important farmland in the towns of Wawarsing, Rochester, and Marbletown , and the “Catskill- Shawangunk Greenway” area in Wawarsing which would link the Catskill Forest Preserve with the Shawangunk Ridge, including farmland owned by the (NYS DOCCS) ” is a “priority farmland cluster” for conservation. The plan further states that protection of DOCCS agricultural lands in “the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway” could mitigate flooding, create connectivity for wildlife, support an extensive trail system and stimulate “tourism-based economic activity including agritourism, in Wawarsing”.

The Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan includes “Re-purpose the former NYS prison farm in Wawarsing as Catskills-Shawangunk Greenway and hang-gliding site” in its list of project ideas for economic development;

The Town of Wawarsing Comprehensive Plan identifies “ A Potential Agricultural Development Area in the Catskill-Shawangunk Corridor and states that “The town should seek to create such an area along the Route 209 corridor, the former D&H Canal right-of-way and the Long Path...”;

The Sullivan-Wawarsing Rural Economic Area Partnership Strategic Plan proposed completing the (D&H Canal)/ O&W Rail Trail, re-routing the Long Path and preserving the surrounding NYS prison farmland as the viewshed of the trails;

Colony Farm Agritourism Feasibility Study notes...

Resolution #35 states...

“The Town of Wawarsing Town Board approves the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail. The goals of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail shall include, but not be limited to, protection of the New York State Department of Correctional Services Farmlands within the Town of Wawarsing by way of encumbering them with Agricultural Conservation Easements; encourage the creation of an agricultural tourism venue at the Colony Farm located on State Route 209 in the Town of Wawarsing open to the public; encourage the procurement of necessary easements and rights-of-way to link the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail from the Vernoo Kill State Forest through the D&H Canal/O&W Rail Trail, acquire by acquisition or easement and develop connections between the D&H Canal/O&W Rail Trail, Lippman Park, Vernoo Kill State Forest and the Colony Farm, all within the Town of Wawarsing which would allow the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail to be available for use, enjoyment and recreation for members of the public by way of walking, hiking, and non-motorized means; encourage the construction and development of parking and picnic areas within the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail; foster such other construction and development within the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail that would maximize tourism in the Town of Wawarsing “where the Catskills meet the Shawangunks”.

Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway – Wildlands Network letter of commitment

As wildways advocate for the Wildlands Network, I would like to offer a letter of commitment to the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and to request support for this important wildlife corridor from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation program. I trekked through this area in 2011 as part of a 7600 mile human-powered exploration of a possible – and needed – Eastern Wildway (TrekEast, described on wildlandsnetwork.org and in *Big, Wild, and Connected*, published by Island Press), and I saw on the ground how critical is maintaining and restoring ecological and recreational connections between New York's Shawangunks and Catskill Mountains. As a resident of New York's Adirondack Park, I would urge future consideration of ecological and recreational connections further northward to and beyond the Adirondacks.

Thanks to the good works of Friends of Colony Farm, Open Space Institute, Nature Conservancy, Mohonk Preserve, Catskill Mountainkeeper, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and other conservation groups and agencies, Catskill Park continues to be a wildlife stronghold and recreational resource for millions of visitors; and the several parks and preserves in the Shawangunks likewise protect vital wildlife habitat and afford prime hiking and climbing opportunities for countless visitors. All of New York's protected public lands also provide families and schools with outstanding opportunities for natural history and environmental education, and enhance local economies through the draw of wildlife-watching.

As NPS and other conservation leaders know, however, protected areas in isolation will diminish over time, losing species and natural processes and affording only limited recreation opportunities. Reconnecting natural areas via wildlife corridors and greenways is a local, regional, national, and global conservation priority, becoming ever more urgent in the face of anthropogenic climatic disruptions.

The proposed Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway is one of the great opportunities in the Northeast for such reconnection and protection. Completing this greenway is an achievable near-term goal, enjoying strong public support. Needed remaining steps may include purchase of conservation easements or full fee on critical properties, installing safe wildlife crossings on major roads bisecting the area, and educating surrounding communities on the importance of habitat connections.

Wildlands Network intends to help with this project in several ways: 1) As mentioned, we trekked through this area in 2011 and wrote and spoke in support of the Greenway, including in my book on the trek *Big, Wild, and Connected*. We also listed the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway as one of 16 Essential Connections for a future continental wildlife corridor in the East, which many of us know as the Eastern Wildway or Atlantic/Appalachian Wildway.

2) In general, Wildlands Network is a resource for connectivity conservation efforts. Through the website wildlandsnetwork.org, books by co-founders and leaders of Wildlands Network (e.g. *Saving Nature's Legacy*, by Reed Noss; *Continental Conservation*, by Michael Soule and John Terborgh; *Rewilding North America*, by Dave Foreman; *The Carnivore Way*, by Cristina Eisenberg ...), and wildlands network designs (including one for Northern Appalachians drafted by Conrad Reining), Wildlands Network provides the big vision and the smaller blueprints on how to conserve and reconnect wild Nature on regional and continental scales.

