

RESOLUTION 08-0122-027

RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE PLAN ENDORSEMENT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION 07-1015-159

WHEREAS, Resolution 07-1015-159 created a Municipal Advisory Committee to perform similar activities as stated in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 07-1015-159 was adopted prior to the revised recommended language created by the Office of Smart Growth; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Somerville desire to obtain Plan Endorsement from the State Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous benefits, including a streamlined application process, in submitting a joint application for Plan Endorsement for the Regional Center together with the Boroughs of Somerville and Raritan and Bridgewater Township, and in designating the Regional Center Partnership to lead the endorsement process; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2006 the Borough of Somerville designated the Regional Center Partnership to lead the endorsement process for the joint application for Plan Endorsement and authorized the Regional Center Partnership to request a pre-petition meeting with the NJ Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership and representatives of the municipalities had a pre-petition meeting with the Office of Smart Growth on July 12, 2007 as the first step towards achieving Plan Endorsement; and

WHEREAS, Plan Endorsement is a voluntary review process developed by the State Planning Commission to provide the technical assistance and coordination of the State for municipalities, counties, and regional agencies to better achieve the goals of the State Planning Act and State Development and Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act recognizes that coordination of State action is necessary to help municipalities develop New Jersey's economy while protecting the natural, historic and recreational resources, providing adequate and diverse housing, and redeveloping our cities and older suburban areas; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan Endorsement process is to improve the degree of consistency among municipal, county, regional and state agency plans with each other and with the State Plan and to facilitate the implementation of

these plans with the primary focus on where and how development and redevelopment can be accommodated in accordance with the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines establish a comprehensive and coordinated planning process in order for a municipality to consider, and update as necessary, master plans, functional plans, development regulations and capital plans to be consistent with the State Plan and achieve plan endorsement; and

WHEREAS, through plan endorsement, master plans, functional plans, development regulations and capital plans should be coordinated and supportive of each other; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines incorporate, and expand upon, the principles of the Municipal Land Use Law in order to help towns plan for a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-27, the Mayor may appoint one or more persons as a citizens' advisory committee to assist or collaborate with the planning board in its duties, including adoption of, and amendment to, the master plan to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects the public health and safety and promotes the general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Endorsement Guidelines and State Planning Rules require the appointment of a Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee to guide the municipality through the Plan Endorsement process; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee shall consist of between 5 and 10 members, including one representative of the governing body, a Class IV member of the planning board; one representative of a local board, commission or committee who is not a member of the planning board; and two representatives of the public that do not hold a position, employment or office with the municipality; and

WHEREAS, to enhance communication and facilitate the joint endorsement application process, three (3) appointees of each municipal Advisory Committee shall include current members of the Regional Center Partnership who shall convey the comments, issues and recommendations important to the Borough of Somerville to the Regional Center Partnership throughout the endorsement process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Somerville hereby approves and adopts the following:

The mayor of the Borough of Somerville is authorized to establish a Plan Endorsement Citizens' Advisory Committee consisting of between 5 and 10 members as follows:

1. Brian Gallagher, Mayor
2. Phil Decker, Class IV Member of the Planning Board
3. Wayne Harmer, Representative of Board of Education
4. Kris Williams
5. Hugh McAleavy
6. Bernard Navatto
7. Sean Decker
8. Name (Optional Member)
9. Name (Optional Member)
10. Name (Optional Member)

The members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor; and

The Citizens' Advisory Committee shall report findings and conclusions of its actions performed pursuant to the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines, and make recommendations to the Planning Board on next steps, but shall have no power to vote or take other action required of the Planning Board; and

The Citizens' Advisory Committee shall also report to the Governing Body and Planning Board at least monthly on the status of plan endorsement; and

The Citizens' Advisory Committee is established for the purpose of:

Guiding the plan endorsement process for the municipality;

Increasing public awareness of, and participation in, the plan endorsement process for the community;

Serving as the liaison with the state, county, regional agencies and local officials throughout the plan endorsement process;

Facilitating communication among the three Regional Center Citizens' Advisory Committees and the Regional Center Partnership as each municipality and the Regional Center progresses through the endorsement process;

Assisting the municipality in meeting the deadlines of plan endorsement;

Take the lead on completing the municipal self-assessment and submitting the required planning documents to the Office of Smart Growth;

Helping to facilitate community visioning as described in the Plan Endorsement Guidelines and community visioning standards;

Reporting the findings and conclusions of the self-assessment and community visioning to the local planning board for its review; and

Negotiating a draft Action Plan with the Office of Smart Growth, in collaboration with the planning board and governing body, to consist of actions that should be taken to adopt and/or update plans, ordinances and regulations in order to meet the plan endorsement requirements;

Facilitating completion of the Action Plan items in order to achieve endorsement by the State Planning Commission and enjoy the benefits available to the municipality as a result of the endorsed plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Borough of Somerville shall transmit a copy of this resolution and the notice as required in the State Planning Rules to the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth for transmission to the State Planning Commission ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Borough of Somerville shall also transmit a copy of this resolution and said notice to the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County and the Somerset County Planning Board.

Adopted by Borough Council on January 22, 2008



Mayor



Borough Clerk

I, Kevin Sluka, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Somerville County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council on January 22, 2008.



Kevin Sluka, Clerk / Administrator