

PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZING SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT
AND CREATION OF A REGENERATIVE FARM OPERATION**

January 28, 2020

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (“PPA”) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, with Tax ID No. 521-164-1512; and

WHEREAS, PPA’s mission is to preserve and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the New Jersey Pinelands; and

WHEREAS, PPA has been donated 72 acres of land adjoining the Bishop Farmstead, which prior to 1962 was part of the same farm that included the Bishop Farmstead, which farmland will be identified herein as “the Bishop Farm;” and

WHEREAS, the Bishop Farm suffers from severe stormwater and soil erosion problems, which deplete the land of soil, contribute to flooding of Vincentown Village, and put soil-laden runoff into Rancocas Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Bishop Farm is subject to an agricultural easement in the State’s farmland preservation program, overseen by the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) and Burlington County, and it is the intent of this program that the land continue to be farmed productively; and

WHEREAS, PPA wishes to solve the stormwater and soil erosion problems and to create a sustainable, organic and regenerative farming operation on the Bishop Farm in order to advance PPA’s mission; and

WHEREAS, PPA has obtained and will seek grants and gifts to fund the capital investments, equipment and seeds required to carry out the habitat creation, institute stormwater management systems, and establish the farm operation; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that an initial investment is required and appropriate, in addition to seeking additional grants and gifts, and that these investments are a precondition to the farm being able to generate revenue from the sale of produce;

WHEREAS, PPA has received an extraordinary, unrestricted gift of \$300,000 from Joan Rechnitz, who has indicated her support for PPA to devote this gift, or a portion of it, to this project; and

WHEREAS, PPA has begun working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to create a conservation action plan explaining how the farmland will be managed, and that this plan will form the basis for PPA to seek public and private funding to carry out certain habitat creation, stormwater management and farm-related actions; and

WHEREAS, the initial investments include the salary of a Farm Manager and seasonal staff, buying and planting a cover crop for the 2019-20 winter, acquiring plants and seed for the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

stormwater management and farm efforts in the 2020 growing season, and making certain other investments in equipment and infrastructure, such a well, barn, tractor barn and greenhouse; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees wishes to authorize PPA's Executive Director to make the investments in labor, equipment, infrastructure, materials and plants that the Executive Director and Farm Manager deem necessary at this stage in the management of the Bishop Farm property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. PPA's Executive Director and Farm Manager are authorized to take the actions which they deem appropriate and necessary to manage the Bishop Farm land and to operate a sustainable agriculture farm on this land in order to achieve the following goals:


- Retain, reuse and manage stormwater through natural systems to prevent flooding and protect the Rancocas Creek,
- Carry out regenerative farming and soil management,
- Create and manage habitats on the farm,
- Promote agricultural and native biodiversity on the land,
- Train apprentices and interns in land management, farming and nature education,
- Integrate the farmland and farm operation with PPA's and Pinelands Adventure's missions and activities,
- Document and share financial and scientific data, including externalities, as the project progresses. and
- Make the project financially self-sustaining through the sale of produce; and

2. PPA's Executive Director is authorized to draw on up to \$200,000 of the gift from Joan Rechnitz, and any grants and gifts awarded to PPA for this purpose, to cover the costs of the Farm Manager, buying required tools, constructing a barn and tractor shed, installing a well and greenhouse, and making similar essential investments that will enable the farm to prepare for the 2020 growing season;

3. PPA's Executive Director will provide monthly reports to the Board on progress made towards realizing the plan for the farmland, the expenditure of funds, and the effort to raise the additional funds for to help ensure the project's success.

I, James Barnshaw, Chair of the Board of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a certain resolution duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of PPA at its meeting on January 28, 2020, in which a quorum participated, by a vote of 13 in favor, 2 against, and 0 abstaining.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the undersigned, James Barnshaw, Chair of the Board of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, have hereunto subscribed my name.


James Barnshaw, Chair

February 18, 2020

Date