

BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 32-24

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES THAT THE MUNICIPALITY EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ADOPTION OF WHARTON STATE FOREST VISITING VEHICLE USE MAP

WHEREAS Wharton State Forest is the largest state forest in New Jersey at approximately 123,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Pine Barren municipalities, and throughout the state, have enjoyed unfettered access to the elaborate system of roads since the land officially became Wharton State Forest in 1954 and even well before its official designation; and

WHEREAS, regardless if visitors are driving to get to a hike, a hunting or fishing expedition or just going for a drive through the forest, they need access to the various roads within Wharton; and

WHEREAS, the most comprehensive baseline maps of roads are documented in the USGS Topographical maps and were adopted as the baseline by the Pinelands Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Medford Lakes passed Resolution 83-15 opposing Wharton road closures in 2015, and further passed Resolution 125-22 opposing the a proposed permit fee program in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection received public comment and feedback that was overwhelmingly in opposition to the closures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Visiting Vehicle Use Map is nearly identical to the failed 2015 Wharton Motorized Access Plan; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Medford Lakes strongly oppose implementation of the proposed Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map as it will effectively deny access of law-abiding citizens to many areas of 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.

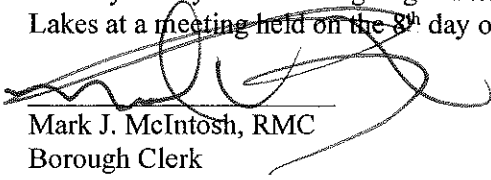
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Borough urges the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to take whatever action is necessary to discontinue the Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map and instead adopt the map adopted by the Pinelands Commission in 2017.

BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, New Jersey Senate President Nicholas Scutari, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Anthony Bucco., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio, and our State Senator and Assembly members.

VOTE ON ADOPTION

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Mayor Dr. Gary A. Miller					X	
Deputy Mayor William R. Fields			X			
Councilwoman Dr. Gail A. Caputo			X			
Councilman Thomas J. Cranston	X		X			
Councilman Dennis P. O'Neill		X	X			

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes at a meeting held on the 8th day of February 2024.


Mark J. McIntosh, RMC
Borough Clerk