

RESOLUTION # _____ OF 2026: RE-SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF SMITH WOODS AS A CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREA, ALONG WITH RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ulysses is considering the designation of Smith Woods as a Critical Environmental Area (“CEA”) pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on April 14, 2026, the Town Board preliminarily classified the action as an Unlisted Action, directed the Town Planner to prepare a Part 1 Short Environmental Assessment Form (“SEAF”) relating to the proposed action along with a memo recommending particularized reasons for such designation, along with a narrative response to the Part 2 SEAF questions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Planner on May 7, 2026 circulated a proposed Part 1 SEAF, memo and narrative response, which the Town Board reviewed at its meeting on May 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determined on May 26, 2026 that Smith Woods may possess one or more characteristics warranting designation as a CEA, including exceptional or unique natural setting, ecological sensitivity, and recreational and educational value, as outlined in the Town Planner’s memo; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board also determined on May 26, 2026 that a public hearing regarding such designation was required, and scheduled such for its meeting on July 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on June 9, 2026, the Town Board accepted the Part 1 SEAF as presented by the Town Planner, declared its intent to act as lead agency, and directed the Town Planner to circulate notice of intent to act as lead agency to all involved and interested agencies along with the owners of properties adjacent to the proposed Critical Environmental Area, along with all other persons and entities as otherwise required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Planner has requested that the Town Board (1) re-review Part 1 of the SEAF presented by the Town Planner, considering a change in wetlands regulations, (2) officially designate involved and interested agencies for the Town Planner, (3) identify the specific environmental characteristics that warrant the CEA designation, (4) direct re-notification of agencies and neighboring properties, and (5) re-schedule the public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Part 1 of the SEAF presented by the Town Planner is approved as originally presented, except that the response to Question #13 shall be changed to read “The Town’s official wetland map has identified local wetlands adjacent to the subject site”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner is directed to sign said Part 1 as amended; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner’s recommendation of involved and interested agencies is approved as follows:

- DEC Commissioner;
- DEC regional office;
- Tompkins County Highway Department;
- Tompkins County Planning and Sustainability Department;
- Village of Trumansburg's Board of Village Trustees;
- Both Planning Boards and BZAs for the Town and Village;
- Town Bee Friendly Community Committee;
- Town Conservation and Sustainability Committee;
- Town Habitat Nature Preserve Advisory Committee;
- Town Tree Advisory Council;
- Town Youth Commission;
- Village Events & Tourism Committee;
- Ulysses Historical Society; and
- Professional staff and/or retained professional services that administer environmental and developmental regulations for both the Town and the Village; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner is authorized to supplement the foregoing list of interested and involved agencies as he deems appropriate in light of new and/or additional information; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts all of the particularized reasons set forth on pages 9 and 10 of the Town Planner's memo dated May 7, 2026 justifying Smith Woods' designation as a CEA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner is directed to provide notice to all involved and interested agencies of the Town Board's intent to act as lead agency concerning this matter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a public hearing shall be held by the Town Board with respect to the proposed designation of Smith Woods as a Critical Environmental Area on September 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 10 Elm Street, Trumansburg, New York; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is also directed to provide notice of this public hearing to the owners of those properties immediately adjacent to Smith Woods by mailing said notice not less than 20 days prior to the public hearing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner is directed to help the Town Clerk in identifying the neighboring owners of property, preparing the notice of public hearing, and in all other items as reasonably requested by the Town Clerk; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved:

Seconded:

Olson

Boggs

Manley

Weatherby

Vote:

Date Adopted: