

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

R E S O L U T I O N #21-75

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF THE MINE ROAD
BRIDGE OVER STONY BROOK (MC#230.3) AS A PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE
ONLY STRUCTURE IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, the Township of Hopewell conducted a public meeting to review and discuss options for the Mine Road bridge over Stony Brook, Mercer County Bridge #230.3, located on Mine Road between NJ State Highway Route 31 and Stony Brook Road; and

WHEREAS, the county-owned bridge, which has been closed for several years after being damaged by fallen tree limbs, was deemed structurally deficient and functionally obsolete by County officials; and

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township had met with representatives of the County Engineer's office and held subsequent discussions in 2020 to raise concerns over the County's plans for the loss of the historic structure with a bridge replacement program; and

WHEREAS, Mercer County responded, by letter dated September 22, 2020, and offered, as an alternative to their plans for the replacement of the structure with a modern structure meeting current geometric and loading requirements, an option to maintain the existing structure, but restrict it to bicycle and pedestrian use only; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Mercer County Engineer's Office presented their alternatives at the January 27, 2021 Hopewell Township Committee meeting, and described the limited options available to them with rehabilitating or repairing the structure if the geometric or loading requirements cannot also be corrected with those options; and

WHEREAS, numerous residents of the township participated in the meeting as well expressing concern for any plan alternative that results in the loss of the existing structure; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission also presented at the January 27, 2021 Committee meeting, and expressed concern for the loss of the historic structure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that the township appreciates the efforts made by the County to investigate and offer an alternative to the replacement of the historic structure, and recognizes the overwhelming desire by the residents of the township to

see the structure retained; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hopewell Township Committee supports the second option offered by the County to permanently close the bridge to vehicular traffic and continue to own and maintain the bridge as a pedestrian/bicycle structure preserving this important historic asset for Hopewell Valley; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to Mercer County to memorialize its support for the preservation of the existing historic Mine Road bridge structure within the Township.

Date Adopted: February 22, 2021

CERTIFICATION

I, Laurie E. Gompf, 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 22nd day of February, 2021, via Zoom Video Communications.



Laurie E. Gompf, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk