



## New Jersey Highlands Coalition

# October Update

### Conformance

At September's Highlands Council meeting, the petitions for the townships of Sparta and Hardyston were approved. Both township's petitions included land in the Preservation Area, but not the Planning Area. This brings the total number of municipalities to have completed basic conformance to 30!

The next Highlands Council meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 1:00 PM. There are numerous resolutions that could come before the Council at this meeting but the agenda has not yet been posted.

### Energy Issues

The Clinton Township Council held a special meeting with Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee, Fight the Pipe and numerous concerned citizens to allow for more information regarding the proposed pipeline project that would impact Clinton, Franklin, and Union townships in the Highlands. We are working with and supporting Fight the Pipe in opposing the construction of this pipeline.

We are also following and commenting on the development of another pipeline loop, the Northeast Upgrade Project proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline. This loop will include the construction of a 30" diameter pipeline through High Point, Long Pond Ironworks, Ringwood, and Ramapo Mountain State Parks, and additional land preserved through the Green Acres Program.

### Outreach

We have attended numerous events hosted by our affiliates this month. We were at the Morristown Green Film Festival, Boonton Day, and Sparta Harvest. We will be attending the Raritan Headwater Association's Country Fair, the State Federation of Women's Club's Fall Conference in Bridgewater, a Green Acres celebration in Princeton and the Last Fling Pumpkin Sling in Harmony. Come out and join us! For more information contact Erica Van Auken at [erica@njhighlandscoalition.org](mailto:erica@njhighlandscoalition.org).

In other news, be sure to visit our [Facebook](#) page to read a great column featured in The Star Ledger about the importance of protecting the resources of the Highlands and the Pinelands. This column was signed by Governors Kean, Byrne, Florio and Whitman!

## Upcoming Events

We will be holding our annual meeting in the beginning of October at the Merrill Creek Reservoir. Three guest speakers will discuss Highlands-related issues:

Rick Lathrop of Rutgers University will talk about his book, [The Highlands: Treasured Landscapes, Critical Resources](#), which will be published by Rutgers University Press later this year.

Eileen Swan, Executive Director of the Highlands Council, will speak to us about "*Conformance: Next Steps, Who's Taking Them, What Must They Do to Complete the Process?*". We will learn what happens next in towns that have completed the first stages of conformance and what the public should know and do.

Maeghan Brass of Keep It Green will talk about the next phase of the Keep It Green Campaign.

For current listings of Highlands-wide events, go to the "Highlands Events" section of our [website](#).

*The New Jersey Highlands Coalition represents a diverse network of organizations - small and large, local, regional, statewide and national - and individuals with the common goal to protect, enhance and restore the New Jersey Highlands and to preserve the quality and quantity of drinking water both for the 850,000 people in the Highlands as well as the more than 5.4 million people in surrounding areas who depend on Highlands water. For more information visit our [website](#).*

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