

Resolution 2012-250

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

ESTABLISHING A LAND USE PLEDGE COMMITTING TO GOOD, PLANNED AND THOUGHTFUL LAND USE DECISIONS WITH THE INTENT OF MAKING HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown is committed to having a sustainable future, and has enrolled as a participant in the state-wide Sustainable Jersey program, which provides education and incentives for sustainable lifestyles for all New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown prides itself on making informed, and beneficial land-use decisions to improve societal well-being, such as increased mobility, affordable housing, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, protection of its open space and natural resources, including its valuable trees and waterways; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown recognizes that poor land use decisions can degrade the environment, reduce housing and transportation choices, increase health costs, and reduce the overall well-being of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has a strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, which requires that municipalities must take a leading role in achieving statewide sustainable land use patterns.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Hightstown is committed to continuing to make good, planned, thoughtful land use decisions with the intent of making our Borough a sustainable community. It is our intent to include the following principles in the next master plan revision and re-examination report, under NJSA 40:55D-28 and NJSA 40:55D-89:

1. Regional Cooperation: We pledge to communicate with neighboring municipalities and Mercer County regarding land use decisions which affect them, and to take regional impacts into consideration when making land use decisions.

2. Transportation Choices: We pledge to continue to review transportation choices and include consideration of all modes of transportation when planning transportation projects and reviewing development applications. We recognize that pedestrians, bicyclists, buses, taxis and automobiles are all critical to improved transportation. We will re-evaluate our parking projects with the goal of improving congested parking, promoting shared parking and other parking alternatives, and encouraging structured parking alternatives, where appropriate.

3. Natural Resource Protection: We pledge to protect our natural resources for their environmental, recreational and cultural value, avoiding or mitigating negative impacts to these resources. We pledge to use our recently-adopted Natural Resources Inventory to identify and assess the extent of our resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis, land use, open space and recreational planning.

4. Mix of Land Uses: We pledge to use our zoning authority to continue to allow a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational and historic preservation land use types in the areas that make the most sense for Hightstown and the region. We intend to continue to develop our mixed use downtown area to achieve economic development and advantages for our residents.

5. Housing Options: We pledge to continue to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations available to all income levels, including single- and multi-family, owner –occupied and rental options.

6. Green Design: We pledge to encourage the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into public buildings to the extent feasible, and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for new development.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a meeting held on November 5, 2012.

Debra L. Sopronyi
Borough Clerk