



State of New Jersey

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Randolph Township Continues Commitment to Comprehensive Planning with Highlands Plan Conformance

CHESTER, N.J. — At its most recent meeting, the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council voted to approve a Petition for Plan Conformance for the Township of Randolph in Morris County. The Petition included the municipality's Planning and Preservation Area lands and proposed four Highlands Centers – areas of the municipality that will be designated for special planning efforts designed to maximize existing planning initiatives and centralize development.

“Randolph’s Petition represents the town’s desire to encourage development and redevelopment where it makes the most sense, while continuing to prioritize open space and recreation, which are an integral part of the community’s character,” said Jim Rilee, Highlands Council Chairman.

Randolph Township has 12,961 acres in the Planning Area and 581 acres in the Preservation Area. Approval of the Randolph Petition brings the total number of approved municipal Petitions to 44, and the total number of Highlands Centers to 14. The Highlands Center Designations will focus on two sections of the Route 10 Corridor; the area known as Mount Freedom; and a neighborhood centered on South Salem Street. Prior to the municipality’s work toward conformance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP), Randolph had already completed two significant planning initiatives that have been and will continue to be valuable to the Plan Conformance process: the *Rt. 10 Corridor Study* and the *Mt. Freedom Village Center Report*.

“For Randolph, conformance with the RMP and collaboration with Highlands Council is simply a continuation of the good planning they have done to-date,” explains Gene Feyl, Executive Director of the Highlands Council. “The town is a great model of suburban living and we really look forward to continuing our work with them.”

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Also at the January meeting, the Council received a report from the most recent Highlands Development Credit (HDC) Bank Board meeting at which the Board voted to approve the purchase of HDCs allocated to a property in Hunterdon County. This purchase will bring the total number of acres permanently preserved through the Highlands Transfer of Development Rights program to more than 500 acres once all pending purchases are closed.

In other business, the Council also voted to hire Corey J. Piasecki to fill an open Regional Planner position, and Feyl announced the promotion of Carl Figueiredo to the position of GIS Supervisor.

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 January 17 meeting).

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