

RESOLUTION 22-

RESOLUTION MAKING SEQRA NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AND ADOPTING THE TOWN OF LANSING PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2017, and as is set forth in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, the Town Board approved and authorized Resolution 17-99 for the Creation and Initial Funding of a Capital Reserve Fund For Parklands and Trailways Planning and Development, Related Land and Use Rights Acquisitions, and Related General Equipment, Materials and Construction Funding; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2020, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing passed Motion M20-15 Authorizing Issuance of Parks, Recreation, Trails Master Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) Subject to Changes in Consultant Selection Timeline and Proposal Submission Deadline at the Discretion of the Parks and Recreation Supervisor and Director of Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Request for Proposal was advertised in the New York State Contract Reporter on June 1, 2020 and seventeen (17) proposals and cost proposals, respectively, were received by the July 10, 2020 deadline;

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation / Trails Advisory Committee, authorized by Resolution 19-160 on December 18, 2019 advises the Lansing Town Board, Parks and Recreation Department, and Planning Department on all matters pertaining to or affecting the coordination, oversight, acquisition, development, funding and programming of the parks, recreation, and trail system throughout the Town and Village of Lansing and was directed to assist in selection of professional services and assist with completion of the Town of Lansing Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, on the Parks and Recreation / Trails Advisory Committee reviewed proposals on July 16, 2020 using a Weighted Decision Matrix based on the criteria articulated in the Request for Proposal and selected three (3) firms to interview; conducted interviews with three (3) selected firms on August 10 and 11, 2020; and passed a unanimous Motion on August 25, 2020 making a Final Evaluation and recommending the professional services of MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. (consultant team) to the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board subsequently Authorized an Agreement for professional services with consultant team via Resolution 20-125, on September 16, 2020 and funded preparation of this Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan as part of the Town's 2020-2021 budget; and

WHEREAS, the public was involved throughout the planning process through stakeholder interviews, focus groups, community survey, website (lansingparksandtrailsplan.com), and public engagement events, including two virtual public workshops (February 25, 2021 and June 22, 2021, respectively), as detailed in the Plan Appendices; and

WHEREAS, the consultant team gathered information through data collection, site assessments, community input, staff observations and local and national trends and used this information to prepare the draft Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was presented to the Conservation Advisory Council on March 3, 2022, and Planning Board on March 14, 2020, respectively, and was then circulated for further public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation / Trails Advisory Committee reviewed Planning Board comments and subsequently reviewed a revised draft at its April 6, 2022 meeting and recommended to the Town Board the revised draft Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, relative to classification of this Action, the Town Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan in its entirety could be characterized as the adoption of a “comprehensive resource management plan” as the term is used in the regulations governing environmental reviews (6 NYCRR 617.4 (b)(1)) to describe an action that should be classified as a Type I action, which term State Environmental Quality Act (“SEQRA”) guidance documents indicate could include a parks and recreation master plan; and

WHEREAS, among the projects, concept plans, or physical activities identified and recommended in the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan are some, such as operation and maintenance activities, that the regulations governing environmental reviews (6 NYCRR 617.5) would, were those activities being considered alone, classify as Type II actions not subject to review under SEQRA as well as others that would not qualify for such a classification and that would, therefore, require review under SEQRA prior to being undertaken, funded or approved; and

WHEREAS, the information available regarding many of the projects, concept plans, or physical activities, including construction, identified and recommended in the revised draft Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan is presently incomplete and uncertain regarding: 1) whether they will, in fact, be undertaken, funded or approved; 2) should they be undertaken, funded or approved, the expected timing, schedule and duration, including the potential for delays of multiple years or even decades; 3) their final scale, design and precise location should they ultimately be undertaken, funded or approved; and 4) the context and environmental setting that will prevail at the time should they be undertaken, funded or approved including the extent and characteristics of the surrounding natural environment and resources, the nature, intensity, style and appearance of surrounding developments and neighborhoods, and the state of other sensitive resources including transportation and traffic; and

WHEREAS, assessing and evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects or physical activities, including construction, that are identified and recommended in the revised draft Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan regarding which only incomplete and uncertain information is presently available would be more definitive, accurate, and reliable were it to be deferred until such time as the available information becomes more complete and certain; and

WHEREAS, the regulations governing SEQRA (6 NYCRR 617.5) describe criteria utilized to distinguish activities not subject to review due to a determination that they would not have a significant impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Director of Planning has prepared and submitted for the Town Board's consideration and review Parts 1, 2, and 3 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form ('Full EAF') describing the Action; and

WHEREAS, the revised draft Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan was submitted for review by the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability pursuant to §239-l-m of the New York State General Municipal Law, which requires that all actions within 500 feet of a county or state facility, including county and state highways, be reviewed by the County Planning Department;

The Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board, as a single agency involved in proposing to undertake, fund or approve the Action, is also the lead agency responsible for conducting an environmental review of the Action under SEQRA; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Action of the adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan is hereby classified by the Town Board as a Type I action under SEQRA; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the set of activities considered in this review does not include, and should not later be interpreted to have included, the undertaking, funding, or approval of specific projects or physical activities, including construction, that are identified and recommended in the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan and that are also identified in the attached Full EAF Part 3 as being among those that the regulations governing environmental reviews (6 NYCRR 617.5) would not classify as Type II actions; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall file on the Town Board's behalf and as required under SEQRA, a Negative Declaration relative to this Action consistent with the foregoing including the submitted Full Environmental Assessment Form.

RESOLVED, by the Town Board that the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan recommended to the Town Board by the Parks and Recreation / Trails Advisory Committee is hereby adopted; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Parks & Recreation Supervisor, the Parks and Recreation / Trails Advisory Committee, Director of Planning, and Town Clerk.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____, duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Andra Benson –
Councilperson Bronwyn Losey –
Supervisor Edward LaVigne –

Councilperson Ruth Groff –
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on May 18, 2022.