

RESOLUTION 2019-2

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF APPLICATION 2018-008 UNDER THE HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N.J.A.C. 7:70-1 et seq.

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council or Council); and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act at N.J.S.A. 13:20-2 declares that the New Jersey Highlands is an essential source of drinking water, providing clean and plentiful drinking water for one-half of the State's population and contains exceptional natural resources such as clean air, contiguous forest lands, wetlands, pristine watersheds, and habitat for fauna and flora for the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act at N.J.S.A. 13:20-2 further declares that “the new regional planning approach and the more stringent environmental regulatory standards should be accompanied, as a matter of wise public policy and fairness to property owners, by a strong and significant commitment by the State to fund the acquisition of exceptional natural resource value lands . . .”; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) which became effective on September 8, 2008 and which through RMP Goal 1H calls for the protection of critical resources through land preservation and stewardship of open space throughout the Highlands Regions; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2016, the Highlands Council adopted a rule (N.J.A.C. 7:70-1) establishing the Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program (Open Space Program) which provides for a matching grant partnership with eligible state and local governments and charitable conservancies for the acquisition of land for passive recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Program provides for an open space matching grant program that would incentivize applicants to seek out contributions from entities interested in land conservation by having the Council match such contributions for land acquisitions on a priority basis identified in the Open Space Program; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2019, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:70 Subchapter 3, the Council's Landowner Equity and Land Preservation (LELP) Committee reviewed eligible grant applications and recommended that the sum of \$400,000.00 be allocated to the Open Space Program to provide matching funds for grant applications for certain properties; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council wishes to affirm the recommendation of the LELP Committee to allocate \$400,000.00 to the Open Space Program to provide matching funds for grant applications for certain properties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to

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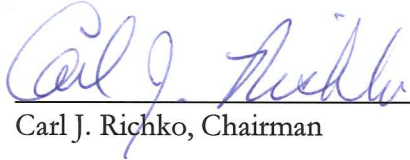
expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highlands Council hereby authorizes the Executive Director to provide matching funds to applicants for matching grants under the Open Space Program to acquire the following properties, subject to those applications satisfying the eligibility requirements pursuant to Open Space Program:

County	Municipality	Block	Lot
Somerset	Bedminster Township	37	4

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 17th day of January, 2019.



 Carl J. Richko, Chairman



**Vote on the Approval of
This Resolution**

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Carluccio	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Dougherty	_____	✓	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Dressler	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Francis	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Holtaway	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓	_____
Councilmember James	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Sebetich	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Visioli	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Vohden	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Walton	✓	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Chairman Richko	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____