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, 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:

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Block</th>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>Bedminster Township</td>
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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

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<th>Second</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<td>Chairman Richko</td>
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