

**WASHINGTON TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
February 15, 2024**

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held a special meeting on February 15, 2024, at the Washington Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Dr., Millbrook, NY. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Ciferri at 5:30 PM with the following present: Councilmen Michael Murphy and Joseph Rochfort, Councilwoman Leslie Heaney and Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs. Taryn Ramey appeared via Zoom.

Supervisor Ciferri opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Heaney presents the Natural Resource Inventory Map Adoption. Ms. Heaney, while reading the resolution, will walk through the steps that were taken around community engagement. Ms. Heaney states that we followed the lead of the Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell Cooperative. They have done this with the other municipalities and have set the standard for best practices. It was very helpful for us to have them as our guide. They did a tremendous amount of work.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 5 OF 2024

ADOPTING THE NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY FOR THE TOWN OF
WASHINGTON

The following resolution was offered by Leslie Heaney and seconded by Joseph Rochfort:

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington adopted an update to its Comprehensive Plan in 2023 that recommended the development of a Natural Resources Inventory (“NRI”) to assist the Town, its agencies and boards, and the public in identifying and considering important natural resources when making local planning and zoning decisions; and

WHEREAS, an NRI is a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the various natural resources within a particular geographic area. The primary purpose of conducting an NRI is to gather accurate, up-to-date information concerning the quantity, quality, distribution, and condition of the natural resources within that area to assist in making informed land use decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington, together with the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Clinton, received grant funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (“DEC”) Hudson Estuary Program (“Estuary Program”) to receive technical assistance in developing an NRI; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington appointed an NRI Task Force Committee (the “Task Force”) to work with the Task Forces for the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Clinton to develop NRI’s for each community. The Task Force, with guidance from Estuary Program staff and Cornell University staff in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (“CCEDC”), dedicated over one year to the development of the NRI; and

WHEREAS, the GIS-based maps and associated text of the NRI incorporate information from the Town’s 2015 Comprehensive Plan; Millbrook’s 1985 Master Plan, the 2004 Significant Habitats study by Hudsonia, the 2010 Dutchess County Natural Resources Inventory, the 2000 Natural Resource Management Plan for the Wappinger Creek, the 2022 Natural Resource Characterization and Recommendations Report for the Wappinger Creek Watershed, the 2011 Village of Millbrook Sewer and Water Comprehensive Plan, and the 1992 Water Supply Protection Program for Dutchess County, among other plans and studies, together with public input obtained during numerous public engagement opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force presented the draft NRI to members of the public and the Town Board on September 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has completed its development of the NRI consistent with the standards established by the DEC Estuary Program. The incorporation of natural resource information into the decision-making process identified herein will assist the Town of Washington in protecting the integrity and value of the Town’s natural resources, including the Town of Washington’s soils, water resources, habitats and wildlife, and other significant environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the NRI is a Type II action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(33) for which no further action under SEQRA is required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Washington hereby approves and adopts the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook Natural Resources Inventory dated 2/09/2024, created by the Task Force Committee, as an inventory of data collection identifying important natural resources within the Town of Washington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the intent of the Town Board that this valuable and comprehensive inventory of the Town’s natural resources be one resource to be used by the Town boards, agencies, and the public to assist in the development, management, and protection of these invaluable resources and is used as a reference tool in making future land use decisions. Among other things, it is intended that the NRI be used by the Planning Board to identify and understand resources during subdivision, site plan, and special use permit review processes, as well as during any SEQRA review. The NRI, as it is updated from time to time, should be kept on file together with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, including on the Town’s website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution takes effect immediately.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri: Aye
Councilman Audia: Absent
Councilman Murphy: Aye
Councilman Rochfort: Aye
Councilwoman Heaney: Aye

Councilwoman Heaney requests a motion, seconded by Councilman Rochfort to Adopt The Natural Resource Inventory for the Town of Washington.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye
Councilmember Audia Absent
Councilmember Heaney Aye
Councilmember Murphy Aye
Councilman Rochfort Aye

Councilman Murphy makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Rochfort to close the Special Meeting.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye
Councilmember Audia Absent
Councilmember Heaney Aye
Councilmember Murphy Aye
Councilman Rochfort Aye

The Town Board meets in Executive Session regarding Personnel matters