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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 17, 2013

## **Roxbury Township Receives Approval for Highlands Plan Conformance Petition**

*City of Passaic to Receive \$40,000 Transfer of Development Rights Receiving  
Zone Feasibility Grant*

CHESTER, N.J. — In its ongoing effort to continue implementation of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, the Highlands Council last night approved its 45th municipal Petition for Plan Conformance, adding the Preservation Area lands of Roxbury Township in Morris County to the total conforming acreage in the Highlands. Once a Plan Conformance Petition is approved by the Council, municipal officials can begin adopting new and/or revised ordinances that incorporate Highlands Act goals, policies, objectives into local planning and zoning documents.

“The Highland Council remains committed to moving the plan conformance process forward,” explains Gene Feyl, Highlands Council Executive Director. “We are pleased that we were able to successfully express the benefits of Plan Conformance to Roxbury, so that they can, in-turn, begin the important work of implementing the Highlands Act at the local level.”

Roxbury Township has 4,303 acres in the Preservation Area of the Highlands, and 9,738 acres in the Planning Area of the Highlands where conformance with the Regional Master Plan is optional, per the requirements of the Highlands Act. The Township’s petition addresses only its Preservation Area lands.

In other business, the Council also voted to approve a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Receiving Zone Feasibility Grant of \$40,000 to the City of Passaic in Passaic County. TDR Feasibility Grants are awarded to assist municipalities in determining the potential benefits and impact of establishing a receiving zone in their community. The grant scope of work will be developed in collaboration with the Highlands Council and will involve elements such as

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infrastructure and capacity evaluations, identification and evaluation of potential sites, and a fiscal analysis.

“The Council is pleased to see an increasing interest in our TDR program, which is an essential tool for addressing landowner equity in the Highlands,” said Jim Rilee, Highlands Council Chairman. “We look forward to working with Passaic and other municipalities that want to learn more about this program.”

Actions taken by the Council today will take effect following the Governor’s review and consideration of the meeting minutes, up to 10 business days from receipt of the minutes.

Materials related to this meeting including resolutions, presentations, audio and minutes will be posted at: <http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/about/calend/> (click on May 16 meeting).

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