

RESOLUTION NO. of 2022

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND TO DESIGNATE THE SHAWANGUNK RIDGE CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held via videoconference in New Paltz, New York, in said Town on the 3rd day of February, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bettez, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____
Council Member Esi Lewis	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board has recommended that the Shawangunk Ridge be designated as a Critical Environmental Area due to the exceptional and unique environmental characteristics; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.14G, the Town Board may designate a “specific geographic area having exception or unique environmental characteristics” as a Critical Environmental Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area is set forth on a map entitled, “Town of New Paltz- Shawangunk Ridge, Proposed Critical Environmental Area Boundary” (the “CEA Map”); and

WHEREAS, to be designated as a Critical Environmental Area, an area must have an exceptional or unique character covering one or more of the following: 1) a benefit or threat to human health; 2) a natural setting (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space and areas of important aesthetic or scenic quality); 3) agricultural, social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or educational values; or 4) an inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change; and

WHEREAS, a narrative statement dated May, 2021 has been prepared on behalf of the Town which provides justification for the Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area, including providing important habitat for several NY species of special concern, contributing to habitat connectivity and including a chestnut oak forest which is ecologically fragile, among other attributes (the “Narrative Statement”); and

WHEREAS, the Town Planning Board has reviewed and commented on the proposal; and,

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held on May 20, 2021, during which all those who wished to speak were heard and their testimony recorded; and

WHEREAS, notice of the public hearing was published in the Daily Freeman on May 8, 2021, more than 10 days in advance of the meeting, describing the proposed Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area; and

WHEREAS, a map of the proposed Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area was available for public review at Town Hall and posted on the Town website; and

WHEREAS, a Full Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) dated October 29, 2021 has been prepared on behalf of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has thoroughly analyzed the information concerning relevant areas of environmental concern raised by members of the public and gathered by the Board through its consultants and considered the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR § 617.7.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby:

1. Authorizes the Supervisor to sign the EAF
2. Classifies the designation of the Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area as a Type I action for which there are no other involved agencies.
3. Adopts a negative declaration, determining that the designation of the Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area will not result in any significant adverse impacts and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.
4. Designates the Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.14(g), as set forth in the CEA attached hereto and including the list of attached parcels.
5. Directs the Town Clerk to file copies of this Resolution, the Narrative Statement, the CEA Map and the list of tax parcels in her office, with the Commissioner of the DEC, with DEC Region 3 and the Planning Board.

<u>VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Esi Lewis	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.