

# Spring 2016 Campus Sustainability Grant Proposal: Osgood Tool & Garden Barn Restoration



Project Title: Osgood Tool & Garden Barn Restoration—*SUS 296 - Sustainable Communities Field Experience at Osgood Farm- Proposed format for Summer 16*

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Co-participants: Bethany Garretson

Amount requested: \$2700.00

## **Project Summary**

*The vision:* In the past, SUS 295 consisted of a series of field trips in the region, over a one week period. While this was great in terms of exposing students to different systems, it fell short in terms of hands-on experience. The revised SUS 296 course aims to create an experiential living experience where students are responsible for constructing their own green community at the Osgood Farm (Old Boy Scout Camp). As a signature experience, students will conduct phase one of the barn restoration. While the barn will not be residential, it will function as a garden/tool shed and dirty classroom space for the course. The installation of a small PV array will allow for lights and a charging and off-grid charging station for power tools.

*Note: While the proposed garden & tool cabin received initial approval, new information has been provided which suggests a more appropriate project would be the integration of the garden & tool shed in the existing Osgood Farm barn, which could be restored and repurposed to serve student projects/classes based out of the site.*

## **Project Justification and Relevance**

Paul Smith's students want to build things with their own hands. Student-led construction and reconstruction projects have a long history at the college; several dorms, the pole barn, numerous lean-tos and the Forestry Club Cabin were all student-built. There is great potential in developing the Osgood Farm site into a working homestead—where students can have labs, lectures and potentially work study positions and a home to reside.

## **Methods**

Concept: The 19<sup>th</sup> century barn is currently in need of major repair/restoration. This barn has both historic and utilitarian value. One corner of the barn would be converted to a 10'x10' tool room. The sagging floor, missing windows, and crumbling foundation would all be repaired. As in the original proposal, a small PV array will provide power to charge battery operated tools and a light.

### *Project Overview/Timeline*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>WBS</b>
February 2016	Apply for sustainability grant	Brett McLeod and Bethany Garretson
April 2016	Prep SUS 296 (See below for details)	Brett McLeod
May 2016	3 original yurts raised on Osgood Pond Site (Housing for students in SUS 296), Barn restoration and course work (See below for details)	Instructors and students

### *Detailed Work Plan*

- May 16, Floor demolition and inventory of joist/flooring needs
- May 17, Milling of rough-cut lumber.
- May 18-20, Work days (jack floor, scab trusses, jack floor, construct tool room in corner of barn.

### Project Budget

Budget Category	Item	Planned Expense	Company/Item Number
Wood	Lumber	(Milled at PSC/student/faculty labor)	PSC Sawmill; wood sourced from Timber Stand Improvement work
Foundation Repair	Sauna tubes, concrete, rebar, brackets, PT	\$700.00	Curtis Lumber; Trudeau sand and gravel
Windows and Doors	repurposed if possible	\$200.00	Recycle North
Power	200 watt solar array	\$300.00	Solar USA
Floor repair	Hardware	\$200.00	Curtis Lumber
Roofing	Galvanized roofing	\$600.00	Curtis Lumber/Recycle North
Hardware	Timberlock screws, hurricane ties and metal braces	\$500.00	Curtis Lumber
Incidentals		\$200.00	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,700.00</b>

### Supporting Documentation

1. Yurts and Dirt blog site:

<http://sites.paulsmiths.edu/osgood/>

2. Sterling College American Farmstead School (Take a look at what other colleges are doing. We can do this too!)

<http://m.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/sterling-college-launches-new-american-farmstead-school/Content?oid=3138051>

3. SWOT of Osgood Pond Semester: Appendix A

4. SWOT of Paul Smith's College: Appendix B

Appendix A and B show current trends and opinions within our student body. From these two

documents, I feel there is a strong support from the student body to do more farming on site.

