

RES-2005-047
9-07-2005
60

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION

Approval of a Conservation Easement Between
Orange County and Dr. Charles Keith

WHEREAS, Orange County has adopted goals promoting the preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, farmland and open space in the County; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has adopted measures that exceed State minimum standards to protect public water supply watersheds, including the University Lake watershed, which provides drinking water to the residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, one component of the Lands Legacy Program is the acquisition of conservation easements on lands that include natural areas, wildlife habitat and riparian buffers within water supply watersheds; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Keith owns 81 acres of land adjacent to Pickard's Mountain and including headwaters of Morgan Creek within the University Lake Protected Watershed; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Keith has already protected 45 acres of the property with a conservation easement that he granted to the Triangle Land Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Keith wishes to permanently protect the remaining 36 acres of the property, which includes a restored 1830s log cabin, an Arboretum and undeveloped forestland; and

WHEREAS, a conservation easement provides a win-win scenario – ensuring the preservation of this private property for future generations and providing some level of financial compensation to Dr. Keith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Commissioners does hereby 1) accept on behalf of Orange County the conservation easement in the property owned by Dr. Charles Keith that is described in the conservation easement agreement; 2) approve the execution of this conservation easement agreement with Dr. Charles Keith, in accordance with the terms of the attached easement agreement, subject to final review by staff and the county attorney; and 3) authorize the Chair and the Clerk to sign the easement agreement on behalf of the Board, with a closing to occur on or about November 30, 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board thanks Dr. Keith for his civic-minded interest in pursuing this conservation easement through the County's Lands Legacy Program.

This the 7th day of September, 2005.



Moses Carey Jr., Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners



Donna Baker, Clerk to the Board