

Village Millbrook Board of Trustees

Resolution #2021-016

August 11, 2021

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees had been asked by the Millbrook Community Partnership to send a letter of support (attached) to Dutchess County Planning Board concerning the Dutchess County Land Conservancy's Bennett College application

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, at a duly convened meeting on August 11, 2021, the Board authorized Mayor Collopy to sign and send the letter of support on behalf of the Village of Millbrook to Dutchess County Planning Board


Dated: August 11, 2021

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Herzog

Seconded by: Trustee Contino

Mayor Collopy	Aye
Deputy Mayor Herzog	Aye
Trustee Contino	Aye
Trustee Arbogast	Aye
Trustee Anson	Aye

Certified by:



Sarah J. Witt
Village Clerk
8.11.2021



VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

35 MERRITT AVENUE PO BOX 349 MILLBROOK, NY 12545
TEL: 845-677-3939 FAX: 845-677-3972 VILLAGEOFMILLBROOKNY.COM

TIM COLLOPY
MAYOR

SARAH WITT
CLERK/TREASURER

NICOLE ZEKO
DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. Hans Klingzahn, Chairman
Dutchess County Planning Board
Dutchess County Dept. of Planning and Development
85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

August 11, 2021

Re: Dutchess Land Conservancy's Bennett College Application
PMG 2021 Round

Dear Mr. Klingzahn,

I am writing to express the Village of Millbrook's enthusiasm for and support of Dutchess Land Conservancy's application to Dutchess County's Partnership for Manageable Growth Program for financial assistance in purchasing a conservation easement to protect the former Bennett College property.

The 32-acre property is owned by Millbrook Community Partnership who is committed to protection of the property and its conversion to a public, passive recreation park for the residents of Dutchess County and beyond. This is a very exciting opportunity, as the property serves as the gateway to the Village of Millbrook and has important historical and cultural significance to the Village. The property is highly visible with road frontage on Route 343, Bennett Common and Franklin Avenue. The land also contains critical natural resources that contribute to protecting valuable habitat and public resources, by overlying a Zone I Aquifer Recharge Area, having frontage on a tributary and sub-tributaries to the Wappinger Creek, containing areas of 100-year floodplain.

Once slated for both condominium and single-family residential development, the land was acquired by Millbrook Community Partnership in order to ensure its future was consistent with the Village of Millbrook's long-term interests. The Bennett College property is located just one-mile from the Village of Millbrook and the Millbrook Tribute Garden, another beloved public park. Protecting this land and creating a public park will provide a pedestrian connection to amenities and open space along the Village's main street, Franklin Avenue, help to enhance Millbrook's sense of place, and significantly increase the attractiveness of the entrance to the Village, all while expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

Protection of the property and its transformation into a public park has long been supported by both the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington residents. Doing so helps meet priorities outlined in the Village of Millbrook Master Plan which identifies protecting and enhancing natural beauty and strengthening the downtown as a cultural center as community values. The Master Plan also identifies beautiful entrances to the Village, excellent integration of land uses, attractive green areas throughout the Village, availability of outdoor recreation facilities, and an undisputed sense of place as assets to the Village of Millbrook.



VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

35 MERRITT AVENUE PO BOX 349 MILLBROOK, NY 12545
TEL: 845-677-3939 FAX: 845-677-3972 VILLAGEOFMILLBROOKNY.COM

TIM COLLOPY
MAYOR

SARAH WITT
CLERK/TREASURER

NICOLE ZEKO
DEPUTY CLERK

The Bennett College property is an important element of the Village of Millbrook, and we would be pleased to see the property protected via conservation easement. In closing, on behalf of the Village of Millbrook, I again express the strong support for the Dutchess County's Partnership for Manageable Growth Program for financial assistance in purchasing a conservation easement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Collopy
Village Mayor