

TOWN OF BEDFORD

FOUNDED 1680

Westchester County, New York

PROCLAMATION SIMON SKOLNIK

WHEREAS, Simon Skolnik, a Katonah resident for the past 47 years has long history of distinguished service to the community, saying “my focus is always on the environment – being the greatest thing that I can do for the Town”; and

WHEREAS, after 25 years of service (1993-1997 and 2000-2021) as Chair of the Town of Bedford Conservation Board, Simon is stepping down, (but not stepping off); and

WHEREAS, Simon has also been dedicated to preserving Katonah's unique history, and was the Chair and driving force behind the 1997 yearlong celebration of the Centennial of Katonah's move.

WHEREAS, recognizing that development is important in society, the Conservation Board became a key factor in helping to educate the Town Board on the importance of safeguarding the environment in regards to development; and

WHEREAS, Simon, with the Conservation Board, worked alongside Bedford's Town Boards, helping to create ordinances including the tree ordinances, regulations of developments on steep slopes, protecting ridge lines, limiting night time illuminations and protecting aquifers; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the board, Simon spearheaded grant writing, receiving grant and awards over the amount of \$150,000 for conservation projects; and

WHEREAS, some of the projects include tree plantings, the Town's rain garden, the mapping of Bedford, the sunflower project, vine cutting; a recent grant from the state for \$50,000 for the maintenance of public trees that was matched with monies already budgeted by the town for tree maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Town received a grant of \$30,981.00 for the town to map potential wildlife corridors that connect large habitats in our town with the intent of the Town Board considering a future ordinance providing these identified areas with added protections for their preservation as regions of high biodiversity and open space; and

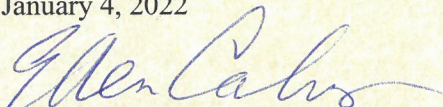
WHEREAS, to our great benefit; Simon's participation in the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC President since 2020) has kept Bedford at the forefront of environmental activism in New York State, with Bedford initially hosting the annual conference in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Simon and the love of his life, Martha hope to resume their plans to travel that were curtailed in 2020. For now, they continue to enjoy time with their 2 sons, Max who lives in DC with his wife Ericka their grandchildren Julian and Cleo; and Michael who lives in Brooklyn with his wife Paola and their grandson Mateo; and

WHEREAS, we honor Simon today for his outstanding service to the Town of Bedford as a whole as a community leader and an active and engaged resident. His countless volunteer hours have without a doubt positively touched the lives of all the residents of our beautiful community. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that January 4, 2022, is proclaimed Simon Skolnik Day in all the land.

January 4, 2022


Ellen Calves, Supervisor

