

Chenango Greenway to purchase Norwich stone quarry

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NORWICH — A local non-profit named Chenango Greenway is attempting to purchase the stone quarry in Norwich in order to ensure the land is open for public use for future generations.

According to Chenango Greenway Conservancy Sharon Pelosi, due to the amount of acreage attached to the quarry it will take a significant public funding campaign in order to make the purchase possible by her target date of August.

"Our fundraising goal is approximately \$300,000, which will cover our purchase price, and it will give us enough to do some improvements," said Pelosi. "Right now people have to park on the street, and it can be difficult to walk up for people depending on their health and ages."

"We want to try and make it easier to access and help improve the experience for people."

She said the stone quarry has a rich history, and while families who own the property have allowed individuals to visit the face, this move will ensure that the stone quarry is accessible to the public forever.

"The stone quarry property has long been a popular outdoor recreation destination for residents around Norwich as well as an important aesthetic resource that provides

a scenic backdrop to the City of Norwich and a spectacular view of the city from the quarry face," said Pelosi. "The Guinn and Quincy family have owned the property for many years and allowed it to be used for recreation on an informal basis."

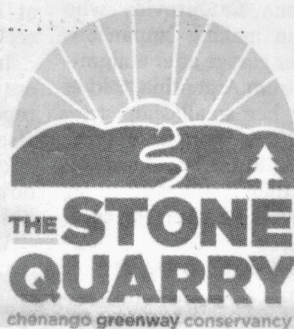
"Now, the Chenango Greenway Conservancy has an agreement in place to purchase the property to ensure that it remains open for public recreation for future generations."

Priscilla Nicotra, daughter of the late Anna Mae Quincy said, "The Guinn/Quincy families have always enjoyed the beauty of this land and we are hopeful that some day in the near future this property will be considered a public park for all to enjoy."

The Chenango Greenway Conservancy is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) public charity organized in 2006 to develop a network of multiple use recreation trails in and around the City of Norwich.

Pelosi said together with the City of Norwich, the Norwich City School District, and other partners, the Greenway has created nearly 8 miles of hiking and biking trails along the Chenango River. The Greenway is working on an expansion of its trail system to a new property north of the City as well as the stone quarry on West Hill.

"The conservation of the stone quarry property with improved public access will be a tremendous asset for our



This logo is poised to be posted throughout the stone quarry in Norwich, along with a number of other signs showing major contributors to the Chenango Greenway Conservancy's capital campaign. (Submitted graphic)

community," said Pelosi.

She said the group hopes the quarry face will become a frequent destination for residents and visitors alike to enjoy the incredible view. She added that interpretive features highlighting the former quarry operation are planned and will illustrate the important role this property played in the growth of Norwich.

"The Greenway Conservancy needs help from the community to raise sufficient funds to purchase and improve access to the stone quarry property," Pelosi said. "We're hoping to raise the funds by August, it's a short time frame and it's pretty aggressive, but I think we can do it."

To learn more about the stone quarry and join in the

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effort to purchase the property, visit the Greenway website, chenangogreenway.org or their Facebook page and follow the progress of this important community project.

Pelosi said the stone quarry is easily accessible from downtown Norwich and connects to several large forested properties on West Hill with nearly 20 miles of multiple use trails. She said visitors enjoy many long-standing hiking trails, unique stone features, and many miles of new bike trails created by mountain biking enthusiasts. She added that these trails now attract mountain bikers from nearby communities and with proper oversight will become a regional destination that will boost the local economy.

Audrey Robinson, Tourism Director for Chenango County, said, "It is with pleasure that Commerce Chenango Tourism supports the

Greenway Conservancy Quarry Project. The quarry property will form the centerpiece of a community forest and recreational area open to the public that will encourage hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other safe outdoor activities. As the Chenango County TPA, I firmly believe that under the leadership of the Greenway, creating a place that highlights outdoor recreation in NYS, and increasing the economic vitality of tourism in Chenango County, is foremost in their project plans."

According to Isaiah Sutton, Chenango County Director of Environmental Health and Code Enforcement, "the evidence supporting green-scape preservation and outdoor recreation development as public health interventions is irrefutable.

Increased open spaces and exercise opportunities have proven to directly improve a community's physical and behavioral health."

Chenango County Deputy Historian, John Antonowicz, said, "The stone quarry is more than a place - it's a symbol of hope for our community. It's where immigrants made a living in order to build homes and raise families in this region. A great deal of their craftsmanship served as a foundation for our town and surrounding areas for many generations."

Jessica Moquin, Chenango County Historical Society Executive Director, said, "The Chenango County Historical Society looks forward to this future collaboration with great anticipation. The stone quarry

operations of the Norwich Bluestone Company, followed by Clarke, Conroy & Company, have great cultural significance to our local heritage. The opportunity to share the stories of how this local landmark impacted our region is very exciting!"



Chenango Greenway Conservancy Board Members stand at the face of the stone quarry in Norwich which they hope to purchase for public use later in 2021. (Submitted photo)