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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 13, 2015

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

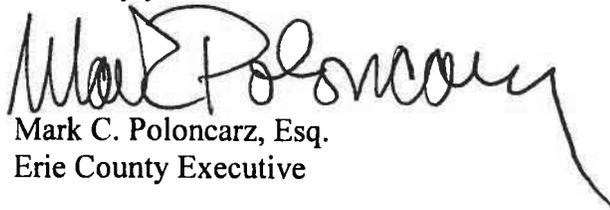
Re: Forestry Lot Acquisition

Dear Honorable Members:

I am enclosing a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry requesting authorization to accept the possible donation of a parcel of land to be converted into forestry lots within the department. The lot is located in the Town of Concord.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner, at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/med
Enclosure

cc: Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: Forestry Lot Acquisition
Date: February 13, 2015

SUMMARY

The Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and The Nature Conservancy have approached the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry about the possible donations of a parcel of land, so as to be converted into a Forestry Lot within the Parks Department. This parcel is located in the Town of Concord (222.191 acres-SBL 291.00-1-19) and would increase the amount of Forestry Lot Acreage by an estimated 8%.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Possible closing and survey costs.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Forestry Lots across Erie County are maintained and monitored accordingly and currently include such recreational opportunities as bird watching, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling (on approved NYS Trails) and cross country skiing. Additionally, Parks Department operations such as maple syrup production and the saw mill are currently situated on a Forestry Lot.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Town Board in the Town of Concord has already approved and endorsed the application of the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper for a grant under the Environmental Protection Fund for a park project. Likewise, acquisition of the "Forman Property" would serve to implement the goals outlined in the August 2014 report from the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, titled "Niagara Habitat Conservation Strategy." The addition of this parcel as a Forestry Lot would allow the connection of over 1,000 acres of publicly accessible headwater forests for 18 Mile Creek.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Parks Department would not be able to acquire this parcel, missing an opportunity to preserve these acres for generations to come, while being open for the general public to visit.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry will work with the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, The Nature Conservancy, The Department of Environment and Planning, The Director of Real Property Tax and The County Attorney's Office to transfer this lot over to the department as a Forestry Lot. The property in Concord would then be combined with what is currently Forestry Lot #8.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: Forestry Lot Acquisition

WHEREAS, The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is requesting authorization to accept the possible donation of a parcel of land to be converted into a forestry lot within the department; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Forestry Lots currently include such recreational opportunities as bird watching, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling (on approved NYS Trails) and cross country skiing. Additionally, Parks Department operations such as maple syrup production and the saw mill are situated on a Forestry Lot; and

WHEREAS, The Town Board in the Town of Concord has already approved and endorsed the application of the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper for a grant under the Environmental Protection Fund for a park project; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of the "Forman Property" (parcel in Concord) would also serve to implement the goals outlined in the August 2014 report from the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper titled "Niagara Habitat Conservation Strategy": and

WHEREAS, the addition of the "Forman Property" as a Forestry Lot would allow the connection of over 1,000 acres of publicly accessible headwater forests for 18 Mile Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is authorized to accept the donation of a parcel of land to be converted into a Forestry Lot; and be it further

RESOLVED, The parcel is located in the Town of Concord and would increase the Forestry Lot Acreage by an estimated 8% increase; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Erie County Division of Budget and Management and the Erie County Department of Law.