

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA) ss:
TOWN OF DEWITT)

I, Angela K. Epolito, Town Clerk of the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding resolution of the Town Board of the Town of DeWitt with the original contained in the minutes of November 23, 2020 and filed in my office at the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York, and the same is a true and correct copy of said original and the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York, on this 7th day of December, 2020.



Angela K. Epolito, Town Clerk



(SEAL)

Support of a "Green Amendment" to the New York State Constitution

At a Town Board Meeting of the Dewitt Town Board, held on November 23, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Dewitt Town Hall, 5400 Butternut Drive, in the Town of Dewitt, New York and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1 also via teleconferencing, seven members of the Town Board being in attendance, the following resolution was introduced by Councilor Rigney and seconded by Supervisor Michalenko:

WHEREAS, the right of New Yorkers to clean water, air and a healthy environment is not given any protection in the State of New York's Constitution; and

WHEREAS, clean water, air, a stable climate and healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy;

WHEREAS, New York State has a long history of environmental protection and leadership to Protect the New Yorker's health and environment;

WHEREAS, while environmental laws are designed to manage pollution, clean up and remediate contamination, and conserve natural resources, these laws do not support the notion that clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are fundamental, inalienable rights;

WHEREAS, there are still a multitude of issues threatening New York's water, air, natural resources, such as climate change, emerging contaminants, such as PFAS and PFOA, in our drinking water supplies, poor to failing air quality, and disproportionate environmental impacts environmental justice and frontline communities;

WHEREAS, the Town of DeWitt is particularly concerned about the water quality from Skaneateles lake which is one of two sources of our drinking water and which has been struggling to keep farming runoff combined with warmer temperatures from creating algal blooms;

Whereas, the Town of DeWitt is particularly sensitive to flooding due to the proximity to wetlands and land formations which have been occurring from heavy rains; as our 100 year rains have become more frequent, occurring 3 times in the past 10 years, causing significant property damage to residential and commercial property;

Whereas, the Town of DeWitt has been dealing with the plethora of deer which carry large numbers of disease-carrying ticks to our residents. The prevalence of these dangerous ticks are linked to drought due to climate change;

WHEREAS, the biggest threat to New York's environment is climate change, which may particularly impact Central New York with increasing snowfall, leading to power outages, flooding, property damage;

WHEREAS, increased temperatures during the summers have created more dangerous heat days each year leaving those who live in urban heat islands at greater risk of extreme heat mortality;

WHEREAS, acid rain caused from combustion of fossil fuel continues to devastate natural resources, including the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains;

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of lead service lines are still buried underground and contaminating drinking water, including in the older, industrial cities of Western New York;

WHEREAS, fracking waste is still being dangerously dumped in municipal landfills in the Southern Tier, releasing radioactive and toxic chemicals into our water supplies;

WHEREAS, overdevelopment has degraded our streams and wetlands and left our drinking water sources vulnerable to pollution

WHEREAS, in recognition that Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator David Carlucci sponsored Green Amendment Bills (A.2064/S.2072) that passed the New York State Legislature in April 2019, which stated that: *“proposing an amendment to article 1 of the constitution, in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment”*

WHEREAS, in recognition that to enact a Green Amendment in the New York State Constitution the above mentioned bill must be passed by the New York State Legislature in 2021 and then be voted on as part of a statewide referendum;

WHEREAS, the Town of DeWitt hereby supports the Green Amendment Bill (A.2064/S.2072) that passed the New York State Legislature in 2019; and further

RESOLVED, that the Town of DeWitt supports the second passage of the Green Amendment Bill by the New York State Legislature in 2021 so that the voters may choose whether to add the right to a clean air, water and healthful environment to the Bill of Rights of the New York State Constitution.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the municipality’s State Legislative Delegation.

CC:

Pamela Hunter, NY Assembly District 128th
Al Stirpe, NY Assembly District 127th
Bill Magnerelli, NY Assembly District 129th
Rachel May, NYS Senate District 53rd

Passed this 23rd day of November, 2020, by a vote of 7-0.