

NPDC/Skillman Village Timeline

Prepared by Montgomery Twp. Officials, January, 2007

1898: The State of New Jersey begins to acquire land in the Skillman section of the Township and opens the New Jersey Village for Epileptics – initially operating out of the original John A. Voorhees House (later named Maplewood).

1930s: The thousand-plus-acre Village housed more than 1500 patients and staff in more than 100 buildings. Because the Village demonstrated that epileptics could lead productive and meaningful lives, it is a landmark in the treatment of epilepsy.

1952: The Village was closed and transformed into the New Jersey Neuropsychiatric Institute (“Institute”), which served patients with severe psychiatric problems and/or addictions.

1983: The Institute became known as the North Princeton Developmental Center (“NPDC”), an institution for people with severe developmental disabilities and/or addictions.

1995: The State officially shut down the NPDC, declared it surplus property and began considering options for reuse of the property including possible transfer to Montgomery Township.

1997: Montgomery Township Board of Education obtained 12 acres of land on site through a lease-purchase program and built the current Village Elementary School, anticipating the Township would soon acquire the rest of the property.

1997: The Township designated the property as a redevelopment area.

1998: The last remaining patients were removed from the property.

1999: The Village Elementary School opened its doors to students.

2005: After nine years of on-again, off-again negotiations over successive administrations in Montgomery and Trenton, on December 22, 2005, the Township and the State of New Jersey signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the purchase of the property and sewage treatment plant. Also in 2005, the Township appointed a 30-member NPDC Redevelopment Concept Planning Team and received a Vision Plan, which formed the basis for subsequent planning efforts.

2006: The December 2005 MOA was approved by the State House Commission, both houses of the State Legislature, and Governor Jon

Corzine. Montgomery: (i) issued a request for proposals (RFP) and ultimately selected Weston Solutions, Inc. to assume responsibility for environmental liability and to conduct environmental remediation at the NPDC site; (ii) with assistance from local historians and the State Historic Preservation Office identified buildings to be demolished or to be left standing for possible adaptive re-use; (iii) issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for potential redevelopers; (iv) hired a firm to assist with market analysis and other aspects of redevelopment planning; (v) prepared building demolition specifications; (vi) completed negotiations with Weston on an environmental liability transfer agreement (“Guaranteed Fixed Price Environmental Liability Transfer Agreement” or “ELTA”); (vii) completed negotiations with the State to convert the MOA into a Purchase and Sale Agreement; and (viii) began preparations to close on the NPDC property and take title. The property was officially renamed “Skillman Village” by the Montgomery Township Committee.