3) Wildlands Network will convene next year a symposium intended to create a network of cooperating groups dedicated to protecting an Eastern, or Atlantic/Appalachian, Wildway. The Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway is exactly the sort of wildlife and recreation corridor needed all along the mountains and ridges and waterways of the East in order to preserve our natural heritage. Regional greenways and continental wildways will consist of carefully stewarded private lands (protected by conservation easement where possible) and strongly protected public lands, with bisecting roads being outfitted with safe wildlife crossings. Wildlands Network will help coordinate this vital work by supporting efforts like the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway. We hope the National Park Service will offer support and leadership in these crucial connectivity conservation efforts as well.

Thank you

John Davis, wildways advocate, Wildlands Network, www.wildlandsnetwork.org
321-222-8993; john@wildlandsnetwork.org;

RESOLUTION - TOWN BOARD TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF THE CATSKILL-SHAWANGUNK GREENWAY TRAIL. AMONG THE GOALS OF THE GREENWAY, BUT NOT LIMITED TO STATED GOALS ARE: PROTECT FARMLAND AND PROMOTE FARM PRODUCTS; CREATE EASEMENTS, ENCOURAGE TOURISM, FURTHER RAIL TRAILS AND BICYCLE ROUTE (INCLUDING PARKING AND PICNIC AREAS); COMPLETE D&H TRAIL BY APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

RESOLUTION # 35

On a motion by Councilman Houck, seconded by Councilman Bradley, the Town Board resolves the following:

WHEREAS, the Town of Wawarsing Environmental Conservation Commission has proposed the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wawarsing Environmental Conservation Commission has unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail and urging the Town Board of the Town of Wawarsing to join in said support and seek the cooperation of appropriate State officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, on a motion by Councilman Houck, seconded by Councilman Bradley, the Town Board of the Town of Wawarsing resolves as follows:

The Town of Wawarsing Town Board approves the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail. The goals of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail shall include, but not be limited to, protection of the New York State Department of Correctional Services Farmlands within the Town of Wawarsing by way of encumbering them with Agricultural Conservation Easements; encourage New York State Department of Correctional Services to create an agricultural tourism venue at the Colony Farm located on State Route 209 in the Town of Wawarsing open to the public; encourage the procurement of necessary easements and rights-of-way to link the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail from the Vernooey Kill State Forest through the D & H Rail Trail, acquire by acquisition or easement and develop connections between the D & H Rail Trail, Lippman Park, Vernooey Kill State Forest and Colony Farm, all within the Town of Wawarsing which would allow the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail to be available for use, enjoyment and recreation for members of the public by way of walking, hiking, and non-motorized means; encourage the construction and development of parking and picnic areas within the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail; foster such other construction and development within the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail that would maximize tourism in the Town of Wawarsing "where the Catskills meet the Shawangunks".

Be it further resolved that the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to appropriate governing officials within the New York State Department of Correctional Services, New

York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Governor of New York State and appropriate members in New York State Senate and New York State Assembly.

MOTION VOTE

Supervisor Carlsen	AYE
Councilman Houck	AYE
Councilman Gavaris	AYE
Councilman Bradley	AYE
Councilman Johnson	AYE

MOTION CARRIED

Certification

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss:
COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Town of Wawarsing, do hereby certify that the annexed extract of Minutes of the Town Board of said Town, duly called and held on August 16, 2012, has been compared by me with the Original Minutes, as officially recorded in the town Records of the Town, and the same is a true copy of the original and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town this 20th day of August 2012.



Roxanne Shamro, Town Clerk

(Seal)

JOHN J. BONACIC
STATE SENATOR
16th DISTRICT
ALBANY, NY
OFFICE: 518-462-2100
HOME: 518-462-2101
FAX: 518-462-2102
WWW.BONACIC.NY.GOV



COMMITTEES
ALCOHOLISM
BANKS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENT
FAMILY CONSTRUCTION
HUMAN SERVICES
NATURAL RESOURCES

August 28, 2012

Scott Carlsen
Supervisor
Town of Wawarsing
P.O. Box 671
Ellenville, NY 12428

Dear Scott:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Resolution adopted by the Town Board on August 16, 2012. Resolution #35 supports of the creation of the Catskill-Shawangunk Greenway and Trail. This Greenway certainly will contribute recreational opportunities for the public, as well as protect farmland.

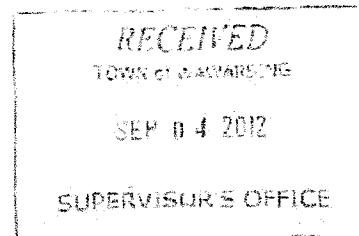
I appreciate you sharing with me the concerns of the Town. If there is anything I can do to assist you or the members of the Town Board in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Bonacic".

JOHN J. BONACIC
State Senator

JJB:jr



TRAILS: WAWARSING

Detailed Request

Trail Connections – “Colony Farm” (see map)

Access easement requested through Colony Farm” to connect to NYS DEC lands – NYS Rt. 209 access point

Trail head parking easement requested at “Colony Farm” area to be determined (near main farmstead complex)

Kayak launch point requested

Area to be determined working with both DOC’s and DEC – need appropriate parking facilities nearby – behind Unity Hall ball field and/or behind Sewage Treatment Facility?

TRAILS: WAWARISING

Colony Farms Property

