



Buildings & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 4PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Chair: Matt Veitch

Members:

Eric Connolly
Joe Grasso-VC
John Lant
Scott Ostrander
Jean Raymond
Mike Smith

- I. Welcome and Attendance
- II. Approval of the minutes of the April 5, 2022 & April 7, 2022 meetings.
- III. Conservation Easement for Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Areas - Chad Cooke, Public Works
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment



SARATOGA COUNTY

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator
Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator
Michael Hartnett, County Attorney
Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board

CC: Jason Kemper, Planning Director
Bridget Rider, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Matt Rose, Management Analyst
Clare Giammusso, County Attorney's Office
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Finance

FROM:

DATE:

RE:

COMMITTEE:

1. Is a Resolution Required: **YES** or **NO**
(If YES, please complete #2- #10) (If NO, skip to #10 and provide reason for bringing the item)
2. Is a Budget Amendment needed: **YES** or **NO**
(If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided)
3. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule: **YES** or **NO**
(If yes, provide details)
4. Specific details on what the resolution will authorize:
5. Does this item require hiring a Vendors/Contractors: **YES** or **NO**
 - a. Were bids/proposals solicited:
 - b. Is the vendor/contractor a sole source:
 - c. Commencement date of contract term:
 - d. Termination of contract date:
 - e. Contract renewal and term:
 - f. Contact information:
 - g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLS, PLLC or partnership:
 - h. State of vendor/contractor organization:
 - i. Is this a renewal agreement: **YES** or **NO**
 - j. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:



SARATOGA COUNTY

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

6. Is this an annual housekeeping resolution: **YES** or **NO**
(If yes, attach the last approved resolution)
- What were the terms of the prior resolution
 - Are the terms changing:
 - What is the reason for the change in terms:
7. Is a new position being created: **YES** or **NO**
- Effective date
 - Salary and grade
8. Is a new employee being hired: **YES** or **NO**
- Effective date of employment
 - Salary and grade
 - Appointed position:
 - Term:
9. Is a grant being accepted: **YES** or **NO**
- Source of grant funding:
 - Amount of grant:
 - Purpose grant will be used for:
 - Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:
 - Time period grant covers:
10. Remarks/Reasoning (Supporting documentation must be attached to this form):



SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SARATOGA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

