

Resolution in support of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Reynolds Game Farm in the Town of Dryden

WHEREAS, the Dryden Town Board recognizes the importance of the DEC's Reynolds Game Farm as a local institution that brings distinction to the area through its historical mission, preservation of open space, and well kept grounds,

WHEREAS, the Reynolds Game Farm has been in operation for over 90 years and is New York State's only Pheasant production facility,

WHEREAS, Pheasant hunting has a long tradition as one of the most popular small game hunting activities in New York,

WHEREAS, the Dryden Town Board takes pride in knowing that DEC's activities at the Reynolds Game Farm yield results that benefit New Yorkers throughout the state,

WHEREAS, DEC's Small Game Hunter Survey indicates that about 23,000 hunters harvest over 50,000 pheasants statewide, while spending almost 106,000 days afield annually,

WHEREAS, the Reynolds Game Farm contributes to the local economy by providing local employment opportunities for four full-time workers and over a dozen part-time employees,

WHEREAS, all aspects of NYS's Pheasant Propagation Program are efficiently and effectively conducted at the Reynolds Game Farm,

WHEREAS, the Reynolds Game Farm achieves results that impact thousands of New Yorkers by providing hunting and viewing opportunities while enjoying the outdoors and appreciating the value of open space,

WHEREAS, New York youth and adults are involved in caring for and releasing healthy, disease-free pheasants through state cooperator programs,

WHEREAS, the Dryden Town Board supports local hunting activities and invites hunters to make use of appropriate town property, including the 60 acre Parke-Dabes Natural Area near the hamlet of Varna,

WHEREAS, in 1982, a sewer and water line easement for the Town of Dryden was placed on the rail bed, and title to the rail bed which crosses the Reynolds Game Farm was transferred to Cornell University,

WHEREAS, in 1983, title to the rail bed which crosses the Reynolds Game Farm was transferred to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,

WHEREAS, the Dryden Town Board greatly appreciates the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's willingness to negotiate public access to the rail bed in order to complete the Dryden Rail Trail,

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the Town of Dryden's Rail Trail was awarded a \$182,000 grant in December, 2017 from the Environmental Protection Fund through the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dryden Town Board supports the work of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Reynolds Game Farm and embraces its presence in the Town of Dryden; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Dryden Town Board seeks to build its partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and requests that the agency establish a cooperative use agreement for the previously conveyed rail bed, at a length of approximately 2,500 ft., allowing pedestrian and bicycle access to the rail bed and thus, the completion of the 10.5 mile Dryden Rail Trail.