

RESOLUTION #2017 –

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE SLOPE FAILURE AT GRACE LORD PARK

WHEREAS, the Town of Boonton (“Town”) contains a unique historic park system which includes Grace Lord Park (“Park”); and

WHEREAS, the Park, amongst other amenities, contains trails that border along the Rockaway River however there is also the presence of erodible soils which contributes to the changing stream dynamics along the Rockaway River; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several intense storms, approximately 650 linear feet of the western bank of the Rockaway River, 1500 feet west of the intersection of Route 202 and Interstate 287, is located in the Park which has begun to erode and cause a slope failure; and

WHEREAS, this slope failure also borders the residential community of Rockaway Street and is adjacent to four residential homes; and

WHEREAS, the Town has endeavored to seek necessary approval from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) to achieve the stabilization of the severe erosion that exists on the banks of the Rockaway River located in the Park; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has approved a plan set forth by the Town to stabilize this erosion by using a natural tiered wall system to lessen the severity of the slope along the embankment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed stabilization measures allow the Town to establish these banks and maintain and protect the safety of the residential neighborhood and restore the integrity of the riverbank at the Park; and

WHEREAS, such stabilization program will also assure the bordering residential community that this erosion will cease from interfering with their property, their homes and their continuing social and financial contribution to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen have studied various mechanisms to address the potential cost of the stabilization program which could total as much as \$2.2 million; and

WHEREAS, the Town has made applications and appeals to FEMA; applications to the Morris County Open Space Flood Mitigation Program; consulted with and reviewed various State programs, such as the Environmental Infrastructure Trust; and Federal programs such as the Department of Agriculture for grant and funding opportunities, all without any official commitment for funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town nonetheless realizes the necessity to address the stabilization program for the overall benefit of the residents of the community, particularly those residing on Rockaway Street and to protect and preserve its park system for the overall benefit of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby commit to taking the necessary steps to fund the re-stabilization of the Grace Lord Park slope failure, recognizing that it is a critical and necessary measure for the benefit, health, safety and welfare of the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town hereby will take necessary steps from a funding perspective to support the re-stabilization program.

This Resolution will take effect immediately upon its passage

Adopted on this day of , 2017

and certified as a true copy of an original.

Cynthia Oravits, Town Clerk