

**Watervliet Charter Township
Berrien County, Michigan**

2023-10

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE “BERRIEN COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN”

At a regular meeting of the Watervliet Board, Berrien County, Michigan on May 15, 2023 the following resolution was offered by K Bayer, supported by C Curtis.

WHEREAS, the Watervliet Township, Berrien County is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for citizens throughout the region and recognizes that a network of trails in Berrien County will contribute greatly to quality of life by connecting people, communities and regional assets; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Berrien County Trails with its partners and steering committee has engaged Berrien County municipalities, the County and its residents in the development of a countywide master plan for trails; and

WHEREAS, the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" presents a county-wide vision and recommends increasing cooperation and collaboration to create a network that will provide transportation, exercise, leisure, safety, accessibility, recreation and community benefits aimed at enhancing the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many communities, agencies, and trail advocates in the region have taken a lead in planning and/or building local trails, and those efforts can be greatly enhanced by being connected to a larger regional network of trails; and

WHEREAS, trails will help improve the quality of the air we breathe by promoting reduced congestion through increasing safer non-motorized transportation options; and

WHEREAS, trails are freely accessible community assets offering opportunities for transportation, recreation and exercise to everyone, including children, youth and families, schools and provide safe places for people to experience a sense of community and create stronger social and family ties; and

WHEREAS, trails have significant impact on the health and economic viability of the a region through encouraging active lifestyles, increased levels of tourism, enhanced property values, added jobs related to the construction of and along the trail, as well as enhanced ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life;

WHEREAS, the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" provides the foundation for a long term strategy that will continue to grow and evolve and will provide an invaluable resources for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Watervliet Township has identified the provision of trails as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the region.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that Watervliet Township is committed to the promotion and continued development of the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" and in concept to working with neighboring communities to plan, design, build and maintain a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come.

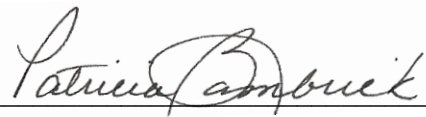
Be it further resolved that Watervliet Township will incorporate the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" into our master plan, recreation plan and other relevant planning documents.

<u>Roll call vote:</u>	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Joe Stepich, Supervisor	X	-	-	-
Patricia Bambrick, Clerk	X	-	-	-
Tom Scheid, Treasurer	X	-	-	-
Karl Bayer, Trustee	X	-	-	-
Colleen Curtis, Trustee	X	-	-	-
Glen Giannetti, Trustee	-	-	-	X
Bob Wallace, Trustee	X	-	-	-

Resolution declared adopted.

CERTIFICATE

The duly elected and acting Clerk of Watervliet Charter Township hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true copy of a Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Watervliet Charter Township Board, Berrien County, Michigan, held on May 15, 2023, at which meeting all members were present as indicated in said minutes and voted as therein set forth; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



Patricia Bambrick, Township Clerk