

**KENNETT TOWNSHIP,
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF KENNETT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, LIMITING THE USE OF THE CHANDLER MILL BRIDGE TO PEDESTRIANS, PEDAL BICYCLES, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES WEIGHING UP TO AND INCLUDING 20 TONS, AND DIRECTING THAT ALL ACTIONS REQUIRED TO RESTRICT THE CHANDLER MILL BRIDGE TO THOSE USES BE TAKEN

WHEREAS, the Chandler Mill Bridge is located at the threshold of the largest contiguous land conservation and historic preservation area in Kennett Township with over 500 acres of open space and fourteen historic sites identified including two national register sites; and

WHEREAS, over \$11 million in current dollars has been invested to date by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Chester County, Kennett Township and private funders in surrounding open space, historic preservation, and trail creation; and

WHEREAS, the Chandler Mill Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Kennett Township Historical Commission has designated the Chandler Mill Bridge as a contributing resource within the planned West Branch of the Red Clay Creek Historic District; and

WHEREAS, the Chandler Mill Bridge is an integral part of public Living History Hikes led by Architectural Historian, Jane E. Dorchester, which includes the bridge and the adjacent historic mill race, the Gregg House, remnants of Timbuktu and Freeman Villages with ties to the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, the UAME Church, as owners of the nearby Bucktoe Cemetery, a living classroom educating local youth about the African American Soldiers who served their country during the Civil War, supports the pedestrian only option through their outreach and inclusion on the living history hike; and

WHEREAS, the Chandler Mill Bridge is part of the Chester County Planning Commission's recommended bikeway network and currently is a popular thoroughfare for cycling groups and recreational bikers; and

WHEREAS, the Chandler Mill Bridge is a key component in the western portion of Red Clay Greenway, a developing 10-12 mile trail corridor connecting the Borough of Kennett and other community assets to create a contiguous walking, jogging, biking and recreational thoroughfare for the benefit of Kennett residents and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the adaptive re-use of the historic Chandler Mill Bridge as a pedestrian-only bridge with emergency access will be the keystone of the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve and its attendant interpretive nature center with vital trail linkages to the Red Clay Greenway; and

WHEREAS, through the leadership of Kennett Township in collaboration with the Brokaw Family, the Mills Family, and other local land owners, it is anticipated that additional grants and easements shall be forthcoming to supplement the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve; and

WHEREAS, through the leadership of Kennett Township in collaboration with the Brokaw Family, the Mills Family and other local landowners, the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County, the Chandler Mill Bridge Consortium, the Kennett Trails Alliance, the Kennett Trails and Sidewalk Committee, the UAME church, the Delaware Nature Society, the Wilmington Trails Club and various local environmental, education, recreation and historic groups, the bridge and the attendant Chandler Mill Nature Preserve with trails and Interpretive Center will flourish as a vital historic, bio diverse, educational, passive recreational asset for the benefit of Kennett residents and the surrounding community for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the goal of preserving the historic bridge as a pedestrian-only thoroughfare with emergency vehicle access is to create a nature preserve to protect the valuable habitats and the flora and fauna in their natural state and to provide a haven for the public for nature study and observation and other passive recreational activities and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2014, the Board of Supervisors of Kennett Township passed a motion authorizing the appropriate Township officers and officials to take all actions necessary to obtain fee ownership of the Chandler Mill Bridge, located in Kennett Township, from Chester County, with the intention of maintaining the Bridge's historic nature; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution #60-14 dated December 8, 2014, the Chester County Board of Commissioners expressed its intention to transfer fee ownership of the Chandler Mill Bridge (County Bridge #236) to Kennett Township; and

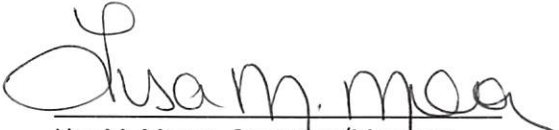
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors deems it to be in the best interests of the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Kennett Township and the general public to limit the use of Chandler Mill Bridge to pedestrians, pedal bicycles, and emergency vehicles weighing up to and including 20 tons, in order to protect the historic nature of the Chandler Mill Bridge, to allow for the aforesaid preservation uses of the surrounding area, and to provide passage for emergency vehicles to serve residents living in proximity to the Chandler Mill Bridge;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it, and it is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of Kennett Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby **ADOPTED** and **RESOLVED** by authority of same as follows:

- I. The Board of Supervisors of Kennett Township hereby limits the use of the Chandler Mill Bridge to pedestrians, pedal bicycles, and emergency vehicles weighing up to and including 20 tons.
- II. Upon obtaining fee ownership of the Chandler Mill Bridge, all Township officers and officials shall take all actions necessary to restrict the use of the Chandler Mill Bridge to the above-stated uses, including but not limited to, erection of appropriate signage and erection of break-away or removable bollards or other devices to prevent vehicular traffic from using the Bridge, but to allow qualifying emergency vehicles to pass.

RESOLVED and **ADOPTED** this 21st day of January, 2015.

ATTEST:



Lisa M. Moore, Secretary/Manager

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF KENNETT
TOWNSHIP**



Scudder G. Stevens, Chairman



Richard L. Leff, Vice-Chairman



Robert A. Hammaker, Member