

## WALPACK MAYOR AND COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

JULY 26, 2022

Opening Statement: Mayor Maglio called the meeting of the Walpack Mayor and Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, having been duly advertised.

NOTE: The system employed by the Township of Walpack for conducting its remote public meeting affords the public the opportunity to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting by means of a simple dial-in process which has been made known to the public via an announcement on the Township website since the first remote meeting was announced.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Victor J. Maglio, Committeewoman Janina Wycalek, Township Attorney Glenn Kienz, Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen, CFO Ashley Wilson

Absent: Deputy Mayor James Heigis

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the June 28, 2022 Mayor and Committee Meeting Minutes with one small revision. Motion by Committeewoman Wycalek. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

### RESOLUTIONS:

R-30-22 Resolution authorizing endorsement of subdivision map by municipal clerk for property located at Block 601 Lots 13, 13.01 and 13.02 on the official tax map of the Township of Walpack, Sussex County, New Jersey. (Walpack Inn) Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-30-22 per revisions requested.\* Motion by Committeewoman Wycalek. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

R-31-22 Resolution approving subdivision map as to form for property located at Block 601 Lots 123, 13.01 and 13.02 on the official tax map of the Township of Walpack, Sussex County, New Jersey. (Walpack Inn) Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-31-22 per revisions requested.\* Motion by Committeewoman Wycalek. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

\*Attorney Kienz advised that Resolutions R-30-22 and R-31-22 need to be revised per Engineer Mike Vreeland. Under the Municipal Land Use Law, Land Use Boards are empowered to vote on these types of applications. More specifically, with only certain exceptions, the law permits

subdivision lines to be created which reflect existing, established, land uses on individual properties. Mr. and Mrs. Heigis are entitled to a subdivision in this instance. Engineer Mike Vreeland, Land Use Attorney William Haggerty and Municipal Attorney Glenn Kienz held a meeting and confirmed they are all in favor of the proposed subdivision as indicated on the plans and in accordance with the law.

Mayor Maglio thanked Attorney Kienz for his valued assistance.

R-32-22 Resolution approving bills and vouchers for payment. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-32-22. Motion by Committeewoman Wycalek. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Committeewoman Wycalek stated that Walpack needs a Resolution, joining with other municipalities, against the National Park. Mayor Maglio requests that the Committee hold action on this resolution till next month's meeting so that Deputy Mayor Heigis may also provide his thoughts.

Committeewoman Wycalek added that numerous other municipalities have approved resolutions opposing the Park, and feels it is time to join them. Mayor Maglio is in agreement that it may be time that our voice is heard, and the Mayor and Committee will move toward that goal.

Attorney Kienz would like Mayor Maglio, with Committeewoman Wycalek's assistance, to compose a resolution and then share it with Attorney Kienz and Deputy Mayor Heigis.

Mayor Maglio added that the additional information that we have been waiting for is coming to light, giving us the information we need to write this resolution.

Committeewoman Wycalek asked if there was any further information about the dead tree near the Walpack Municipal Building. There is no new information at this time.

CFO Wilson provided financial update regarding the annual CD withdrawal. CFO Wilson will withdraw \$90,000 over the next three years for the CD, school taxes, etc.

Public Comment: Mayor Maglio opened the meeting for Public Comment, and hearing none, closed the meeting to Public Comment.

Adjournment: Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to adjourn. Motion by Committeewoman Wycalek. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen  
Clerk  
Walpack Township

**WALPACK TOWNSHIP**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-33-22**

**“Authorize Extension for Payment of Real Estate Taxes”**

**WHEREAS**, the Sussex County Board of Taxation certified the 2022 tax rate for the Township of Walpack on July 22, 2022 and as a result, the tax bills for the third installment could not be mailed by June 14<sup>th</sup>, but were mailed instead on July 22, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of NJSA 54:4-64 is to assure that taxpayers are given adequate notice of taxes due before penalties are invoked requiring payment of interest for delinquency under the provisions of NJSA 54:4-67; and

**WHEREAS**, in fairness to the taxpayers of the Township of Walpack a twenty-five (25) day extension period to August 17, 2022 shall be provided, in accordance with NJSA 54:4-64 by establishing the interest rate for delinquency at zero percent (0%) from the certification date of mailing said tax bills; and

**WHEREAS**, interest shall revert back to August 1, 2022 after the twenty-five (25) day extension period to provide consistency and compliance in accordance with NJSA 54:4-67;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Township of Walpack that a twenty- five (25) day extension period to August 17, 2022 is hereby granted for the August 2022 tax quarter by charging zero percent (0%) interest during said extension period.

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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Walpack, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, at a meeting held on August 30, 2022.

