

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION # 23-93

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION FOR A GREEN ACRES
STEWARDSHIP GRANT TO REPAIR AND RESTORE WARGO POND AT THE
WATERSHED INSTITUTE**

WHEREAS, Wargo Pond on The Watershed Institute's nature reserve has served as an important teaching platform for educational programs serving K-12 students in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District and other schools since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Wargo Pond and its numerous fish and wildlife have been enjoyed by school children, families, summer campers, wildlife watchers, anglers and others for generations; and

WHEREAS, sediment has reduced the pond's depth, making the waterbody less valuable for certain species of fish and birds, and the mechanism that regulates water levels in the pond is damaged causing the waterbody to be drained; and

WHEREAS, numerous ash trees around Wargo Pond have been killed by the emerald ash borer, degrading the tree canopy around the pond and allowing invasive plants to take root; and

WHEREAS, The Watershed Institute has informed the Township Committee of its intent to apply for a grant from the New Jersey Green Acres Program to repair and dredge the pond, remove dead ash trees that provide a safety hazard, plant native trees and shrubs, and create an observation platform that will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and


WHEREAS, the actions proposed by The Watershed Institute at Wargo Pond would benefit the residents of Hopewell Township and the students in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Mercer, endorses the actions that have been proposed at Wargo Pond and encourages the New Jersey Green Acres Program to approve the funding application from The Watershed Institute for this purpose.

Date Adopted: February 21, 2023

CERTIFICATION

I, Katherine Fenton-Newman, Municipal Clerk, of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at the regular meeting held on the 21st day of February, 2023, in the Municipal Building Auditorium, Hopewell Township, New Jersey, and via Zoom Video Communications.


Katherine Fenton-Newman, CMR, RMC
Municipal Clerk