



RESOLUTION 19-389

**Resolution Supporting the Creation of Public Parking for 394
Ridgeview Road Open Space Acquisition**

WHEREAS, a consortium of 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organizations has entered into an Option Agreement to purchase certain property located at 394 Ridgeview Road and known as Block 2001, Lot 22 in Princeton, New Jersey (“the Property”) for the protection of headwaters of the Mountain Brook, a pristine stream that flows into Mountain Lake in the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, a municipal park; and

WHEREAS, the consortium consists of the Watershed Institute, having its office in Pennington, New Jersey, hereafter referred to as the Watershed; the Friends of Princeton Open Space, Inc., having its office in Princeton, New Jersey, hereafter referred to as FOPOS; and the Ridgeview Conservancy, having its mailing address at 376 Ridgeview Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, hereafter referred to as the Conservancy (the abovementioned parties hereafter being referred to collectively as “the Partners”); and

WHEREAS, in August 2019 Princeton entered into an agreement with the Partners whereby it agreed to contribute \$50,000 from its open space fund toward the purchase of the Property (see Resolution 19-265 adopted August 26, 2019), which \$50,000 will now be paid for from a grant awarded by the Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres (hereafter referred to as Green Acres); and

WHEREAS, the Watershed and FOPOS will also be utilizing funding from the Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres (hereafter referred to as Green Acres) for their contributions of \$150,000 and \$50,000, respectively, with the balance of funding coming from Mercer County and private funds raised by the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, in order to finalize the commitment of Green Acres funds, it is necessary to demonstrate that there will be satisfactory parking to permit the requisite public access to the Property; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that closing on the Property will occur in the spring of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Property consists almost entirely of wetlands and wetlands transition areas such that creating parking on the Property itself would contravene the conservation goal of avoiding disturbance of the headwaters of Mountain Brook and would likely cause substantial environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgeview Road right-of-way immediately adjacent to the Property appears to be sufficiently wide to accommodate two to three parking places parallel to the paved cartway of Ridgeview Road; and


WHEREAS, grading and filling outside the wetlands and wetlands transition areas will be needed in order to create a level area in which to construct said spaces, the extent and cost of which are unknown at this time;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Municipality of Princeton in Mercer County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Council supports the creation of public parking within the municipal right-of-way adjacent to the Property, in order to assure public access and Green Acres funding for acquisition of the Property.
2. The Municipal Engineer and other appropriate staff and officials are authorized and directed to work with the Partners to determine the scope and design details of the desired parking improvements and to prepare an estimate of the costs of said improvements.
3. Once the scope and details of the desired improvements have been determined and the costs of said improvements identified, the Council shall further consider whether to appropriate the necessary funds and authorize the construction of the spaces.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately and a copy shall be provided to the Partners upon its adoption.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 st	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X			X			
Ms. Crumiller		X	X		X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Niedergang		X			X			
Mr. Quinn		X		X	X			
Mr. Williamson		X			X			
Mayor Lempert		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held December 16, 2019.


 Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Memo to Council for 394 Ridgeview Road (DOCX)