



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

GERALD W. TAMBURRO
Mayor

Administrative Offices:
Municipal Complex
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831
732-521-4400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2018

Council's Action Advances Efforts to Preserve 37-Acre Farm

MONROE – The Monroe Township Council plans to add another parcel to its growing inventory of preserved farmland, approving the cost-share funding at its March 5 meeting for the acquisition of a 37-acre tract on the corner of Federal and Gravel Hill roads.

“Monroe has long prioritized farmland preservation,” said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “We have pledged to preserve more than 50 percent of our approximately 43-square-mile community and each year, working in concert with the County and the State, we advance that much closer to our goal.”

The State is prepared to provide approximately \$596,000 toward the \$1 million purchase of the Gravel Hill Road property's development easement.

Under the agreement forged with the State Agriculture Development Committee, Monroe will contribute 20 percent of the total acquisition cost, amounting to roughly \$198,000.

The Township now awaits further action and approval from the County, which is expected to match Monroe's funding.

“Middlesex County is committed to preserving as much farmland and open space as possible,” said Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios. “My fellow Freeholders and I thank the Township of Monroe and the families we have worked with over the years for sharing our dedication to saving not only our lands, but also our agricultural heritage.”

Officials anticipate the property will officially enter into the Middlesex County Farmland Preservation program, a designation prohibiting any further development on the site, by this summer.

“Support for land preservation only continues to grow in our state – from both sides of the aisle and from residents across New Jersey, including here in Monroe,” said Monroe Council President Stephen Dalina. “Our Township takes great pride in our rural landscape, one of the primary reasons it's such a popular destination for both transplants and visitors. Our preservation programs are a means to safeguard those vistas, not to mention the natural resources and habitats they provide.”

Monroe officials credited local legislators, Sen. Linda Greenstein and Assemblymen Wayne DeAngelo and Daniel Benson, for their support of a measure allowing for a 2014 bond referendum that dedicated permanent funding toward Green Acres, Blue Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation programs.

“We want our children and grandchildren to enjoy all of the beauty that Monroe Township has to offer,” Sen. Greenstein said. “When the voters in 2014 authorized using some of the corporate business tax to help protect our undeveloped lands, they spoke out loudly and clearly that they wanted to make sure these treasures are preserved for the use and enjoyment of generations to come.”

With this latest acquisition, Monroe is approaching nearly 8,000 acres of total preserved property within the Township.

All media inquiries may be directed to the Monroe Township's Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.