

**Resolution No. 09-273****A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE TOWNSHIP OF ROXBURY'S  
INTENT TO CONFORM TO THE HIGHLANDS ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 *et seq.*, finds and declares that protection of the New Jersey Highlands is an issue of State level importance because of its vital link to the future of the State's drinking water supplies an other key natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 14.a. of the Highlands Act specifies that, within 9 to 15 months after the adoption of the Regional Master Plan, each municipality located wholly or partially in the Preservation Area shall submit to the Highlands Council such revisions of the municipal master plan and development regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Preservation Area, as may be necessary in order to conform them with the goals, requirements, and provisions of the Regional Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council adopted the Regional Master Plan on September 8, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, portions of the Township of Roxbury lie within the Highlands Preservation Area as defined by the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, over the passing of time and the Township's reluctance to submit a Notice of Intent to petition the Highlands Council for plan conformance, it has become abundantly clear that the influence of the Highlands Council upon other State agencies through the Highlands Rules and the enforcement of the Highlands Regional Master Plan will negativcly impact permitting and approvals that are vital to the Township; and

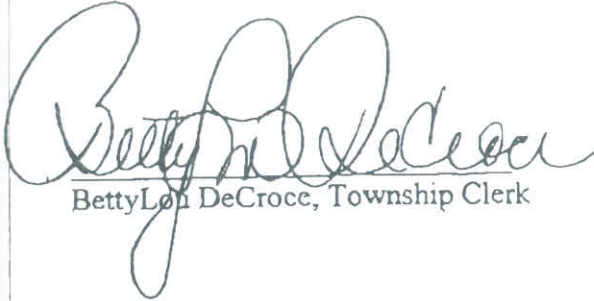
**WHEREAS**, the NJDEP has indicated an intent to withdraw all wastewater service area designations in any municipality that lies wholly or partially in the Preservation Area and refuses to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council, while not supporting the confiscatory aspects of the Highlands Act, recognizes that non-compliance with the Regional Master Plan within that portion of the Township in the Preservation Area will create potential hardships in the State permitting approval process.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the Township hereby resolves, with the assistance of the Highlands Council staff, to make every effort

to conform to the Highlands Act for all lands lying within the Preservation Area on or before the statutory deadline of December 8, 2009.

ADOPTED: September 22, 2009



Betty Lou DeCroce, Township Clerk