

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS

AUGUST 18, 2015

In Support of Grant from Saratoga County to Saratoga PLAN for Acquisition of Pitney Farm

WHEREAS, Saratoga PLAN is acquiring approximately 166.32+/- acres of real property, known as the Pitney Farm, located on West Avenue in the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Springs is partnering with Saratoga PLAN to permanently conserve the Pitney Farm as open space for the environmental, economic, and health benefits of the city's residents by purchasing the development rights and holding a conservation easement on the property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Springs and Saratoga PLAN wish to maintain the property's open character and scenic state and ensure that it remains available for agricultural, forestry, wildlife habitat, water resource protection, educational, and other open space purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Springs and Saratoga PLAN recognize the value and special character of the region in which the Property is located, and have, in common, the purpose and objective of protecting and conserving the present state and inherent, tangible and intangible values of the Pitney Farm as a scenic and natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the Pitney Farm is part of a scenic landscape and has approximately 1,440+/- feet of frontage on the west side of West Avenue, being a public highway in the City of Saratoga Springs, thereby yielding a significant public benefit; and

WHEREAS, the property consists primarily of agricultural land which produces crops, and also consists of woodlands, stream, riparian and wetland communities which provide valuable wildlife habitat, all of which help protect clean air and water, and is therefore an important natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the property is located adjacent to the Geyser Brook, also known as Coesa Creek, a class C(T) trout stream as classified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and which is a tributary of the Kayaderosseras Creek, for a distance of approximately 5,376+/- feet, therefore the preservation of the property's open, undeveloped character and wooded streambank buffering the stream may protect or improve water quality, aquatic habitat, and maintain natural hydrologic regimes; and

WHEREAS, the Pitney Farm is located along the Geyser Brook which flows downstream into Saratoga Spa State Park and is located downstream from Rowland Hollow Creek Preserve which

is owned and managed by Saratoga PLAN, both of which are available to the general public for passive outdoor recreation and nature study; and

WHEREAS, the Pitney Farm consists of productive farmland with 128.54+/- acres of “soils of statewide significance” and 7.05+/- acres of prime soils if drained as classified by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Springs adopted an Open Space Plan in 1994 which was updated in 2002 and both iterations of the plan identified the property as a priority for agricultural, open space, and scenic preservation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Springs adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan in June 2015 which recommends, “the preservation, protection, and enhancement of open space...allowing all residents, regardless of income level, to live and recreate in an area that is beautiful, healthy, vital and safe”; and

WHEREAS, the property was identified as a highly ranked priority agricultural resource in the 2013 countywide landscape analysis by Saratoga PLAN based on the Property’s fertile and productive soils, groundwater recharge potential, and size; and

WHEREAS, the property is designated within a Natural System Hub, Corridor and Trail Area, and Gateway designated in Saratoga County’s 2006 Green Infrastructure Plan and identified for preservation of natural and agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, the property is located within Saratoga County, which adopted an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in 1997 pursuant to New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (“AML”) Article 25-AAA. The Plan recommends adopting a series of policy responses to protect viable agricultural land from non-farm development and its impacts to agriculture, including the use of conservation easements as a tool for agricultural protection; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga County established a Farmland and Open Space Grant Program to support the acquisition of high priority properties such as the Pitney Farm for significant public benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Grant Program accepts funding applications from nonprofit land trusts as long as they are endorsed by the municipality in which the conservation project is located and the municipality agrees to accept and transfer the funds to the nonprofit organization for the project; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga PLAN wishes to seek \$100,000.00 in funding from the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Grant Program to assist with the costs associated with acquiring the Pitney Farm;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Saratoga Springs strongly endorses and supports Saratoga PLAN’s application to Saratoga County for a Farmland and Open Space

Preservation Grant for funding to acquire the Pitney Farm, and agrees to facilitate the grant, if awarded, by accepting it from Saratoga County and transferring it in whole to Saratoga PLAN.

ADOPTED ON AUGUST 18, 2015

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

Filed with John P. Franck, City Clerk
