

## Press Release

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**For immediate release.  
Photos available on request.**

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### **Easement on Scenic Road Protects More than 120 Acres, Special Habitats**

The Winnakee Land Trust has established a conservation easement on a 126-acre parcel on Norton Road in the Town of Red Hook, adjacent to the historic Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome. The easement, on both sides of this town-designated scenic corridor, protects both federal and state wetlands, Catskill Mountain views, prime agricultural soils, and habitats for rare species. For instance, the shagbark hickory trees on the property are potential habitat for the endangered Indiana bat, and the extensive wetlands could potentially support the endangered Blandings turtle.

This collaborative effort represents a proactive approach to conserving open space. This easement was put together by the Winnakee Land Trust, the Town of Red Hook, and 7 Pines, LLC. The easement allows for six homes to be built in selected, well-defined locations called building envelopes, each with protected views and privacy. Don Wise, principal of 7 Pines, LLC, is delighted that the easement will ensure that the property retains its feeling of isolation and natural beauty. “Those in the future should be able to inherit the nature and beauty we in Red Hook have known,” says Wise.

That sentiment is one felt at Winnakee Land Trust as well. “At a time when development pressure is ever increasing, the public can rest assured knowing that this sensitive ecosystem will be preserved forever,” says Mike Hagerty, Executive Director of the Winnakee Land Trust.