

**RESOLUTION # (2023) – AUTHORIZE THE DRYDEN RAIL TRAIL TASK FORCE TO APPLY FOR A TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL PARKS AND TRAILS GRANT**

WHEREAS, the July 2022 Dryden 2045 Comprehensive Plan and the 2011 Recreation Master Plan both identified a need for increased outdoor leisure and recreational space; and

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2016 the Town Board appointed a Rail Trail Task Force made up of volunteer community members and authorized it to take deliberate steps to develop a Dryden Rail Trail in the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has made significant progress advancing the trail project to date, including obtaining easements covering 38 land parcels along its 10.5-mile length, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has obtained a \$182,000 matching fund grant from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has obtained two \$15,000 Triad Foundation Grants, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has obtained a \$50,000 Tompkins County Tourism Capital Grant, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dryden has obtained a \$1.5M NYSDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant, a \$345,000 NYS Multi-Modal Grant, and a \$700,000 U.S. Senate Appropriation for construction of a Route 13 crossing, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature, in adopting the 2023 budget allocated funding for a Municipal Parks and Trails grant opportunity,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Dryden authorizes the Dryden Rail Trail Task Force to apply for a Tompkins County Municipal Parks and Trails grant, not to exceed \$5,000, towards the cost of trail surfacing between Hallwoods Road and Pinckney Road and installation of an adjacent vegetative hedge for screening at Hanson Aggregates LLC.