

August 18, 2015

Township of Medford

Resolution 155-2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MEDFORD COUNCIL OPPOSING THE “WHARTON STATE FOREST MOTORIZED ACTION PLAN (M.A.P)”

WHEREAS, the Wharton State Forest in the New Jersey Pine Barrens has for decades provided opportunities for various outdoor recreational activities, including canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and the exploration of historic sites to name just a few, and;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Wharton State Forest recently began implementation of the M.A.P., which involves the closure of hundreds of miles of roads that have been open for decades through the Wharton State Forest to legally registered and insured motor vehicles, and;

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of the M.A.P. was carried out without adequately notifying and involving the public, and;

WHEREAS, the effect of the road closures will be to deny access for thousands of elderly and handicapped residents, as well as others, to vast areas of the Wharton State Forest that have been accessible to the public since before the State owned the land.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Medford this 18th day of August, 2015, that we strongly oppose implementation of the M.A.P., as it will effectively deny access of law abiding citizens to many areas of the Wharton State Forest, and will do very little to reduce or prevent the type of damage that has been caused by a small minority to certain specific areas of the forest.

Further, we urge the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to take whatever action is necessary to discontinue the M.A.P. and reopen the affected roadways through the Wharton State Forest as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this executed resolution to our State Legislators, as well as the Governor.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Medford at a meeting held on the 18th day of August 2015.


Katherine E. Burger, Township Clerk