

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACQUISITION OF
OPEN SPACE IN LITTLE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, there is presently a parcel of vacant forested land comprised of approximately 79.1 acres, known as Block 325, Lot 4, having road frontage on Mathistown Road in Little Egg Harbor Township which previously received development approval for the construction of 170 non-age restricted townhomes; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Egg harbor has long recognized the value of the preservation of environmentally sensitive open space as evidenced by the existence of the Little Egg Harbor Township Open Space Committee, which was formed after the establishment of an open space fund for Little Egg Harbor Township, authorized by the referendum vote of the citizens of Little Egg Harbor Township approximately 17 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the subject parcel of vacant forested land is known to have significant environmental value in part due to it's proximity to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, it has recently been brought to the attention of the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee that the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund Advisory Committee has successfully negotiated for the acquisition of the subject property which will prevent the deforestation of the land and avoid the impacts associated with the development of 170 non-age restricted townhomes; and

WHEREAS, it has further been determined that the acquisition by the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund Advisory Committee will not require any monetary contribution by the Township of Little Egg Harbor or its open space fund; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Little Egg Harbor Township finds it to be within the public interest to support the proposed acquisition and preservation of the natural land referenced herein:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Committee hereby offers its support for the acquisition of the subject property by the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund Advisory Committee.

2. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the County of Ocean and to the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund Advisory Committee, as well as to any other interested party upon request.

The following is a true copy of a memorializing resolution by said Board at its meeting of March 24, 2016.

Diana R. McCracker, RMC
CLERK

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Gormley Roll Call:

Gormley	<u>yes</u>
Kehm	<u>yes</u>
Kobryn	<u>yes</u>
Schlick	<u>yes</u>
Stevens	<u>yes</u>