

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 005 OF THE YEAR 2007

At the regular meeting of the Town of Harpersfield held on May 7, 2007, Councilwoman Catherine Straus offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: OPPOSING THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PROPOSED GRANT TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK FILTRATION AVOIDANCE DETERMINATION FOR TEN YEARS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Harpersfield is a district within the New York City Watershed; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Harpersfield is a signatory to the Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); and
WHEREAS, said MOA required historic recreational uses be authorized on any lands the City of New York purchases in the watershed; and
WHEREAS, the City of New York has failed substantially to honor that essential commitment; and
WHEREAS, that failure has diminished tourism and economic development in the watershed; and
WHEREAS, the City of New York has opposed economic development projects within the watershed; and
WHEREAS, it is difficult for local officials to work with the City of New York on various projects, specifically, it is often difficult to receive a clear answer from the City without multiple meetings or telephone calls; and
WHEREAS, City personnel need to recognize that local officials are part-time officials who typically hold down other, full-time, non-governmental jobs and do not have the time to visit the same issues over and over again like the City, which its employees have the ability to do; and
WHEREAS, localities within the watershed have commented on the FAD and those comments have largely not been incorporated into the proposed FAD; and
WHEREAS, the City has not properly maintained their dams in the past, and such failure has caused an emergency repair job at the Schoharie Reservoir, thereby shifting billions of gallons of water into other waterways, and has caused flooding; and
WHEREAS, the simple fact is the Town of Harpersfield believes a ten year FAD, no matter how much acreage the City of New York acquires, will lead to an arrogance on the part of the City and a significant and sharp deterioration of the relationships the City had, as of late, been working to develop with the municipalities of the watershed; and
WHEREAS, it is strongly believed that a balanced relationship requires a review of the FAD at least every five years;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Harpersfield strongly and unequivocally opposes the EPA's proposed ten year FAD and demands the EPA reduce the FAD to a term not to exceed five years; and further demands that the EPA:

1. Incorporate into the FAD those comments made by municipalities within the watershed with respect to those municipalities;

2. Hold hearings on flooding within the watershed and in adjoining areas;
3. Require the City of New York to open up its lands within the watershed for recreational purposes on par with the lands owned by the State of New York, except for land which should be protected as a result of legitimate security/public safety concerns;
4. Require the City of New York to create voids within its reservoirs to take into account the effects of rain and melting snow;
5. Require the City of New York to fund the Coalition of Watershed Towns in an amount adequate to establish and ombudsmen program run by the Coalition to advocate for municipal needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Harpersfield hereby requests that United States Senators Schumer and Clinton, along with Congress members Hinchey and Gillibrand introduce and secure the passage of legislation to prohibit the EPA's granting of a FAD for a term greater than five years and take action to administratively oppose the EPA's ten year FAD proposal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congresswoman Kristen Gillibrand, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senator John Bonacic and the Coalition of Watershed Towns.

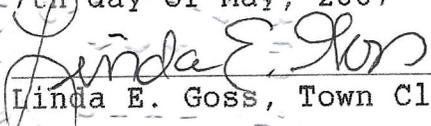
Seconded by Councilman Morris Riddell Jr. with a roll call vote as follows:

Adopted:	James E. Eisel Sr.	Supervisor	Aye.
	Morris Riddell Jr.	Councilman	Aye.
	Catherine Straus	Councilwoman	Aye.
	Robert Reeve Jr.	Councilman	Aye.

State of New York
County of Delaware

I, Linda E. Goss, Clerk of the Town of Harpersfield, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on the 7th day of May, 2007 and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Harpersfield, New York, this 7th day of May, 2007


Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk