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Steven M. Neuhaus
County Executive

Orange County Department of Planning

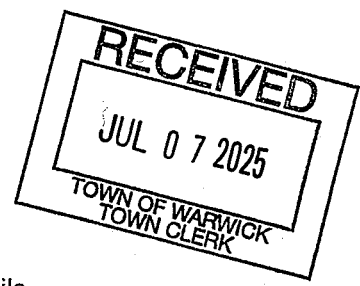
124 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924-2124
Tel: (845) 615-3840
Fax: (845) 291-2533

Alan J. Sorensen, FAICP
Commissioner

www.orangecountygov.com/planning
planning@orangecountygov.com

June 16, 2025

Eileen Astorino
Warwick Town Board
132 Kings Highway
Warwick, NY 10990



Re: Request for lead agency status of Wickham Woodlands Transformation Trails

Dear Eileen Astorino,

The Orange County Planning Department is in receipt of a lead agency coordination request for the Project listed above. We have no interest in becoming the Lead Agency on this project, but would like the opportunity to review any additional SEQR information related to this project. This information should include a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), a full site plan, landscaping plan, traffic analysis, lighting plan, etc. We are offering the below preliminary comments, based on the provided information:

Lighting

1. The Town should follow the recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) for outdoor lighting (<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting>).

Coordination

2. The applicant should coordinate with the Orange County Department of Public Works (OCDPW) regarding any potential impacts on County Route 13, as the Town has indicated that there will be substantial increase in traffic during weekends.

Biodiversity

3. The Full EAF indicates that this site is located within or near known occurrences of the Indiana Bat and the Northern Long-Eared Bat. Therefore, the Town should limit tree cutting to occur between November 1st and March 31st to minimize any potential negative impacts on these species.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your request. We look forward to reviewing any additional information related to the application when it is referred to us for our comments. The planner from our office that will be reviewing this project is Kate Schmidt; questions, comments, or additional information should be directed to her.

Sincerely,

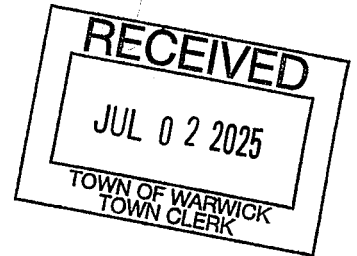
Alan J. Sorensen, FAICP
Commissioner

Warwick Town Clerk

From: Orange County Press Contact <PressContact@orangecountygov.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 12:41 PM
To: All County Employees
Subject: This Just In: Orange County Executive Neuhaus Announces Unanimous Legislative Support for County to Purchase Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center



Orange County Government
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Contact: Rebecca

Sheehan
July 2, 2025

Phone: (845) 291-2700

**Orange County Executive Neuhaus Announces Unanimous Legislative Support
for County to Purchase Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center**

Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus announced that the Orange County Legislature voted 21-0 on July 1st to approve the County’s purchase of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center, advancing Neuhaus’s proposal to preserve and enhance this long-standing cultural asset.

The vote follows the Town of Chester’s earlier approval of the plan and reflects strong bipartisan support for strengthening arts, education, and community life throughout the County.

“This is a win for our residents,” said Neuhaus. “I want to thank the Legislature for their support and the Town of Chester for partnering with us. The Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center is a cherished part of our community, and now we’re ensuring it remains a vibrant and accessible space for years to come.”

Added Town of Chester Supervisor Brandon Holdridge, “I’m happy to see the high interest from the County Executive and overwhelming support from the County Legislator in the purchasing of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center. I’m looking forward to their formal proposal and working with them in a productive way moving forward. This could be a great opportunity for Chester residents and Orange County as a whole.”

In terms of future uses for the Center, Neuhaus stated, “For decades I have seen and enjoyed what the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center had to offer to the public. What I think the County can do is bring it to a level that it’s never been at before. I want to see free movies for senior citizens, a successful film festival, more performances for all ages, and increased educational opportunities. We are going to do everything that we can to make sure that it keeps its iconic charm, while at the same time expanding its potential for the public to enjoy.”

Under County ownership, the Center will be revitalized and developed into a regional destination for live performances, educational programming, and community events. The venue will also provide new opportunities for collaboration with schools and local organizations.

“This investment is about more than preserving a building, it’s about enriching the lives of our residents,” Neuhaus added, “Just like our parks and museums, performing arts centers serve as vital community anchors. They stimulate our economy, foster creativity, build connections, and help define the identity of our County.”

Support for the County’s purchase of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center from the Town of Chester came from leaders in the County’s Business, Education, Tourism, and Trades industries.

Kristine Young, President of SUNY Orange, said, “I believe County ownership of the Arts Center would unlock new ways for the College and the County to work together in service to our shared community. I welcome future opportunities to explore how we might make thoughtful, mission-aligned use of the Center moving forward.”

