HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, throughout the United States, chronic disease is on the rise; health care costs continue to rise; and more children are suffering from illnesses that have historically been associated with adults; and

WHEREAS, it is now widely accepted that the conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age (known as the social determinants of health) have the greatest influence on health outcomes across populations; and

WHEREAS, the policies typically implemented by local municipalities are outside of the traditional health sector that significantly affect the social determinants of health including policies related to food access, housing, transportation, public safety, education, sustainability, climate change, parks, air and water quality, criminal justice, and economic development, and healthy choices; and

WHEREAS, public health agencies and organizations will need to work with those who are best positioned to create policies and practices that promote healthy communities and environments through healthy public policies; and interagency collaboration can lead to improved decision-making and outcomes and greater efficiencies in service delivery; and

WHEREAS, Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas; encompasses a wide spectrum of activities and can be implemented in many different ways requiring innovative solutions and a new policy paradigm; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Elon residents are critical for a prosperous and sustainable community while simultaneously advancing other goals such as promoting job creation, economic stability, transportation access and mobility, a strong agricultural system, environmental sustainability, and educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Elon Bicycle, Pedestrian and Lighting Plan Update is a renewed effort to develop a strategy for the development of a safe, secure and comprehensive network of sidewalks, trails and on-road bicycle lanes that serve recreation and transportation needs. In addition, Town is addressing health in the Land Development Ordinance, the Code of Ordinances, lighting, traffic calming, and the planning effort is a major step forward for walking and bicycling in Elon, and

WHEREAS, by adopting a “Health In All Policies” approach, the Town of Elon recognizes that all local municipalities can have a role in achieving health equity, defined as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people; and

WHEREAS, achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally and addressing avoidable inequalities, historical, and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Elon will consider health in policy development and implementation and service delivery and will make an effort to identify and pursue opportunities to improve health through safe and healthy housing; active living and transportation; access to healthy food, clean air, water, and soil; parks, recreation, and greenspaces; economic opportunity; and safety and violence prevention. Adopted this 11th day of April 2017.

Major

ATTEST:

Town Clerk