3654 GALWAY ROAD
BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK 12020-2517
(518) 885-2235
FAX (518) 885-8809

CHAD M. COOKE, P.E.
Commissioner

THOMAS A. SPEZIALE
Deputy Commissioner

Butterfly Habitat

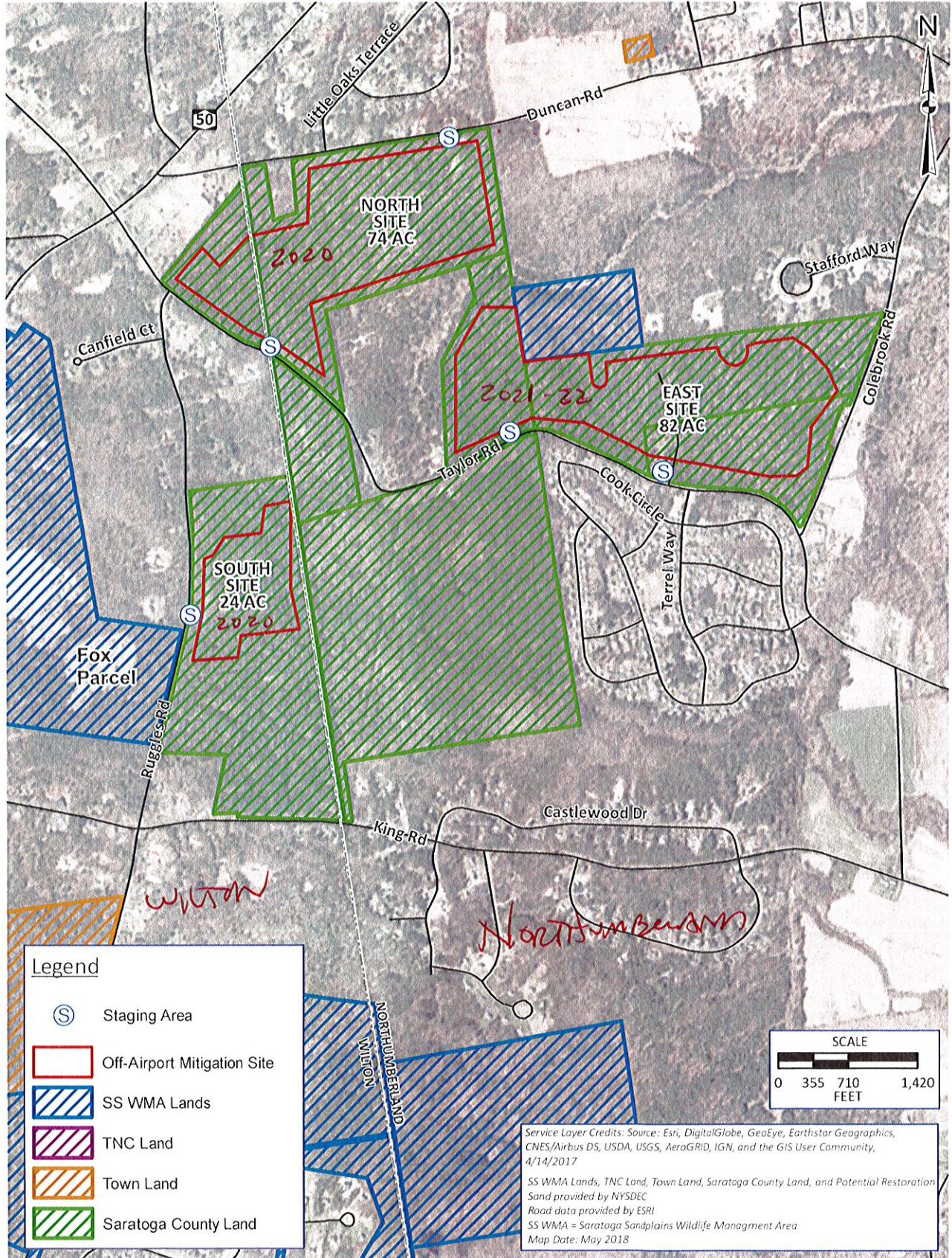
- The Saratoga County Airport is habitat for Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) and Frosted Elfin Butterfly (FE).
- The KBB is an endangered species protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The FE is a threatened species protected by the NYSDEC.
- A 2015 Master Plan Update for the Saratoga County Airport recommended a series of safety improvements to reduce wildlife incursions and improve the safety of taxiing aircraft, including construction of a wildlife deterrent fence, construction of a new taxiway to separate powered aircraft from gliders, replacement for glider staging areas, and enhanced mowing of runway safety areas.
- All of these projects would impact KBB and FE habitat.
- As part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) completed in 2019, the USFWS and NYSDEC assisted the County in determining the best location(s) to create KBB habitat on County land remote from the airport. The three chosen locations total 183 acres and are proximate to other existing KBB habitat mitigation sites.
- As a condition of approval by the USFWS, the County must place the habitat, once created, into a Conservation Easement to ensure its long term protection.

Conservation Easement

- A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between the landowner and a land trust or governmental agency that permanently places limits on the use of the land to protect its conservation values.
- A conservation easement is perpetual, and the restrictions or conditions imposed by the easement “run with the land” which means all subsequent owners of the property take title subject to the restrictions and conditions of the conservation easement.
- Restrictions are imposed to protect the environmental qualities of the property. In this case, the conservation easement will serve to protect the habitat created for the Karner Blue Butterfly in perpetuity.
- The role of the land trust is to monitor the conditions of the property to make sure the restrictions or conditions of the conservation easement are being met on a yearly basis. The grantee is responsible for monitoring the landowners use and maintenance of the property.



