Resolution No. ___: of 2016

Date: July 28, 2016

Motion:

Second:

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz wishes to engage in local planning initiatives to support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for adaptation steps to increase the town's resilience to changing precipitation patterns, temperatures and other trends related to climate change;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz has previously adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and is therefore recognized by the state as a Climate Smart Community, and the Village of New Paltz is also a Climate Smart Community based on their adoption of this pledge;

WHEREAS, to support these climate change and mitigation goals, the Town of New Paltz is submitting a Consolidated Funding Application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for grant funding to complete steps needed for the Town and the Village to become Certified in the state's Climate Smart Communities Program;

WHEREAS, this Climate Smart Communities Certification project will enable the Town, working with the Village and other project partners, to identify and plan future implementation priorities and projects to support climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, and these planning steps as well as becoming Certified in this state program will increase the Town's ability and readiness to obtain future grant funding for implementation of projects that can potentially reduce costs to the town and its residents and provide other benefits for resilience, economic revitalization, sustainability, health, and quality of life;

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of New Paltz has adopted a resolution to participate in this project, including a commitment of labor by Village personnel and other resources for this project valued at \$12,000, which will be part of the required matching commitments for this grant proposal, and the work to be completed with this grant will enable both the Town and the Village to submit all required documentation to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to become Certified in the state's Climate Smart Communities program;

WHEREAS, the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition has committed 1,000 hours of volunteer labor for research, data compilation and analysis, public outreach, contributing to the drafting of the final project report, and other tasks for completing this project, and this commitment is valued at \$23,560 according to the standards used by New York State for valuing donations of volunteer labor at \$23.56/hour;

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to provide staff resources to work on the Climate Smart Communities Certification project as part of the matching requirements for this grant proposal, and to working with consultants Simon Gruber and Climate Action Associates to implement this project if grant funding for this proposal is awarded by the state;

WHEREAS, participating in the state's Climate Smart Communities Certification program requires appointment of a Climate Smart Community Coordinator by the Town and creation of an internal "green team" committee focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz Town Board supports an application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for grant funding to prepare studies and documentation for the Town and the Village to become Certified in the state's Climate Smart Communities Program;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz hereby appoints Kathy Preston, the Assistant to the Supervisor, as the town's Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, and creates a green team as a working committee of town officials, staff and volunteers for implementing this Certification project, with members to be designated by the Town Board at a later date:

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Supervisor, or his designee(s), are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such application, and if awarded to develop, execute and deliver any and all contract documents, with NYSDEC, or any other governmental agency, including, but not limited to, the master contract for the aforementioned grant program, as well as to implement and administer the grant award, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney.