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From: Beth Styler Barry [beth@musconetcong.org]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2008 6:33 PM
To: Pflugfelder, Diane BETHLEHEM; Cicerelle, Denise FRANKLIN; 'Viscomi, Kim GREENWHICH'; 'Burd, Lisa BLOOMSBURY'; 'Dalessandro, Dolores NETCONG'; 'DeCroce, BettyLou ROXBURY'; 'Drummond, Cathy HAMPTON'; 'Flynn, Doris BYRAM'; 'Gallets, Dianne WASH_MORRIS'; 'Hrebenak, Deborah M. INDEPENDENCE'; 'Hrebenak, Dena MANSFIELD'; 'Kline, Robin R. STANHOPE'; 'Kuster, Bill HACKETTSTOWN'; 'Kutzman, Wanda POHATCONG'; Lashway, Lisa; 'Mayer, Tina Mt.ARLINGTON'; 'Miller, Catherine M. HOLLAND'; 'O'Neil, Mary Ann WASHINGTON WARREN'; 'Piraulta, Linda GREEN'; 'Pivirotto, Maria JEFFERSON'; 'Sandorse, Karen LEBANON'; 'Stark, Lorraine E. HOPATCONG'; 'Tower, Miriam SPARTA'; 'Tracy, Anne Marie ALLAMUCHY'
Subject: REMINDER TUESDAY November 18th "Considering Highlands Plan Conformance in Your Community"

Please forward this reminder to your township committee/council members, land use or planning board, township planners or engineers and to your environmental or open space committees. If possible, please forward this reminder to people that may be interested Committee Members, Planning Board or Land Use Board Members etc.

Thank You.

Last week, at the presentation in Hackettstown, officials from Washington Township (Morris County), Mount Olive, Hackettstown and Franklin had their questions about the Regional Master Plan, COAH, the resolution to consider conformance and more, answered by N.J. Highlands Coalition staff members. There were many useful handouts available for attendees to keep and to bring back to those in their municipalities who were unable to attend.

The Musconetcong Watershed Association will host a presentation for municipal officials and local residents of Musconetcong Watershed communities. The presentation is titled "Considering Highlands Plan Conformance in Your Community" and will be presented by the New Jersey Highlands Coalition.

**Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. Franklin Township
Municipal Building 2093 Rt. 57 Broadway, NJ**

Some Background Information from the Highlands Coalition The Regional Master Plan was formally adopted as of September 8, 2008. From the time of Plan adoption, municipalities in the Preservation Area have nine to fifteen months to achieve basic conformance and agree upon a full conformance timeline with the Highlands Council. Since the conformance process involves amendments to a town's Master Plan and public input along the way, the Highlands Council has established a process of *Basic Conformance* and *Full Conformance*. Under *Basic Conformance* a town will have to meet minimal requirements under a set timeframe for completing the requirements of *Full Conformance*. Once the requirements of *Basic Conformance* are met, the municipality receives all of the benefits accrued with conformance to the Regional Master Plan

including, but not limited to: State Plan Endorsement, adjusted COAH obligations based on resource limitations and a legal shield to prevent “Builder’s Remedy” and other lawsuits.

The Highlands Coalition has prepared materials regarding the Regional Master Plan and the Highlands Region in general including an easy to read and understand Conformance Brochure. Copies of the brochure will be available at this meeting for you to share with your fellow elected officials and your town’s Planning Board and Environmental Commission members, and to have available for interested residents. Handouts will also be available that explain issues such as conformance, the many grants available to Highlands municipalities, redevelopment, transfer of development rights, and the implications of the Highlands RMP on conforming towns’ COAH mandates.

I hope to see you there,

Beth Styler Barry

Executive Director

Musconetcong Watershed Association

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