Mount Pleasant campus projects to begin in Sept.

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MOUNT PLEASANT — The Planning Board on Monday approved Pace University’s $100 million construction plan for its Pleasantville campus, clearing the way for work to begin in September.

The private university’s first projects include two new residence halls, expansion of the student center, relocation and expansion of the environmental center, and new athletic fields at the 200-acre Pleasantville campus.

“The capital improvements in Pleasantville, together with new academic programs and related enhancements, represent a significant investment in and commitment to the future of the Pleasantville campus,” Pace’s President Stephen J. Friedman said in a statement announcing the Planning Board’s approval.

The five- to eight-year plan calls for a consolidation of Pace’s Pleasantville and Briarcliff Manor campuses, which are 2.5 miles apart.

Currently 590 students live on the 35-acre Briarcliff campus, which is for sale.

A 115-acre section of the Pleasantville campus that wraps around the north, east and southeast parts of the property will remain undisturbed by the construction. The unified campus is expected to eliminate an estimated 3,000 annual bus trips that are required to shuttle students between campuses.

Pace is Westchester County’s 13th-largest employer, and it contributes about $64 million annually to the county’s economy in direct and indirect spending, according to the university.

An artist’s rendering of the campus quad at Pace University in Mount Pleasant, which will undergo improvements under a $100 million construction plan at the campus. COURTESY OF PACE UNIVERSITY