



1786 Kings Highway • Chester, NY 10918

June 25, 2026

Attn: Town Supervisor Brandon Holdridge

Deputy Town Supervisor Tom Becker

Town Councilman Robert Courtenay

Town Councilman Giuseppe Cassara

Town Councilman Stephen Diffley

Dear Town Board and Town Supervisor,

The Chester Conservation Advisory Council wishes to express strong support for the establishment of a Community Preservation Fund and its placement as a referendum on the November ballot. As our community continues to grow, it is essential that we take proactive steps to protect the natural, historical, and agricultural resources which define it. A preservation fund provides a structured and transparent way to safeguard open space, farmland, and environmentally sensitive areas.

The benefits of such a fund extend to every Chester resident. Preserving open space helps maintain our community's rural charm, protects water quality, reduces flooding risks, and ensures that future generations can enjoy the landscapes that make Chester unique. It also has the ability to strengthen property values, supports local farms, and enhances recreational opportunities, thus creating long-term community stability and enhancing everyone's quality of life.

Equally important is the fact that a Community Preservation Fund can be designed so that it will not place a new financial burden on local taxpayers. Its targeted revenue source, transfer fees on certain real estate transactions, generate meaningful preservation capital without increasing property taxes or imposing new costs on residents. This will allow Chester to protect its most valuable resources in a fiscally responsible way.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Town Board to move forward with placing the Community Preservation Fund for Chester on the November ballot.

Respectfully,

Chester Conservation Advisory Council

