

**MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING BOARD  
FOR THE BOROUGH OF MADISON**

**RE: CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN  
FOR GREEN ACRES AND THE ADOPTION OF THE PLAN AS  
THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE BOROUGH OF MADISON**

**HEARING: FEBRUARY 18, 2020  
MEMORIALIZED: MARCH 3, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Board for the Borough of Madison which took place on February 18, 2020, the Board considered a report entitled "2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, Borough of Madison, February 18, 2020", submitted by the Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee of the Borough of Madison; and

**WHEREAS**, this report was reviewed and considered before a quorum of the Board, and an opportunity was afforded to members of the public and/or interested persons or parties to ask questions and/or to be heard regarding this report and the Board's consideration of same at this public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, after consideration of this report and the further statements and comments offered to the Board in this hearing, the Board following its discussion now finds and concludes as follows:

**FINDINGS**

1. Ms. Melissa Honohan, the Chair of the Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee for the Borough, provided to the Board the updated 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, Borough of Madison, dated February 18, 2020. Ms. Honohan described the process involved in preparing the plan. She stated the presentation of the plan would be made by a representative of the Land Conservancy of New Jersey who was involved in the preparation of the plan and who had also previously worked for the Borough for a number of years in a professional advisory capacity for Open Space, Conservation studies, and grant submissions.

2. A PowerPoint presentation regarding the plan was then made to the Board by Ms. Barbara Haskin-Davis of the Land Conservancy of New Jersey. Ms. Haskin-Davis



explained to the Board the prior work she had undertaken on behalf of the Borough commencing on or about 2004 for Open Space studies and plans, Recreation plans, Conservation studies, and related work which had resulted over the years in updates and amendments to the Borough's Master Plan as to the Open Space and Recreation Element therein. She further explained how these studies Master Plan amendments, studies and related information had been previously utilized by the Borough to obtain grants from the County and New Jersey DEP. Ms. Haskin-Davis pointed out that these grants had been used for the acquisition of certain lands in the Borough which have now been permanently established for various recreation uses, conservation areas, and preservation of structures and historic sites which have continued up until the present time.

3. Ms. Haskin-Davis introduced and provided comments with a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed updated plan which included plan goals and mappings with a further explanation as to how open space funding had been previously accomplished by the Borough. She reviewed in the plan update a summary and explanation of preserved land in Madison Borough which had been the result of open space funding, listed the preserved land now in the Borough, gave a summary of the properties purchased and approved with Borough funds over the years, together with a further explanation of historic and recreational sites including trails in the Borough. Ms. Haskin-Davis then gave a summary of the recommended changes that had been developed from the initial updated plan draft that were now incorporated into the current submission. She also explained the recommendations section in the current plan which were then discussed with and further commented upon by the Planning Board.

4. Ms. Haskin-Davis also responded to specific questions from the Planning Board as to safety concerns with the interaction between bikers and walkers for existing streets and bicycle lanes in the Borough. In response to a question from the Board she also discussed what additional measures could be undertaken by the Borough for the preservation of the aquifer referred to as a conservation element in the current plan. Ms. Haskin-Davis stated for the Board that the aquifer would be a matter committed to the jurisdiction of the Environmental Commission of the Borough and should not be considered an open space requirement to be addressed in the current plan.



5. The Planning Board then heard comments from Ms. Kathleen Caccavale of the Sustainable Advisory Committee for the Borough. She requested a more specific reference to the "MRC", the need for discussion of parking issues and added a request for the location and designation of conservation easements and priority areas not included in the mapping and current plan update. These comments and concerns were duly noted for revisions in the plan.

6. Ms. Claire Whitcomb of the Madison Environmental Commission then offered a statement of concern as to artificial turf at the Madison Recreation Complex. In addition, she also pointed out that water filling stations should be provided at the public fields and parks in order to lessen the use of and disposal of plastic water bottles. She also indicated her belief that public parks and recreation space should attempt to minimize the disturbance of native plants and shrubs which would also cause the need for less lawn maintenance and thereby improve the environmental condition of these properties. The Mayor responded to Ms. Whitcomb by indicating these concerns and matters were already under study and were anticipated to be the subject of further measures to be enacted by the Borough.

7. Ms. Janet Foster as Co-Chair of the Madison Historic Preservation Commission then commented upon and discussed the Borough's ability to acquire further property as had been undertaken in 2004 with the Luke Miller property. It was acknowledged by the Board that such efforts for other properties would be continued on behalf of the Borough in the future.

8. The Planning Board then discussed the prior efforts of the subcommittee of the Planning Board involved in the open space and recreation plan update, together with the revisions made in the study and report now submitted to the Planning Board entitled "2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, Borough of Madison, February 18, 2020". The Board also discussed the comments and suggestions made during this hearing to be incorporated into the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate to further amend the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update in accordance with these comments and the discussion regarding same. Based upon the further revisions to the plan to incorporate these comments and suggestions, the Board determined that it would now be appropriate to take action on the updated plan submitted.



9. There were no further comments or discussion submitted by the public to the Board regarding this hearing.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Board finds and concludes after consideration of the proposed plan update as presented to the Board and further explained in the presentation of Ms. Haskin-Davis, with the statements and comments offered to the Board during this hearing, that the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan Update with the further amendments to same as discussed in this hearing is well designed and presented and would be clearly beneficial to the Borough of Madison and its residents as to the matters listed therein. The Board concludes that the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update would be appropriate to be incorporated into the Master Plan for the Borough of Madison. The Board further commends all of the persons and parties involved in the updated plan which has been presented to the Board in this hearing.

2. Based upon the considerable effort involved in the preparation of this plan update which has been comprehensive and continues to advance the goals and objectives of the Borough in these matters, the Board now believes it would be appropriate for the Board to take action at this time regarding same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update dated February 18, 2020 is hereby approved with the further incorporation of the recommendations stated, considered, and discussed before the Board in this hearing, which following such amendments to same shall then be approved to become the Open Space and Recreation element of the Borough's Master Plan.

The undersigned Secretary of the Borough of Madison Planning Board hereby certifies that the within Resolution and Memorialization was adopted by the Planning Board for the Borough of Madison pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-10(g) at its meeting of March 3, 2020.

## VOTE ON RESOLUTION

On Motion of: Mayor Conley

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis

The vote on the Resolution was as follows:

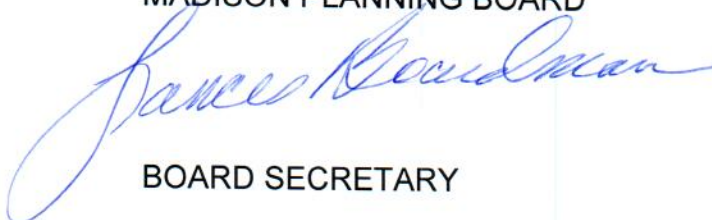
AYES: Mayor Conley, Ms. Huber, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Limbach

NAYS:

ABSENT: John Forte and Alfredo Garibay

Adopted and Approved  
March 3, 2020

MADISON PLANNING BOARD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James R. Conley", is written over the printed name of the Board Secretary.

BOARD SECRETARY

March 3, 2020

Prepared by: Vincent K. Loughlin, Esq.