

RESOLUTION 2024-072

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY MORRIS, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

WHEREAS, land use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and

WHEREAS, poor land use decisions can lead to and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and degradation of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, well planned land use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space and allow for continued use of vital natural resources; and

WHEREAS, given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee adopted Resolution 2009-150 on July 9, 2009 to support sustainable land use planning, and desires to reaffirm that pledge;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, with the intent of making the Township of Chatham a truly sustainable community, reaffirms the following pledge:

1. **Facilities Siting** - To consider factors, to the extent reasonable, such as walkability, bikability, access to transit and proximity to other uses when siting new or relocated municipal facilities, recognizing that the actions of a municipality when locating its own facilities can set a positive example and encourage other public and private sector entities to employ sustainable land use measures when locating their own facilities.
2. **Housing Variety** – Through the application, to the extent reasonable, of the Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, to foster a diverse mix of housing types to meet the needs of people from all ages and walks of life, recognizing that a variety of housing options from single family homes to one-bedroom apartments, including low and moderate income housing, is vital to allow residents to live and work in a municipality through various stages of their lives.
3. **Natural Resources Preservation** – To continue its existing program for preservation of open space and create recreational opportunities, recognizing that, as the most densely populated state in the nation, open space is at a premium, and that preservation of open space for its ecological and recreational value is critical for a sustainable future, and further to review and to update, as appropriate, the existing Natural Resources Inventory to identify and assess the extent of the Township's resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis and land use planning and zoning.

4. **Transportation Choices** – Where appropriate, to create transportation choices within the Township by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, public transit and automobiles, when planning transportation projects, given that emissions from transportation, mainly passenger cars, make up the largest share of the state’s carbon footprint, creating transportation alternatives at the local level is critical to reducing the state’s overall carbon footprint.
5. **Mix of Uses** – Where appropriate, to use the zoning power to create a mix of uses in areas that make the most sense for the Township, recognizing that allowing for a mix of compatible land uses can reduce the need for automobile transportation.
6. **Green Design** – To incorporate, as appropriate, green design principles and renewable energy generation when updating site plan and subdivision requirements, because green design strategies, including energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, use of recycled materials, construction waste reduction, reduced auto use, tree preservation, native planting and avoidance of environmentally sensitive features, not only improve the environmental performance of buildings, but lessen the environmental impact of those buildings.
7. **Regional Cooperation** – To work cooperatively with neighboring municipalities concerning land use decisions and to consider the respective concerns of each community, recognizing that local land use decisions often have regional impacts, even though decided exclusively by one municipality.
8. **Parking Regulations** – To reevaluate parking requirements with the goal of limiting the amount of required parking spaces and promoting shared parking, recognizing that flexible parking requirements decrease the amount of land dedicated to parking lots, storm water runoff, land clearing, and heat island effects, while promoting alternatives to individual automobile use., with special emphasis placed on appropriate locations for safe and secure bicycle parking.
9. **Legal Effect** – This Resolution is a policy statement of the Chatham Township Committee. It is a statement of goals that the Committee pledges to attempt to accomplish. However, these pledges create no legal obligation on behalf of the Township and have no legal weight.

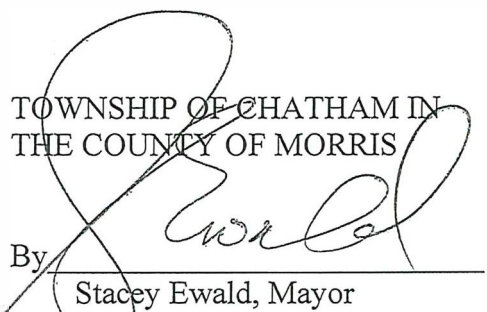
Adopted: February 27, 2024

TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM IN
THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

Attest:



Gregory J. LaConte, Clerk

By 

Stacey Ewald, Mayor

I, Gregory J. LaConte, Township Clerk of the Township of Chatham in the County of Morris, New Jersey, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham at a regular meeting held on February 27, 2024.

Date Issued: February 28, 2024



Township Clerk