

AGENDA  
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP MEETING

7 December 2023  
7:00 PM

Municipal Building  
349 Mountain Lake Road  
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Sunshine Notice  
Flag Salute  
Roll Call

Reports:

New Jersey State Police  
Governing Body/Mayor  
Great Meadows Regional Board of Education  
Municipal Committees

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Public and Executive Session Minutes of 2 November 2023

Unfinished Business

NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water Bureau Level 2 Assessment  
Liberty Lake Dam  
Employee Applications, LandUse Secretary and Recreation Assistant  
Recreation Assistant Job Description  
Ethics Complaint  
2024 Liberty Township Impound Facility  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.009, Prohibiting Illicit Connections  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.010, Proper Disposal of Pet Solid Waste  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.011, Refuse Containers/Dumpsters  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.012, Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.013, Prohibiting Wildlife Feeding on Public Property  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.014, Refuse Containers/Dumpsters  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.015, Privately Owned Salt Storage  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.016, Prohibiting Improper Disposal of Waste  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.017, Establishing a Yard Waste Collection and Disposal Program  
Public Hearing, Ordinance #2023.018, Establish Requirements to Control Littering

New Business

Chapter 88. Streets, Sidewalks and Building Numbers (Road Opening, §88-21. Permit  
2024 Agreement with Warren County Pollution Control Financing Authority  
2024 Agreement with Boswell Engineering

Resolutions

Pay to Play 2024  
Grant Application for Mountain Lake Fire Company  
2023 Budget Transfer

Adoption of Bill List

Public Comment  
Executive Session  
Adjournment

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 7 December 2023. The meeting was opened by Mayor John Inscho with Adequate Notice of Meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Inscho; Deputy Mayor Daniel Grover; and, Wayne Spangenberg

Absent: David Rogers; and, Pete Karcher

Also, Present: Richard Wenner, Municipal Attorney; and, Diane M Pflugfelder, Municipal Clerk/Administrator

REPORTS

MAYOR INSCHO

Mayor invited all Governing Body members to the Warren County Commissioner’s 2024 Reorganization meeting scheduled for 1 January 2024, 12 noon at the Warren County Complex.

RECREATION

A pre-printed report was received from the Recreation Commission for November 2023 and placed on file.

MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR

A pre-printed report was received from the Municipal Tax Collector for November 2023 and placed on file

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Larry Supp, Environmental Commission Chair, spoke on proposed budget for 2024 to purchase a dip meter (currently using NJDEP equipment to test Mountain Lake water) as well as a new company for herbicide treatments within the lake. He agreed that the Environmental Commission would continue to host the finances for Mountain Lake herbicide treatments rather than consider transferring this line item to the Recreation Commission.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion by Wayne Spangenberg to adopt the public meeting and executive session minutes of 2 November 2023 carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NJDEP BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER BUREAU LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT.

Mayor Inscho reported that the Level 2 Assessment is in progress.

LIBERTY LAKE DAM

Mayor Inscho stated that the decommissioning of Liberty Lake Dam would be revisited in 2024.

EMPLOYEE APPLICATIONS (LandUse Secretary and Recreation Assistant)

Mayor Inscho stated that these positions would be considered at the 2024 reorganization meeting

RECREATION ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

No action

ETHICS COMPLAINT

Mayor Inscho reported that he has filed his 2023 Financial Disclosure.

2024 LIBERTY TOWNSHIP IMPOUND FACILITY

No action

A motion by Dan Grover to open public hearing for Ordinances #2023.009 through Ordinance #2023.018 carried. A motion by Dan Grover to adopt Resolutions #2023.090 through Resolution #2023.099 as consent agenda item carried.

ORDINANCE #2023.009 – PROHIBITING ILLICIT CONNECTIONS TO MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

RESOLUTION #2023.090  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2023.009

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting Illicit Connections to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting Illicit Connections to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Inscho,  
Mayor

aye - Inscho

ORDINANCE #2023.010 – ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF PET SOLID WASTE

RESOLUTION #2023.091  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 2023.010

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Establish Requirements for the Proper Disposal of Pet Solid Waste” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Establish Requirements for the Proper Disposal of Pet Solid Waste” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.011 – REQUIRING DUMPSTERS AND OTHER REFUSE CONTAINERS THAT ARE OUTDOORS OR EXPOSED TO STORMWATER TO BE COVERED AT ALL TIMES

RESOLUTION #2023.092  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2023.011

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Requiring Dumpsters and Other Refuse Containers that are Outdoors or Exposed to Stormwater to be Covered at all Times” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Requiring Dumpsters and Other Refuse Containers that are Outdoors or Exposed to Stormwater to be Covered at all Times” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.012 – REQUIRING PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING

RESOLUTION #2023.093  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 2023.012

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Requiring Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Requiring Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting” be passed on second reading and final adoption

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

aye - Inscho

ORDINANCE #2023.013 – PROHIBITING WILDLIFE FEEDING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

RESOLUTION #2023.094  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2023.013

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting Wildlife Feeding On Public Property” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting Wildlife Feeding On Public Property” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.014 – PRESCRIBING REGULATIONS FOR CONTAINERIZED YARD WASTE

RESOLUTION #2023.095  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 2023.014

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prescribing Regulations for Containerized Yard Waste” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prescribing Regulations for Containerized Yard Waste” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.015 – REGULATION SALT STORAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

RESOLUTION #2023.096  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2023.015

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Regulating Salt Storage on Private Property” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Regulating Salt Storage on Private Property” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.016 – PROHIBITING THE IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE

RESOLUTION #2023.097  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 2023.016

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Improper Disposal of Waste” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Improper Disposal of Waste” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.017 – ESTABLISHIGN A YARD WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

RESOLUTION #2023.098  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2023.017

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Establishing A Yard Waste Collection And Disposal Program” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Establishing A Yard Waste Collection And Disposal Program” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

ORDINANCE #2023.018 – ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS TO CONTROL LITTERING

RESOLUTION #2023.099  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 2023.018

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Establish Requirements to Control Littering” was passed on first reading on 2 November 2023; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Governing Body of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Establish Requirements to Control Littering” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

NEW BUSINESS

CHAPTER 88. STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND BUILDING NUMBERS (ROAD OPENING, §88-21. PERMIT DPW Supervisor Jeff Snyder, expressed concern over the recent road opening applications from Elizabethtown Gas along Deerfield Road. One application was filed for 8 road openings of which there are 11 road openings identified on the attached map. The Engineer is requesting an escrow of \$100 for each road opening from

Elizabethtown Gas and subsequently charging \$280 per opening for inspections and document review. Mayor Inscho to address this application with Eric Snyder, Municipal Planner (past Liberty Township Zoning Official)

2024 AGREEMENT WITH WARREN COUNTY POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY  
A motion by Dan Grover authorizing Mayor Inscho to execute the 2024 agreement between Liberty Township and Warren County Pollution Control Financing Authority without any fee increase in 2024 carried.

CLEANUP DAYS 2024 - 2024 Clean up Days shall be 6-11 May as well as 14-19 October 2024

2024 AGREEMENT WITH BOSWELL ENGINEERING  
No action

RESOLUTIONS

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.100  
PAY-TO-PLAY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

*WHEREAS*, the Township of Liberty, Warren County is a municipality incorporated within the State of New Jersey in the year 1926 and governed by five Committee-people that are elected by the members of the municipality at large; and

*WHEREAS*, the Township of Liberty, Warren County must comply with PL 2004, Chapter 19 (as amended by PL 2005, c 51) NJSA 19:44-20.4 et seq., known as the “New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play” law; and

*WHEREAS*, the Township Committee believes that it is in the best interests of the municipality to accept an “Alternate” procedure, as defined in law, for the award of 2024 professional services contracts that are not publicly bid and may exceed \$17,500.00 annually or during the life of the contract; and

*WHEREAS*, the Township Committee believes that contracts for goods and services, from a single vendor, with a value greater than \$17,500.00 and less than the Local Public Bidding Threshold should be decided on a case-by-case basis; and

*WHEREAS*, the Township Committee requires contracts for goods and services, from a single vendor, except professional contracts, with a value greater than the Local Public Bidding Threshold will be bid according to the Local Public Bidding requirements.

*BE IT RESOLVED* That the Township Committee does hereby adopt the Pay-to-Play Policy and Procedures as the official purchasing policy for contracts covered under the above-mentioned statutes.

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

A motion by Wayne Spangenberg to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.101  
GRANT APPLICATION FOR MOUNTAIN LAKE FIRE COMPANY

*WHEREAS*, the Mountain Lake Fire Company desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$75,000.00 to carry out a project to purchase 18 sets of full turnout gear.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, Warren County, state of New Jersey, does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and, recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further

authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Mountain Lake Fire Company and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Signature: Joseph Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief

Signature: Jennifer Breslin, Chief Financial Officer

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye – Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

A motion by Wayne Spangenberg to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.102  
APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

*WHEREAS*, there appears to be insufficient funds in one or more current budget appropriations to meet the demand thereon for the balance of the current year; and

*WHEREAS* there appears to be a surplus in one or more current budget appropriations over and above the demand deemed to be necessary for the balance of the current year.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, Warren County, New Jersey that in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58, that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to make the following transfer:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Group Insurance O/E	\$1,801.25	
Municipal Court O/E		\$1,500.00
Clerk S/W		\$ 225.00
Zoning S/W		\$ 76.25

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.103  
PAYMENT OF BILLS

*RESOLVED*, That the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, does hereby authorize the Finance Department to pay all vouchers when properly endorsed and approved by at least 3/5 majority of the Township Committee in the amount of \$497,572.14

Vote: aye - Grover  
absent - Karcher  
absent - Rogers  
aye - Spangenberg  
aye – Rogers

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

## RECREATION COMMISSION

A motion by Mayor Inscho to appoint Matt Hirsch to the Recreation Commission, expiration of term 31 December 2024 (position vacated by Jennifer Duncan) carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT was opened at 7:20 pm.

Shannon Schaff - Ms. Schaff questioned the status of Liberty Lake dam decommission. She inquired if a bench had been donated to the Free Union Methodist Church.

Lisa Thomas – Ms. Thomas inquired if the mayor had coordinated a walk thought of the unused Liberty School building to monitor the structure integrity? She also asked about the graffiti that had been on Lakeside Drive East Road.

Judy McDonal – Ms. McDonald stated that walkers around Mountain Lake do not yield to traffic

Mayor Inscho announced that there would be a public hearing on Thursday, 14 December 2024 at the Highlands Office in Chester, NJ to review the draft “Best Management Practices for Forestry and Wetlands” plan. The mayor directed to have this draft plan and letter of opposition from the New Jersey Forestry Association posted on the municipal website. A motion by Mayor Inscho to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.104  
OPPOSITION TO HIGHLANDS DRAFT BEST PRACTICES  
FOR FORESTRY AND WETLANDS PLAN

*WHEREAS*, over 950,000 acres of forest land are owned by private landowners and 280,000 acres of forest land are owned by local counties and municipalities in New Jersey; and

*WHEREAS*, Liberty Township has a population of approximately 2,670 and is comprised of 7,635 acres, with over 7,044 acres, or 92.3% of the Township, is located within the Forest Resource Area; and

*WHEREAS*, all forestry activities conducted on public or private lands in accordance with an approved woodland management plan or forest management plan (Forest Plan) are exempt under the Highlands Preservation and Planning Act (Highlands Act; N.J.S.A. 13:20-28) and Highlands Region Preservation and Planning Act Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:38-2.3); and

*WHEREAS*, all forestry activities conducted on public or private lands in accordance with an approved Forest Plan are exempt from the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (N.J.S.A. 13:9B-4); and

*WHEREAS*, all forestry activities conducted on public or private lands in accordance with an approved Forest Plan and the New Jersey Forestry and Wetlands Best Management Practices Manual (BMP Manual), are exempt via Permit-by-rule 26 from the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:13-7.26); and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey Farmland Assessment Act of 1964 (Farmland Assessment Act; N.J.S.A. 54:4 et. seq.) permits woodland owners to manage forests actively devoted to an agricultural or horticultural use under an approved Forest Plan to be assessed at their productivity value provided the resulting wood products are sold to meet a minimum income requirement; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey Forest Stewardship Program (Forest Stewardship Program; N.J.S.A. 13:1L-31) permits woodland owners to actively manage their forests under an approved forest stewardship plan to receive farmland assessment without an income requirement; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey State Forest Action Plan identifies the Farmland Assessment Act and Forest Stewardship Program as important for promoting sustainable forest management, preventing conversion of forest to development, and conserving forests for water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities; and

*WHEREAS*, the Highlands Act (N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et. seq.) was created to protect the water and natural resources in the Highlands Region from major development; and



*WHEREAS*, the Highlands Region includes over 400,000 acres of forest land encompassing 88 municipalities in seven counties in the northwestern part of the state; and

*WHEREAS*, the BMP Manual, created by the New Jersey Forest Service, is a practical, science-based, comprehensive guide outlining the best methods for implementing forest management in New Jersey and has been implemented with approved Plans since 1995 to protect, maintain, and preserve water quality; and

