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## Lime Hollow project advances

Town takes first look at new education center planned for 2014



Photo provided by Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture

An artist's rendering of a proposed education center at Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture. The 2,600-square-foot building is being built by BOCES students and is expected to be completed by September 2014.

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CORTLANDVILLE — A Lime Hollow project that includes an education center being built by BOCES students is headed to the Cortland County Planning Board after a referral from the Cortlandville Planning Board Tuesday night.

The Cortlandville board unanimously voted to refer the Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture's site plan for the project to the county board.

Construction on the 2,600-square-foot center began off-site in September and is expected to be completed by September 2014.

The education center is being built in two modules by Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES construction trade students in a two-year project, said Glenn Reisweber, executive director for the center.

In the spring 2014, the modules will be completed and moved to a foundation near Gracie Pond at Lime Hollow, Reisweber said.

The education center's campus will include current buildings that will be repaired and turned into a maple sugar shack, an arts and crafts barn and a picnic pavilion, Reisweber said.

A 100-seat amphitheater near Gracie Pond is also planned.

In total, the project is expected to cost \$971,000; the center will cost about \$650,000.

Lime Hollow was awarded a \$383,253 grant from the state Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation and is holding a capital campaign to help fund the project.

About \$100,000 in donations from local foundations and \$100,000 in personal donations have gone to the project, Reisweber said.

For 50 weeks of the year, the educational center will host BOCES New Visions students and Lime Hollow campers.

"In essence, this is a high school classroom built by high school students," he said.

The education center will be located about a quarter-mile from Lime Hollow's visitor center on McLean Road.

"We will be open for business September 2014, even if we have a tarp over the top," Reisweber said.

The education center is being built as a net-zero green building, or a building that produces as much energy as it uses on a yearly basis.

The center will have solar panels, an energy efficient heating system and will face south to take advantage of natural heat and light, Reisweber said.

Of the two modules, the one that houses restrooms and service areas will be placed on the northern side of the building, which receives the least amount of light, said Brain Buttner, of Applied Designs Research Associates in Freeville, who is handling the project.

Another module housing labs and the director's office will face the south, Buttner said.

The two modules will be connected by a large central foyer built on site, that will have a cathedral ceiling and windows along the roof's peak to let in light.

The education center campus will be located on 4 acres donated by Bestway Lumber in September 2012.

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