**R: 2021-60**

***RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EXTENDING THE WARREN HERITAGE SCENIC BYWAY TO UNION SQUARE IN PHILLIPSBURG AND TO WATERLOO VILLAGE IN BYRAM TOWNSHIP IN SUSSEX COUNTY***

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with the New Jersey Scenic Byways Program, Route 57 from MP 2.07 in Greenwich Township to MP 20.54 in Hackettstown was designated as a State Scenic Byway in 2009 based on the intrinsic beauty of the byway and the important cultural, historic, recreational and natural resource values of the scenic byway; and

**WHEREAS,** the mission of the New Jersey Scenic Byways Program is to recognize and preserve New Jersey’s unique historic, cultural and natural heritage; improve roadway safety and appearance; create and nurture partnerships among citizens and all levels of government; provide opportunities for commerce through heritage, cultural and nature-based tourism; enhance quality of life and instill pride in local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the scenic byway can further benefit the community by fostering economic development consistent with the regions rural character, providing access to local parks, waterbodies and unique natural vistas; and

**WHEREAS,** the six municipalities that are located within the designated Warren Heritage Scenic Byway filed resolutions of support for the scenic byway designation and include the Township of Franklin, the Township of Greenwich, the Town of Hackettstown, the Township of Mansfield, the Township of Washington, and the Borough of Washington; and

**WHEREAS,** these six municipalities worked together with Warren County as the Route 57 Scenic Byway Committee and assisted in designating the byway in 2009 and completing a corridor management plan (CMP) in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, public meeting opportunities were provided to obtain public input from the general public throughout the application and CMP process; and

**WHEREAS,** the byway name was revised from the Route 57 Scenic Byway to the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway (WHSB); and

**WHEREAS**, a formal organization referred to as the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee (WHSB) consisting of members of the six municipalities, Warren County government agencies and committees, business improvement districts, and other interested non-profit organizations now meet quarterly to monitor implementation of the Corridor Management Plan and to assist the stakeholders, individually and collectively, in dealing with matters concerning the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway and its communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee realizes that this important resource would benefit the public by being extended to the Delaware River in the west and to Waterloo Village in the east; and

**WHEREAS**, the route of the Scenic Byway, is recommended to be amended and lengthened through the acceptance of all municipalities and counties along this extended WHSB Route; and

**WHEREAS,** the southern extension of the byway would begin at its western terminus at MP 2.07 at the Greenwich/Lopatcong Twp. border, and travels south on NJ 57 to County Route 519 south. Continuing on CR 519 south through Lopatcong, Greenwich, and Pohatcong Townships, the route proceeds to the intersection with NJ 122 (South Main Street) and turns right. Staying on South Main Street, (NJ 122, CR 678) the byway ends at Union Square in Phillipsburg.

**WHEREAS,** the northern extension of the byway would begin at the eastern terminus at the intersection of NJ 57 and State Route 182 (Mountain Avenue), and continues north on Route 182, turns left onto Route 46 (Mill Street) for 1 block before turning onto County Route 604 (Willow Grove Street) Staying on CR 604 through Hackettstown and Allamuchy Township the byway route proceeds through Allamuchy Mountain State Park and then ends at Waterloo Village in Byram Township, Sussex County; and

**WHEREAS**, extension of the byway route involves a coordinated effort and support among the additional municipalities and counties through which it passes; and

**WHEREAS,** an application to extend the designated byway must be prepared and submitted to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, administration of the extended byway, once formally designated, further requires continuing commitment in the form of participation of the Town of Phillipsburg as an active member of the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Phillipsburg supports the concept of extending the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway and commits to participating in the process necessary for its implementation including assisting in the development of the Application for Scenic Byway Designation and if approved by the NJDOT, the Addendum to the Corridor Management Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Phillipsburg will work with the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee in the development of the Application for Scenic Byway Designation to the NJDOT and in the ongoing planning efforts that support the designation, recognition, and retention of the Byway. **CERTIFICATION**

I, Victoria L. Kleiner, Municipal Clerk for the Town of Phillipsburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Town Council at their February 16, 2021 meeting

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 Victoria L. Kleiner Municipal Clerk