

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

David VanLuven
Town Supervisor

Albany County - New York
445 DELAWARE AVENUE
DELMAR, NEW YORK 12054
(518) 439-4955 x1157
Fax: (518) 439-5808



MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Board Members
FROM: David VanLuven, Town Supervisor
DATE: September 22, 2022
SUBJ: **Option Exercise Notice for the purchase of the Milltowne Plaza Farmland Preservation Project**

On June 29th, 2022 the Town of Bethlehem entered into a 3-month option agreement for the purchase of the Milltowne Plaza Farmland Preservation Project, which encompasses 9 parcels of active farmland and open space, subject to mandatory referendum.

The Town has completed the following actions:

1. The Conservation Easement Review Board discussed the subject parcels at its July 18, 2022 meeting and unanimously voted to make a positive recommendation for the use of the Farms and Forests Capital Reserve Fund and to provide a Resolution to the Town Board documenting the land's consistency with the Town's conservation criteria.

On July 27, 2022 the Town Board authorized the purchase of the 307 acres, at a cost of \$3,000,000 with funding through the Farms and Forest Capital Reserve Fund, Parkland Set Aside Fund, and American Rescue Plan Act funds; determining that this resolution shall be subject to a mandatory referendum.

2. The Town of Bethlehem retained the engineering firm, CHA, to perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. CHA concluded that there were no site conditions that warranted further investigation.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Town Board pass the attached resolution to exercise the Option to Purchase Real Property between The Town of Bethlehem and Milltowne Plaza, Inc., effective June 29, 2022, and authorize the Supervisor and/or Town Attorney to provide notice of this exercise in accordance with Section 3 of the Option. The purchase remains subject to mandatory referendum on November 8, 2022.