

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BETHLEHEM STREET TREE INVENTORY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AS A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND AUTHORIZING ITS SUBMISSION TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Town secured funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Urban and Community Forests Grant Program (Round 14) to complete a Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan (“Plan”). The Plan has been prepared by Davey Resource Group, Inc. (DRG), with the assistance of the Bethlehem Street Tree Advisory Committee, and Staff from the Town Planning, Highway, and Public Works departments; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan’s vision is for the Town to maintain a healthy street tree canopy using best arboricultural practices. The street tree canopy is equitably distributed and provides a wide range of physical and mental health benefits. It has positive impacts on property values, pedestrian travel, and calms vehicular traffic. Street trees are carefully selected and planted in appropriate places and there are few to no conflicts with utilities and roadway intersections. Street trees mitigate some of the impacts of the changing climate as they improve stormwater management, reduce the urban heat island effect, increase carbon dioxide storage, and minimize the risk posed by invasive plant and insect species and diseases. This vision will ensure canopy continuity, which will reduce stormwater runoff and improve aesthetic value, air quality, and public health; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan was developed with a focus on addressing short-term and long-term maintenance needs for inventoried public street trees. DRG completed a tree inventory to gain an understanding of the needs of the existing public trees and to project a recommended maintenance schedule for tree care. Analysis of inventory data and information about the Town’s existing program and vision for the street tree canopy were utilized to develop this Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan; and,

WHEREAS, implementation of the Plan will provide, health, aesthetic, civic, economic, traffic calming, stormwater management, climate change mitigation and other benefits, and,

WHEREAS, the Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan is consistent with the Town’s 2005 Comprehensive Plan to enhance entranceways and gateways to the Community, the Town’s 2009 Climate Smart Community Resolution, and 2014 Street Tree Planting Program Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bethlehem Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan is accepted by the Town Board as a guidance document, and shall be submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to the grant contract between the Town of Bethlehem and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that such Plan will be implemented by the Highway Department and Department of Economic Development and Planning, with assistance from the Department of Public Works, and in cooperation with the Street Tree Advisory Committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in reviewing any development application the Town Planning Board should be guided by the Plan recommendations, including but not limited to planting locations, spacing and sites, and tree species and size; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board directs the Department of Economic Development and Planning to pursue Federal and State funding opportunities to assist in the implementation of the Plan.

On a motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Coffey, and a vote of __4_ for, __0_ against, _0__ abstained, and _1_ absent, this RESOLUTION was adopted on November 24, 2020.