

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NEW PALTZ BOARD

IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL TREE PLANTINGS OUTSIDE THE RIGHT OF WAY

WHEREAS, trees planted in the right-of-way are likely to conflict with utility lines, resulting in increased costs to counties, towns and villages, power outages, and disfigurement of the street trees; and

WHEREAS, soil volume within the right-of-way is often inadequate to support healthy street trees, resulting in vulnerability to insects and diseases and limiting growth to less than full mature size; and

WHEREAS, trees subject to disfigurement to accommodate utility lines and trees with inadequate soil volume to support healthy growth are less able to withstand the stresses of climate variability, particularly intense storms, resulting in hazardous conditions on roads; and

WHEREAS, trees planted within the right of way interfere with road maintenance operations; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways actively discourages the planting of trees within the right of way; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities in the State now prohibit planting of trees within the right of way; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service estimates that for a planting cost of \$250-600, which includes 3-years of maintenance, trees return over \$90,000 of direct benefits over the lifetime of the tree; and

WHEREAS, street trees provide increased safety for motorized traffic and pedestrians, reduce urban traffic speeds, lengthen pavement life, lessen road rage, and create safer and more pleasant walking environments; and

WHEREAS, street trees impart 12% higher income for businesses located on tree-scaped streets and add value to adjacent homes businesses and, in turn, the tax base; and

WHEREAS, street trees reduce storm water runoff and flooding potential; and

WHEREAS, street trees provide rain, sun, heat, and skin protection, reduce harms from tailpipe emissions, and lower pollutants; and

WHEREAS, street help shape and preserve community character, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz calls upon the New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, as well as the State Legislature, to authorize municipal street tree planting outside of the right of way.