## **Appendix A: SWOT analysis of the Osgood Pond Semester Fall 2015**

Analysis conducted by students and instructors (Sample size: 9)

\*Key points: Opportunities seen in Farming/Homesteading and Gardens/Livestock and full immersion living on site

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Strong community and college support</b></li><li>● Experiential learning opportunities</li><li>● <b>Dedicated and engaged students</b></li><li>● <b>Dedicated and knowledgeable instructors</b></li><li>● Individual strengths and wide range of skills in community</li><li>● Beautiful site: quite, peaceful, outdoor space</li><li>● <b>Location: Adirondacks</b></li><li>● Trips and programming</li><li>● Fun</li><li>● Example for others</li></ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Different schedules amongst students and instructors</b></li><li>● <b>Full Class loads</b></li><li>● <b>Paying for Saratoga rooms and Sodexo food plan</b></li><li>● <b>No wood stoves</b></li><li>● Pilot program and developing community</li><li>● Low storage capacity on site</li></ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Farming/Homesteading</b></li><li>● <b>Gardens/Livestock</b></li><li>● Produce food for community and PSC</li><li>● Journalism/Photography</li><li>● Blog work with students</li><li>● <b>Primitive skills and cultural experiences</b></li><li>● Year round programming</li><li>● Strong summer programs</li><li>● Relationship with VIC</li><li>● Future jobs/homes</li><li>● Increase enrollment and retention at PSC</li><li>● <b>Full immersion in sustainable living and lifestyle</b></li><li>● Documentary</li><li>● Positive publicity for PSC</li></ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Lack of funds</b></li><li>● Building codes/permits</li><li>● Accidents/negative behavior</li><li>● Use of drugs and alcohol on site</li><li>● <b>Lack of interest in the future</b></li><li>● Winter</li><li>● Mice/critters</li></ul>

## Appendix B: SWOT Analysis of Paul Smith's College Fall 2015

Analysis conducted by students (Sample size: 51)

\*Key Points: Strengths Experiential learning, hands on classes, Opportunities seen at the VIC in farming and homesteading, has potential to develop into a strong “niche” program of PSC

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Adirondack Location</li><li>● Beautiful campus/Aesthetically pleasing</li><li>● <b>Community and small size</b></li><li>● Reputation/4 year college in Adirondacks</li><li>● <b>Faculty</b></li><li>● <b>Experiential learning</b></li><li>● <b>Hands on classes</b></li><li>● Environmental awareness</li><li>● Private college</li><li>● <b>The VIC</b></li><li>● Professors that research and study the ADK Park</li></ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Lack of diversity</b></li><li>● <b>Lack of money</b></li><li>● Isolated location</li><li>● Lack of a college town</li><li>● Expensive tuition</li><li>● <b>Lack of summer programs</b></li><li>● No ambulance</li><li>● <b>Food on Campus</b></li><li>● <b>Sodexo</b></li><li>● <b>Lack of variety of majors</b></li><li>● Communication between college and students</li><li>● Tobacco free campus</li><li>● Harsh seasonal weather</li><li>● Technology</li></ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Joan Weill donation</li><li>● <b>VIC</b></li><li>● Volunteerism</li><li>● Club and Team activities</li><li>● Niche Programs</li><li>● Homesteading/Fungi Festival</li><li>● Field Experience</li><li>● <b>Ecological restoration</b></li><li>● Jobs</li><li>● Scientific research</li><li>● Rails to Trails/Tourism</li><li>● Maple Syrup Business</li><li>● Student run businesses</li><li>● Gould's Garden</li><li>● <b>NOLS</b></li></ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Decreased student enrollment</b></li><li>● SUNY System and lower tuition rates</li><li>● Poor quality of living (dorms)</li><li>● <b>Diversity and Racism</b></li><li>● Loss of faculty</li><li>● Inactive student body</li><li>● Adirondack economy</li><li>● Staff turnover rates</li><li>● Lack of publicity</li><li>● Board of Trustees</li></ul>