*WHEREAS*, the Report of the Sustainable Forestry Technical Advisory Committee to the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Committee (Report) found that the BMP Manual, when implemented, is successful at protecting water quality, and sustainable forest management can increase water yield and biodiversity; and

*WHEREAS*, the Report also found that additional regulations above and beyond the current BMP Manual are unnecessary and would neither be supported by science nor have a legal basis according to the Act (N.J.S.A. 13:20-28); and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey Highlands Committee staff, under the new Executive Director, created new draft Best Management Practices for Forestry in the New Jersey Highlands Region (Highlands BMPs) that are above and beyond the current BMP Manual; and

*WHEREAS*, at the expense of the landowner, the Highlands BMPs will require separate plans for deer and invasive species control in addition to soil testing and obtaining a Letter of Interpretation to confirm wetland boundaries on properties; and

*WHEREAS*, at the expense of the landowner, the Highlands BMPs will require active deer management for all properties with Forest Plans, including the installation of deer exclusion fences in areas with >50 deer per square mile; and

*WHEREAS*, at the expense of the landowner, the Highlands BMPs will limit the removal of all wood products to when the ground is frozen; and

*WHEREAS*, regardless of forestry exemptions, the Highlands BMPs will add restrictions to forestry activities in core forests in the Highlands Region and require approval from the Highlands Committee staff on the creation of forest canopy gaps greater than one half (1/2) acre; and

*WHEREAS*, regardless of forestry exemptions, the Highlands BMPs will add restrictions to forestry activities in the Highlands Region within 300 feet of all wetlands and open waters, 984 feet of all vernal pools, and within all Natural Heritage Priority Sites; and

*WHEREAS*, regardless of forestry exemptions, the Highlands BMPs will add restrictions to forestry activities to prohibit the disturbance of primary forest soils except in the incidences of the removal of hazard trees; and

*WHEREAS*, there is no supporting scientific justification offered for any added restrictions to forestry activities in the Highlands Region; and

*WHEREAS*, the Highlands BMPs are unclear as to whether all the restrictions are limited to only forested land; and

*WHEREAS*, the Highlands BMPs will cause forest landowners in the Highlands Region, including those in Liberty Township, financial harm by preventing them from meeting the requirements of the Farmland Assessment Act and/or Forest Stewardship Program; and

*WHEREAS*, the Highlands BMPs constitute an unfunded mandate that exceed the minimum criteria for forest stewardship plans by requiring such additional items, including surveys/inventory plans and deer fencing, all at the expense of the property owner; and

*WHEREAS*, the Highlands BMPs will cause property owners who are currently enrolled or awaiting to be approved to be enrolled in farmland assessment with approved forest plans, severe

financial hardship by prohibiting forestry activities necessary for meeting the requirements of the New Jersey Farmland Assessment Act and/or Forest Stewardship Program and by mandating the additional requirements at the time and expense of the landowner.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that for the reasons set forth herein above and in the interest of protecting the Township of Liberty’s residents, businesses, and the rights of landowners to manage their properties for their own values in accordance with the legal exemptions currently afforded to them in the Highlands Act and elsewhere, that it does hereby strongly oppose the New Jersey Highlands Committee Draft Best Management Practices for Forestry in the New Jersey Highlands Region and urges the Highlands Committee to oppose furthering the development of and/or finalizing the New Jersey Highlands Committee Draft Best Management Practices for Forestry in the New Jersey Highlands Region.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the following:

- Governor Phil Murphy
- Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Highlands Committee
- New Jersey Forestry Association
- State Senator Bob Smith
- State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin
- State Senator Doug Steinhardt
- State Assemblyman John DiMaio and State Assemblyman Erik Peterson
- Warren County Board of Commissioners of the Municipality
- New Jersey League of Municipalities

Vote: absent - Karcher  
 aye - Grover  
 aye - Spangenberg  
 absent - Rogers  
 aye - Inscho

\_\_\_\_\_  
 John Inscho,  
 Mayor

Carol Bullock – Ms. Bullock came before the Governing Body and questioned why she continues to receive a tax bill for Block 20, Lot 72. She claimed to have advised the Tax Collector many years ago that she does not want this property. Mayor stated that this property would be placed on the next tax title lien sale in 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion by Mayor Inscho to adjourn the meeting carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/MMC  
 Municipal Clerk/Administrator  
 Minutes Approved 4 January 2024

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