

PRESS RELEASE

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PINE BARRENS BYWAY ASSOCIATION HOLDS FIRST MEETING FEBRUARY 23

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Pine Barrens Task Association will be holding its first meeting on February 23 at the Hamilton Township Municipal Building, Mays Landing (corner of Route 50 and Thirteenth Street) at 7 p.m.

Woodbine is among the sixteen municipalities (three from Cape May County), from five counties, whose communities are within the Pine Barrens Byway, the State scenic byway that was established in the southern tier of the Pine Barrens in 2005. The southern loop of the byway connects the Tuckahoe River, the Maurice River, and Dennis Creek, along with Belleplain State Forest and Woodbine Borough.

The Pine Barrens Byway Association has been formed to be the administrator of the Byway, as required by the State scenic byway regulations. It will comprise an oversight board whose members will primarily include representatives of the municipalities and the five counties through which the byway passes, a seven-member, executive committee (composed of county representatives and private citizens) to handle day-to-day matters and subcommittees to encourage public involvement in specific undertakings of benefit to the byway.

The Pine Barrens Byway is a 130-mile long celebration of the unique natural and cultural wonders that our region possesses. It offers views of historic and natural wonders unique to this region and is one of seven such scenic corridors that have been formally designated by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The Association is looking forward to eventual inclusion within the system of America's Byways recognized by the United States Department of the Interior.

With the aid of a federal grant, a comprehensive corridor management plan was completed for the Pine Barrens Byway and it was accepted by the New Jersey Department of Transportation late last year. Development of this plan was a requirement for continuation of the formal scenic byway designation status. It identifies the primary intrinsic qualities (natural, cultural and recreational) that the byway possesses and contains a highly detailed analysis of the features along the route of the byway that highlight and support these qualities.

It also examines the byway's carrying capacity and its potential for future development, addresses the proper use of signage, analyzes intrusive elements that detract from its scenic qualities and suggests ways to promote the byway and involve the public in its preservation and enhancement.

"The byway will serve as a way to financially promote our local municipalities and their businesses through ecotourism and to secure byway-related federal funding for road improvements and other amenities," noted Mayor Pikolycky.

"Thus it will not only promote eco-tourism, but will continue to preserve access to the natural and historic treasures along this byway."