

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP**

**R-19-2015**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON  
OPPOSING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OF THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL  
RECREATION AREA "VISION 2030"**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) is a nearly 70,000 acre unit of the National Park Service (NPS) located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandyston Township is made up of approximately 70% state and federal lands and benefits substantially from the tourism which the recreational activities of the state and federal Parks bring to Sandyston Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEWA is among the top 10 most visited units of the National Park System with an average of approximately 5 million visitors annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEWA currently encompasses 67,210 acres; of this figure 9,151.03 acres are in Warren County and 21,489.78 acres are in Sussex County broken down by the following: 5,467.77 acres in Sandyston Township; 2,454.69 acres in Montague Township; 13,872 acres in Walpack Township; 183.12 acres in Stillwater Township. The remaining 36,569.19 acres exist in Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEWA offers recreational opportunities such as hiking, walking, bicycling, fishing, hunting, swimming, camping, canoeing, boating, cross country skiing, bird watching, horseback riding, sightseeing, and special event; cultural resources, infrastructural facilities, national resources, and rare, threatened and endangered species of plants, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEWA is enjoyed by the residents of Sandyston Township, as well as Sussex County, and the businesses in Sandyston Township benefit from the tourism these recreational activities bring to the area; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEWA has created a plan entitled *Vision 2030: A Vision For A Sustainable Future* for the vision of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River; and

**WHEREAS**, Vision 2030 was prepared by the National Park Superintendent and Staff. Vision 2030 desires to acquire large tracts of land and expand the National Park's jurisdiction of lands outside National Park boundaries and may include, at a minimum, any land that is within a watershed that flows into the Delaware River in the area under National Park Control. Vision 2030 desires to establish the Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve, a proposal which would take the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and include them in a larger park and preserve complex. This unit would replace the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area while the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River would continue under current management which it is believed will eventually limit or prohibit hunting and recreation activities enjoyed by residents and visitors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby opposes the vision of the DEWA taking any additional property outside its current boundaries. Currently, Sandyston Township is comprised of approximately 70% preserved land owned by the State of New Jersey and the National Park Service (United States) which are currently connected and provide a large space for wild life, watershed protection and recreation.

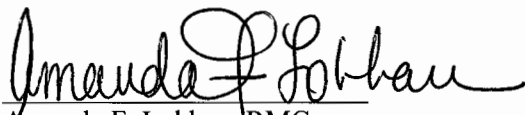
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston opposes the DEWA seeking to control any watershed which flows into the Delaware River. Sandyston Township contains the largest number of Freshwater waterways and these streams are part of the Big and Little Flat Brook systems which are currently designated as Category One waterbodies which have stringent requirements, oversight, management and protection by State of New Jersey Regulations. In November 2011, the Delaware River Basin Conservation Initiative began a collaborative effort between the Nature Conservancy, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Natural Lands Trust which helps to ensure the long-term viability and health of the basin's ecosystem.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby opposes the vision of the DEWA to establish the Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve, a proposal which would take the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and include them in a larger park and preserve complex. The Township Committee opposes this change as we believe this will negatively affect the residents and tourism of Sandyston Township. Visitors come from all over the East Coast to enjoy the recreational activities offered by the DEWA, including hunting, which provides economic benefits to all of the local businesses in Sandyston Township. By limiting this area and prohibiting or restricting recreational activities, including hunting, Sandyston Township's local businesses will suffer financially because these restrictions will force tourism to other States who offer these activities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Chris Christie; U.S. Representative Scott Garrett; US, Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen; Robert Menendez, United States Senator; Cory Booker, United States Senator; Senator Steven V. Oroho; Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose; Assemblyman Parker Space; Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders; State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection; National Park Service, Jon Jarvis, Director; National Park Service, Northeast Regional, Mike Caldwell, Regional Director; Delaware River Basin Commission; Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Natural Lands Trust; Kittatinny Regional High School, Craig Hutcheson, Superintendent; Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School, M. Glenn Sumpman, Superintendent; and all Sussex County municipalities.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston at a meeting held on January 13, 2015, at the Sandyston Township Municipal Building, Sandyston, New Jersey 07826.



Amanda F. Lobban, RMC  
Municipal Clerk