Figure X: Off-Airport Habitat Mitigation Sites



Document Path: K:\SARATOGA\T-18139.01 Partial Parallel Taxiway\Draw\GIS\MitigationSites_20190808.mxd



SARATOGA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION XX - 2022

Introduced by Supervisors [Buildings and Grounds Committee]

**AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT
OVER COUNTY LAND IN THE TOWNS OF WILTON AND NORTHUMBERLAND**

WHEREAS, the Karner blue butterfly is a federally- and state-listed endangered species;
and

WHEREAS, the frosted elfin butterfly is a state-listed threatened species; and

WHEREAS, portions of the grounds surrounding the Saratoga County Airport are established Karner blue butterfly and frosted elfin butterfly habitat; and

WHEREAS, through a collaborative effort with the Federal Aviation Administration and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the County has established habitat mitigation sites which will offset the potential loss of Karner blue butterfly and frosted elfin butterfly habitat caused by the upkeep and mowing of areas immediately surrounding the airport facilities; and

WHEREAS, a conservation easement over the mitigation sites is required by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service to ensure the habitat mitigation sites are maintained and successful in restoring Karner blue butterfly and frosted elfin butterfly habitat; and

WHEREAS, North American Land Trust will provide the required third-party monitoring of the habitat mitigation sites covered by the proposed conservation easement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board is authorized to execute any and all documents needed to convey a conservation easement for the protection of the Karner blue butterfly and frosted elfin butterfly habitat mitigation sites located in the towns of Wilton and Northumberland; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the form and content of such documents shall be subject to the approval of the County Attorney; and it is further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.



SARATOGA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION XX - 2022

Introduced by Supervisors [Buildings and Grounds Committee]

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH NORTH AMERICAN LAND TRUST TO FACILITATE THE CONVEYANCE AND MONITORING OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLY AND FROSTED ELFIN BUTTERFLY HABITAT MITIGATION SITES LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF WILTON AND NORTHUMBERLAND IN SUPPORT OF THE SARATOGA COUNTY AIRPORT AND AMENDING THE 2022 COUNTY BUDGET IN RELATION THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Karner blue butterfly (“KBB”) is a federally- and state-listed endangered species, and the frosted elfin butterfly (“FEB”) is a state-listed threatened species; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy-seven (77) acres of the grounds surrounding the Saratoga County Airport are established KBB/FEB protected habitat; and

WHEREAS, through a collaborative effort between the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USF&W”), the County has established approximately one-hundred eighty three (183) acres of habitat mitigation areas on forested County-owned sites which will offset the potential loss of KBB/FEB habitat caused by the upkeep and mowing of areas immediately surrounding the airport facilities; and

WHEREAS, a Conservation Easement over the mitigation sites is required by the USF&W to ensure the habitat mitigation sites are maintained and successful in restoring KBB/FEB habitat; and

WHEREAS, an agreement is required with a third-party administrator to facilitate the conveyance of the conservation of the easement in addition to monitoring the conservation easement; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with such agreement are reimbursable under Federal Aviation Administration grant funding; and

WHEREAS, North American Land Trust (“NALT”) is a conservation organization based in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania with a primary purpose of preserving and managing open space to protect its conservation values; NALT enters into conservation easements as grantee to ensure the sustainability and protection of natural resources within defined areas; and

WHEREAS, NALT has proposed to provide services related to the creation and conveyance of a conservation easement and to provide monitoring of the habitat mitigation sites, in perpetuity, for a one-time payment of \$87,325; now, therefore, be it

DRAFT – MARKUP RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board is authorized to execute an agreement with North American Land Trust, of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, not to exceed \$87,325, for the creation, conveyance and monitoring of a conservation easement for the protection of the Karner blue butterfly and frosted elfin butterfly habitat mitigation sites located within the towns of Wilton and Northumberland; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the form and content of such agreement shall be subject to the approval of the County Attorney; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the 2022 County Budget is amended as follows:

UNDER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Increase Expenses

A.50.513-7098 – Professional Services \$87,325

Increase Revenues

A.50-4592 – Federal Aid – Airport \$87,325

; and it is further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. 100% Federal Aid.