Said Deborah Mc Bride Heppes, Chief Operating Officer of OUBOCES, “The SLPAC could serve as a vital resource for school districts across Orange County. In particular, OUBOCES sees immense potential in utilizing the facility for our Digital Film Academy, which currently lacks access to a professional venue for showcasing student work. The Center would provide students with real-world exposure and hands-on experience in a professional arts environment, something that cannot be replicated in a typical classroom.”

“The acquisition is a forward-thinking step in enhancing Orange County’s cultural appeal and strengthening the regional tourism industry,” said Stephanie Johnson, Vice President of LEGOLAND New York Resort. “I support leadership making this vision a reality.”

Heather Bell, President and CEO of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce stated, “Investing in the SLPAC is an opportunity to preserve and enhance one of the County’s most iconic venues, while expanding access to arts, education, and entertainment for residents and visitors alike.”

“This project represents a unique and impactful investment in both our local economy and cultural infrastructure,” said Todd Diorio, President of the Hudson Valley Building and Construction Trades Council. “By purchasing and revitalizing this historic venue, the County has the opportunity to create good-paying union construction jobs, promote long-term economic development, and reinvigorate community engagement through the arts.”

Located in the Hamlet of Sugar Loaf in the Town of Chester, the Performing Arts Center has hosted concerts, theater productions, film screenings, and public gatherings for years. The facility sits on 8.77 acres and includes a nearly 20,000-square-foot building with a 689-seat main stage, a 260-seat outdoor pavilion, and ample on-site parking.

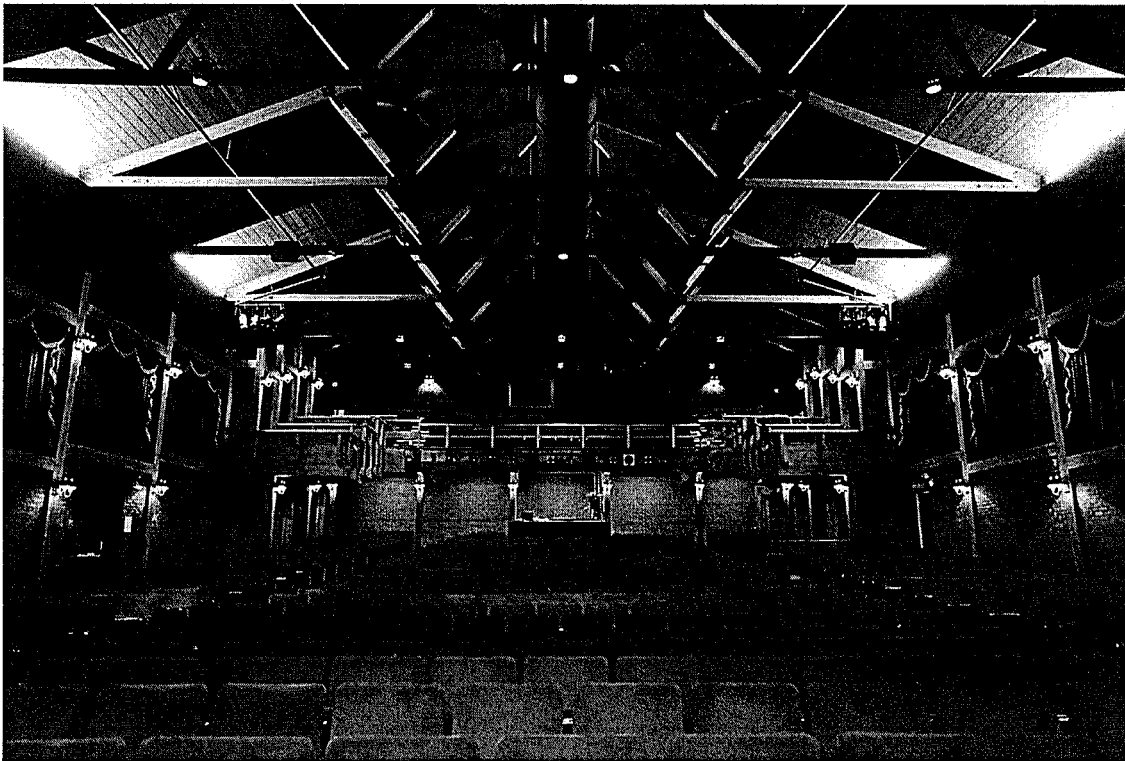
For general media inquiries, contact Rebecca Sheehan, Assistant to the County Executive and Director of Public Information and Media Relations, at 845-291-2700 or presscontact@orangecountygov.com.

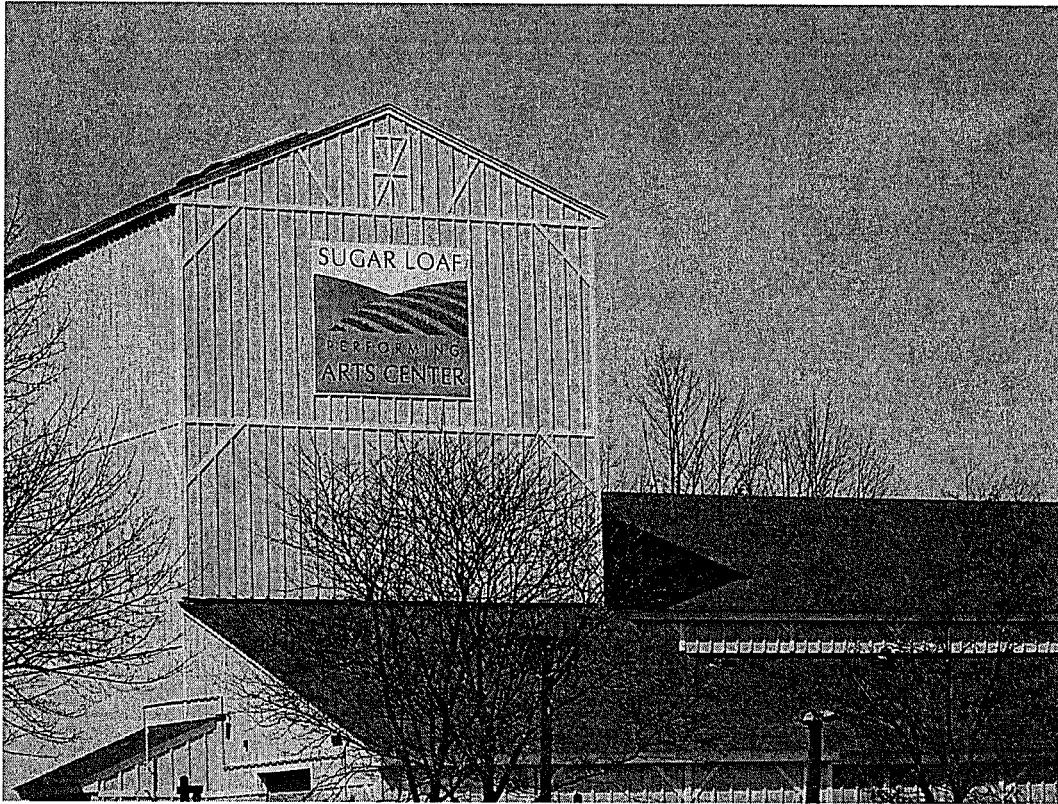
To stay informed about County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus’ work and initiatives across Orange County, follow Orange County Government and Steven M. Neuhaus on social media:

- Facebook: @OrangeCountyNYGovt | @Steve.Neuhaus
- Instagram: @OrangeCountyNYGovt | @Steve.Neuhaus
- X (formerly Twitter): @OCGovNY | @SNeuhausOC

You can also watch NeuCast podcasts and the Leadership Speaker Series on the Orange County Government YouTube channel.

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Rebecca Sheehan

Assistant to County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus

Director of Public Information & Media Relations

Orange County Government Center

255-275 Main Street, 3^d Floor

Goshen, New York 10924

Main: 845-291-2700

Direct: 845-291-3255



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Gran Fondo National Series 217 N Stratton Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325 | 765-347-BIKE

Thank You for Supporting the 13th Annual Highlands Gran Fondo

Dear Eileen and all at Town of Warwick,

On behalf of all of us at Gran Fondo National Series, as well as from the riders who took part in the event, we want to express our appreciation for your support and collaboration to hold the 13th annual Highlands Gran Fondo on June 1, 2025. We share our pride with you, and hold gratitude to you and your organization, for the event's ongoing success. It is truly rewarding to hear positive feedback from participants regarding the route and local services.

The fact that registration sold out for the fifth consecutive year is a testament to the hard work, planning, and dedication from your team, as well as the other community agencies who collaborate and support this event. We are thrilled to have played a part in making this event a success and ask that you please pass along our heartfelt gratitude to everyone from your team who contributed.

Our steadfast commitment to fostering community outreach through partnerships with local organizations is gratifying. While we were able to make donations to other various agencies as well, our primary beneficiary for this event has been and continues to be Troop #49. The Troop has been an integral part of this event since its inception in 2013. The extensive support for this year's event allowed us to donate \$3,000 to Boy Scouts of America Troop #49. Supporting youth and encouraging their participation in healthy recreational activities is a very meaningful cause for us, and we are proud to have created an event that gives back to the community.

We'd like to ask you to please mark your calendars and reserve the Sunday, June 7, 2026 date for the 14th annual Highlands Gran Fondo. We are confident the event will be another resounding success, and we are keen to work with you again to make it another greater experience for all involved. Please provide your feedback and any ideas for improvement to help ensure the event continues to thrive.

Thank you once again for your partnership and contribution to make the Highlands Gran Fondo, a nationally recognized cycling event. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your feedback and begin preparations for next year. We look forward to collaborating with you again to create yet another memorable edition of the Highlands Gran Fondo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reuben Kline".

Reuben Kline
Gran Fondo National Series
www.GranFondoNationalSeries.com

