

RESOLUTION 2018 -21

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN UPDATE TO THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN OF THE MASTER PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Planning Board held a public hearing on July 10, 2018 for the purpose of adopting an update to the Washington Township Master Plan Open Space and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, notice of the public hearing was published in the official newspaper of the Township on June 14, 2018 and June 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan dated June 13, 2018 was submitted to the Township Planning Board by the Open Space Advisory Committee and was prepared by the Land Conservancy of New Jersey and signed by Barbara Haskin Davis, P.P., AICP; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Planning Board members were in receipt of and reviewed the Washington Township Open Space and Recreation Plan update dated June 13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, at the July 10, 2018 hearing on the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, the following individuals testified as follows:

1. Vicki Binetti, of the Open Space Advisory Committee, testified about the work of the Committee to prepare the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update which took one year's worth of work preparing the Plan.
2. Ms. Binetti stated the Plan was prepared by the Land Conservancy of New Jersey and dated June 13, 2018. The objective of the Plan was to update the Township on how to use open space and park land by using the base line from the 2001 and 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plans. The Committee was asked to evaluate what the Township has now in 2018 and what are the Township's present needs. This updated Plan accomplishes that goal and will help the Township with future applications for Green Acre loans and other types of available programs or opportunities for the Township. It will also garner additional points as part of the Township's New Jersey Sustainability efforts and the objective tonight is for the Planning Board to adopt this updated Open Space and Recreation Plan as an element of the Township's Master Plan.
3. Ms. Binetti stated Barbara Haskin Davis, P.P., AICP., Vice President of Programs at Land Conservancy of New Jersey, and her staff, spent a considerable amount of time working on the Plan. Their objective was to update the Township's existing Open Space and Recreation Plan to assist

the Township to qualify for Green Acre funding since the State requires the Township to update once every ten (10) years.

4. Barbara Haskin Davis, P.P., AICP, testified her organization reviewed the goals from the 2001 and 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plans as well as reviewed the 2004 and 2010 Master Plan of the Township. Ms. Davis stated that Washington Township has over 1300 acres of municipally preserved lands. The Township is a unique municipality with a mix of residential and commercial uses, natural resources along with well head protection areas. She stated there are approximately 140 approved plans in the State of New Jersey with 95 plans specifically addressing open space and recreation. This 2018 update plan is to address existing open space in the Township.
5. Ms. Davis stated Green Acres requires the Township to review its plan for future funding and grant opportunities.
6. Ms. Davis stated the Plan includes four (4) maps. Map 1 is Open Space, Map 2 is Preserved and Public Land, Map 3 is Resource Map and Map 4 is a Greenway Map.
7. Ms. Davis stated the Planning Board needs to take action to adopt this Plan for the Township and once adopted, to forward same to the State of New Jersey and also to New Jersey Sustainability Program; and

WHEREAS, the meeting was open to the public and the following individuals commented on the application:

1. Rocco Pinto, 45 Hartford Road, testified by asking about all the open space in the Township and whether anything is going to change. Specifically, if there will be any changes going to occur as a result of this Plan.
2. Ms. Davis responded the 2018 Update Plan includes a series of recommendations regarding recreation or acquisitions but no official action. Any action would be up to the governing body on how they choose to implement in the future. However, this update is not a recreational plan but rather an open space plan; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Planning Board finds that the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update does the following:

1. Assesses existing open space to prioritize and implement land stewardship initiatives.
2. Produces a targeted, site-specific action program, identifying projects to protect the natural and recreational features in the Township.
3. Reviews and updates the program goals and provides field-based assessments of existing preserved open space.
4. Recommends land for preservation and stewardship. The properties are identified on parcel-based maps. Included within the report is an open

space map which identifies public and private lands in the municipality, showing all permanently preserved lands in the community and a greenway map, which is a conceptual map identifying the proposed corridors for connecting preserved lands based on recreational, cultural and natural resources in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Planning Board finds that this Plan Update will help guide future planning by providing a comprehensive framework for decision-making and implementation. Also, the actual implementation of the recommendations included in the Plan Update will preserve the environmental health, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic character of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Board of the Township of Washington, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey that the Planning Board does hereby approve and adopt the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, dated June 13, 2018, a component of the Township's Master Plan, as prepared by the Land Conservancy of New Jersey as signed by Barbara Haskin Davis, PP, AICP.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
PLANNING BOARD


ALBERT FRATTALI, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Christine Ciallella, Secretary

ROLL CALL VOTE

J. Gattinelli, Mayor	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
A. Frattali, Chair	YES <u>1</u>	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
T. McPoyle, V. Chair	YES <u>1</u>	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
E. D'Orazio, II	YES <u>1</u>	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
J. Perry, III	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
M. D'Ariano, IV	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
E. Metz, Jr., IV	YES <u>1</u>	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
T. Sparacio, IV	YES <u>1</u>	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
J. Bidinger, IV	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
B. Dennis (Alt #1)	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
R. Centrone (Alt #2)	YES <u>1</u>	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN

I certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Washington Township Planning Board at a regular meeting held on August 7, 2018, memorializing the action taken by the Board on July 10, 2018.


Christine Ciallella, Secretary

Date:

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