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# Town of Fishkill Approves Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Site Plan for Dutchess Manor

*Historic structure will be restored to its original 19th-century footprint; reimagined site will serve as Fjord Trail Visitor Center and staff offices*

Beacon, NY – On October 8, 2026, the Town of Fishkill Planning Board approved HHFT's plan to transform Dutchess Manor on Route 9D in Beacon to the Visitor Center and organizational hub for its 7.5-mile mile multi-use trail between the City of Beacon and the Village of Cold Spring.

Dutchess Manor is one of the most distinctive Hudson Valley buildings in the Second Empire architectural style and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Originally built as a country estate, Dutchess Manor was constructed in 1867 for grain merchant James Wade and his wife, Louisa Van Amburgh Wade. Louisa's Dutch American family had owned the property for decades prior, using it as farmland. The couple commissioned architect George Harney, based in nearby Cold Spring and Newburgh, to design the house and two outbuildings. The house was designed with many common elements of the Second Empire style, including quoining on the corners and a mansard roof.

Francis Timoney, an Irish immigrant and local brickyard owner, purchased the house in 1886 and began occupying it with his family in 1889. By this time, Timoney owned three local brickyards, including one just north of his property in Dutchess Junction. This area became known as Timoneyville, as it was home to many of his laborers.

After ownership by the Schwarzler family in the early 1900s, the property was sold to George and Anna Angel in 1943, who leased it to their son, Michael Coris, in 1946. Named by Coris as Dutchess Manor, the building and grounds served as a popular venue for events, including weddings, bar mitzvahs, and proms, taking advantage of the building's historic architecture and its views of the river and nearby Hudson Highlands.

During more than six decades of ownership, the Coris family made additions to the west, north, and south of the original building to accommodate the building's popularity as an events venue.

In 2020, the building was purchased by Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc., the nonprofit organization that is designing, building and operating the 7.5-mile accessible Fjord Trail

connecting Cold Spring and Beacon, as it sits at the midpoint of the trail.

“The Planning Board’s site plan approval allows us the move forward to transform Dutchess Manor into the Fjord Trail Visitor Center and serve the community in a variety of new ways,” said HHFT President and CEO Peter Mullan. “In addition to restoring this 19th-century building and surrounding landscape, we are creating new accessible public spaces and indoor and outdoor spaces that will support programmatic partnerships with schools and local nonprofits.”

Recognizing the significance of Dutchess Manor as a valued community resource during its time an events venue, HHFT will begin collecting stories and memories from the public as well as from the Coris family for its interpretive programming.

“The Coris family transformed Dutchess Manor into a beloved gathering space that served the community for over six decades,” said HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala. “We are honored that they have entrusted the property to us to steward this remarkable treasure in its next chapter.”

The reimagined Dutchess Manor, which includes 67 parking spaces for Fjord Trail visitors, is slated to open in 2027.

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Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. is a subsidiary nonprofit of Scenic Hudson, Inc., an organization devoted to sustaining and enhancing the Hudson Valley’s inspirational beauty and ecological health for generations to come. HHFT’s mission is to create and steward a 7.5-mile linear park along the Hudson River that solves existing safety concerns around visitation, provides welcoming access to people of all ages and abilities, restores and protects natural resources, and enhances quality of life for local communities. The Fjord Trail will add organized parking, public restrooms, trash/recycling collection, and distribute users of the park along a 7.5-mile route with six main access points. For more information, visit hhft.org.