



**Resolution  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Columbia  
New York**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 357 - 2013**

**DATE: November 13, 2013**

**BY SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_**

**AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF THE MARTIN VAN  
BUREN NATURE AREA TO THE FRIENDS OF  
LINDENWALD**

UPON recommendation of the County Government Committee at a meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of October, 2013 and the County Finance Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> Day of October, 2013;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has been approached by the Friends of Lindenwald regarding the area of land currently utilized by the Friends of Lindenwald as the Martin Van Buren Nature Area consisting of 71.9 acres of land improved and operated by the Friend of Lindenwald adjacent to the Martin Van Buren Historical Site; and

WHEREAS, Lindenwald is the farm and estate of President Martin Van Buren. Van Buren was the 8th President of the United States and the first U.S. citizen to become President. Lindenwald, as the home is known, was built in 1797 and Van Buren purchased the property in 1839. The home became a National Historic Landmark in 1961. The property became a national historic site in 1974; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Lindenwald is a not-for-profit organization chartered to advance the preservation of Lindenwald and the artifacts associated with President Martin Van Buren. The Friends also further the study and appreciation of Van Buren's role in American history; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Lindenwald desires to obtain title to the 71.9 acres of land to enhance program opportunities, such as recreational activities and walking trails, with the goal to preserve the land in perpetuity by protecting open space; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the County of Columbia envisioned protection of the parcel of property and limited future use to recreational tourism promotion and environmental education, and by resolution 213-95 the County determined the parcel was not necessary for County uses and leased said lands to the Friends of Lindenwald. Since 1995 the Friends of Lindenwald has managed the property as a recreational space;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Columbia herein directs that the lands currently utilized as the Martin Van Buren Nature Area be transferred to the Friends of Lindenwald to be utilized for recreational activities and walking trails to preserve the 71.9 acres of open space for public use; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the deed transferring the property to the Friends of Lindenwald specifically include covenants and restrictions that the land shall be used and maintained for the express purpose of recreational activities and walking trails that shall be open to the public at no charge for the duration of ownership of Friends of Lindenwald; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the deed transferring the property to the Friends of Lindenwald specifically include a provision whereby, should the Friends of Lindenwald ever cease to maintain the property in accordance with the covenants and restrictions, or should the Friends of Lindenwald ever cease to exist, or attempt to sell the property, then the property shall automatically revert to the County of Columbia; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors is authorized to execute and deliver any and all documentation to effectuate this transfer of property; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Columbia County Attorney, County Clerk, the Friends of Lindenwald, and the Columbia County Treasurer.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**County Attorney**

**Resolution  
Committee**

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