

STATE OF INDIANA
BEFORE THE CLARKSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R-24

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
REMOVAL OF THE PROVIDENCE MILL DAM**

WHEREAS, this Town Council is the legislative body of the Town of Clarksville, Indiana, and its Town Council president selected under Ind. Code § 36-5-2-7 is the town executive, pursuant to the provisions of Ind. Code § 36-5-2-2; and,

WHEREAS, this Town Council has previously gone on record as being in full support of the Origin Park development that is being developed by River Heritage Conservancy; and,

WHEREAS, an integral part of the Origin Park development plan is the removal of the Providence Mill dam across Silver Creek within the unincorporated territory of Clark County, Indiana, in order to enhance paddling and fishing opportunities to the general public; and,

WHEREAS, this Town Council has been informed that River Heritage Conservancy, through its environmental consultant, Ecosystems Connections Institute LLC, has applied for a construction permit in a floodway from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) to complete the removal of the Providence Mill dam, and that DNR issued a Certificate of Approval for Application # : FW-30915-9 on June 9, 2021 (the “Permit”), a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “1”; and,

WHEREAS, this Town Council has further been informed that on June 25, 2021, the City of New Albany, Indiana (“New Albany”), filed a petition with DNR for administrative review of the Permit as Administrative Cause No. 21-027W, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “2” (the “New Albany Petition”); and,

WHEREAS, this Town Council now adopts this Resolution for the purpose of reaffirming and ratifying its full and unqualified support of the Origin Park project, including without limitation, the removal of the Providence Mill dam.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Clarksville, Indiana, as follows:

1. Findings. The Town Council hereby makes the following legislative findings:

a. The New Albany Petition raises objections and issues that are well outside of the terms and scope of the Permit.

b. The Town Council has had Town staff and consultants perform an extensive review of studies and literature regarding the removal of low head dams similar to the Providence Mill dam, and has now been informed that:

(i) Removal of this type of “run of river” structure marginally INCREASES flood capacity of the drainage systems and floodways.

(ii) Removal of this type of structure supports a decline in harmful algae blooms that threaten both public health and river system ecology.

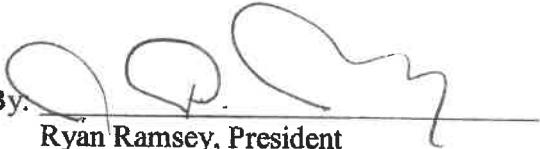
(iii) Removal of the Providence Mill dam will eliminate acknowledged “attractive nuisances” that put public health and safety at risk in certain high water elevation and/or flow conditions.

(iv) Removal of this the Providence Mill dam will benefit native fish and mussel populations, thus improving sport-fishing conditions throughout the Southern Indiana region.

2. Conclusions: Recommendation. Based on the foregoing, this Town Council hereby concludes that the removal of the Providence Mill dam as proposed by River Heritage Conservancy as part of the Origin Park development overwhelmingly enhances and supports the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Clarksville and the residents of the Southern Indiana region generally. As such, this Town Council hereby requests that DNR reject New Albany's objections and affirm the issuance of the Permit.

So Resolved by majority vote of the entirety of the membership of this Town Council during a properly noticed and convened public meeting held on this _____ day of July, 2021.

CLARKSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

By. 
Ryan Ramsey, President

Attested by:


Robert P. Leuthart, Clerk-Treasurer