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Christine M. Von Oesen  
Municipal Clerk

**A RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATION  
OF THE  
DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
TO THE  
DELAWARE RIVER NATIONAL PARK AND LENAPE PRESERVE  
R-35-22**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was established by an Act of Congress in 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Walpack are aware of a plan currently being proposed by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club seeking to change the designation of the “Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area” to the “Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve” (“Delaware Water Gap: Redesignation Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, a similar plan to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a National Park and Preserve was proposed in the 2016 National Park Service plan entitled “Vision 2030: A Vision For a Sustainable Future”; and

**WHEREAS**, the above mentioned National Park Service plan entitled “Vision 2030: A Vision For a Sustainable Future” was considered by stakeholders in 2016, and later shelved in consideration of numerous concerns for its potential impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, any such redesignation plan would require extensive, and expensive, preliminary studies to determine if such a change in designation would be warranted; and

**WHEREAS**, the sole power to fund and authorize such requisite preliminary studies by the National Park Service evaluating and making recommendations regarding the proposed change in designation rests with the Congress of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the sole power to fund and authorize any proposed change in designation in response to a positive recommendation from the National Park Service as a result of such requisite preliminary studies rests with the Congress of the United States of America; and

**TOWNSHIP OF WALPACK**

**R-34-22**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING BILLS AND VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Walpack Township Mayor and Committee, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that payment is hereby approved for all vouchers that have been properly authenticated and presented for payment affixed hereto, representing expenditures for which appropriations have been made in 2021 and 2022 budgets for this local governing body, including any emergency appropriations, and where unexpended balances exist in said appropriation accounts for the payment of such vouchers.

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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Walpack Township Mayor and Committee, in the Township of Walpack, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, at a meeting held on August 30, 2022.

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Christine M. Von Oesen  
Municipal Clerk

**WHEREAS**, any such change in designation is likely to result in significant impacts on numerous municipalities and their residents and businesses both within, and surrounding the current National Recreation Area; and

**WHEREAS**, such impacts are likely to include, but not be limited to, potential acquisition of private property, potential impacts on, and changes in, public lands currently under the jurisdiction of other entities (i.e. State Parks, etc.), potential reduction in the area of lands currently available for hunting, anticipation of significantly increased vehicular traffic, and other general environmental, economic, social, agricultural impacts and general welfare concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the evaluation of such potential impacts requires the development of a detailed proposed plan providing all applicable data including, but not limited to, required funding (requirements and funding plans), precise proposed Park boundaries, areas of proposed acquisition of private lands, any and all proposed changes to public lands currently under the jurisdiction of other entities (i.e. State Parks, etc.) and areas in which hunting will be permitted, as well as anticipated visitor traffic impacts (and its effects on existing infrastructure, along with the creating of the need for additional infrastructure and support services) and other environmental, economic and agricultural impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Walpack Township and numerous other municipalities within and surrounding the current National Recreation Area have, for decades, experienced significant ongoing negative impacts as a result of previous plans presented to and approved by the Congress of the United States of America; specifically, the Army Corps of Engineers Tocks Island Dam project; and

**WHEREAS**, depending on the specifics of any such redesignation plan, the Township of Walpack might, as a result of private property acquisition, or other proposed impacts, be effectively eliminated as a municipality, in spite of its status as the oldest township in Sussex County, having originally been formed in 1731;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Walpack call upon the Congress of the United States of America, and specifically those members representing the areas of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York within and surrounding the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, to commit themselves to, and publicly declare by way of response to this resolution that, no such change in designation will be funded and authorized unless, and until:

1. Congress first determines that the funding and authorization of the requisite preliminary studies to determine if such a change in designation is warranted and is in the best interest of the residents within and surrounding the current National Recreation Area; and
2. Congress is provided with an affirmative and detailed recommendation from the National Park Service made as a result of such studies, including a specific plan including data documenting funding required for both the initial establishment and ongoing maintenance of the proposed National Park boundaries, policies and impacts as described above; and
3. Congress makes publicly available such a plan and actively solicits through multiple venues and appropriately considers input, both pro and con, from the public within and surrounding the proposed National Park including, but not limited to counties, municipalities, other local governing entities, public interest groups and clubs and residents at large who will be impacted by such a change in designation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Walpack, in the County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, request that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Phil Murphy; U.S. Senator Robert Menedez, U.S. Senator Cory Booker; Congressman Josh Gottheimer; Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill; Congressman David Norcross; Congressman Jefferson Van Drew; Congressman Christopher Smith, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.; Congressman Tom Malinowski; Congressman Albio Sires; Congressman Bill Pascarell, Jr.; Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.; Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman; New Jersey Senator Steven V. Oroho; New Jersey Assemblyman F. Parker Space; New Jersey Assemblyman Harold Wirths; New Jersey Senator Michael Doherty; Assemblyman John DeMaio; Assemblyman Eric Petersen; Congresswoman Susan Wild (PA); Congressman Matt Cartright (PA); U.S. Senator Patrick Toomey; U.S. Senator Bob Casey; Sussex County Board of County Commissioners; Warren County Board of Commissioners; and all municipalities of Sussex County.

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Mayor Victor J. Maglio

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Christine M. Von Oesen, Township Clerk of the Township of Walpack, hereby certify that the above Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Walpack at a meeting held on August 30, 2022.

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Christine M. Von Oesen, RMC  
Walpack Township Clerk