

BY: M. of A. Simpson

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
completion of the Northville-Placid Trail

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched and reliably served by the purposeful endeavors of organizations and individuals who are committed to the preservation of our natural environment and the enhancement of the appreciation of the distinctive features of our surroundings, and to the economic well-being of the areas in which they exist; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the completion of the Northville-Placid Trail; and

WHEREAS, The Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) is a long distance north-south hiking trail that runs nearly the entire length of the Adirondack Park from Northville to Lake Placid, winding through the river valleys and accessing some of the wildest areas of the Northeast; for those who value solitude, human-powered recreation, and the restorative powers of wilderness, the NPT represents a rare experience; and

WHEREAS, The NPT is one of the oldest hiking trails in the United States; its construction began in 1922 and was completed in 1924 as the first major project of the newly formed Adirondack Mountain Club; and

WHEREAS, Initially called the Long Trail, its designation was changed to avoid confusion with Vermont's recently undertaken long distance trail of the same name; both of these trails predate the Appalachian Trail, and are part of the legacy of protecting and enjoying the wild spaces of this country through foot-travel; and

WHEREAS, The initial process of building the trail was made easier by the history of logging in the Adirondack Park; much of the paths were former logging roads, leading to camps deep in the woods; one of the most famous characters of the NPT, the hermit Noah John Rondeau, was a former logger who set up his 'Cold River City' at one such abandoned camp he had previously worked in; his hermitage is one of the most iconic landmarks along the trail, nestled in an area as far from any road as possible; and

WHEREAS, The low-lying nature of the river valleys the trail follows also allowed for an almost organic passage between the various mountain ranges in the area; the highest the trail ever climbs is a modest 3,008 feet near Blue Mountain Lake; instead of expansive views into the distance, the hiker witnesses quiet backcountry ponds and lakes, massive old- and second-growth forests, and the rugged terrain of truly remote places; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, between the stretches of wild walking, the hiker passes through or close to Adirondack towns with options for resupply and supporting local economies; and

WHEREAS, Since its completion, the NPT has undergone a few reroutes and is now maintained by the Northville-Placid Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); it is primarily used for hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing; and

WHEREAS, Today, the NPT runs through some of the most remote areas of the Adirondack Park, making its way through forests and up hills, around rivers and ponds; a few sections will also bring you to road walks in Piseco, Wakely Dam, and Long Lake; the scenery changes constantly as you make your way along the NPT, and traversing this trail is a wonderful way to experience the beauty of nature and the Adirondacks; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Northville-Placid Trail is in direct correlation to the efforts of the Northville-Placid Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the trail and the visitors it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of organizations such as the Northville-Placid Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation which work tirelessly on behalf of protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the completion of the Northville-Placid Trail; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Northville-Placid Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.