TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

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PROCLAMATION 26-005
HONORING HISTORIC BEECH RIDGE SPEEDWAY

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Scarborough, Maine in Town Council assembled that,

WHEREAS, James "J.B." McConnell had a dream. Logging was his trade but racing his passion. He traveled up and down the New England coast promoting races, but envisioned building a permanent track in Maine; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. McConnell purchased land on Holmes Road and Two Rod Road and, without outside investors, recruited his logging crew to clear the land and build what would become one of Maine's most iconic motorsports venues; and,

WHEREAS, construction on Beech Ridge Speedway began in 1948, and the 1/3-mile oval officially opened on May 20, 1949, launching more than seventy years of racing tradition in Scarborough; and,

WHEREAS, in 1949 J.B. McConnell formed the Maine State Stock Car Racing Association, an organization that lasted for 35 years. J.B. served as its president for four terms; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. McConnell was inducted into Maine Vintage Race Car Association Hall of Fame Class of 2004; and the New England Auto Racers Hall of Fame Class of 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the McConnell family supported every aspect of the Speedway's operations—from maintaining the track and buildings to running concessions and supporting race day activities, representing a multi-generational commitment that helped sustain the Speedway; and,

WHEREAS, Warren "Wardie" Hamilton, Mr. McConnell's son-in-law, demonstrated decades of dedication to the Speedway and the racing community, continuing his service until his passing in 2013; and,

WHEREAS, Beech Ridge Speedway became one of Maine's most recognized short tracks, hosting countless racing events, helping develop drivers, and bringing together racers, crews, officials, volunteers, sponsors, and fans from across New England; and,

WHEREAS, the Speedway contributed significantly to Scarborough's cultural, recreational, and economic vitality by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and creating lasting traditions and community connections across generations; and,

WHEREAS, Beech Ridge Speedway became a cherished landmark and an enduring part of Scarborough's identity, preserving the traditions of grassroots motorsports in Maine and leaving a lasting legacy; and,

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the continued efforts of family, community members and supporters to preserve and commemorate the history and legacy of Beech Ridge Speedway; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Town Council of Scarborough, Maine, hereby honors the history, legacy, and impact of Beech Ridge Speedway and expresses deep appreciation to all individuals and families whose dedication made it a treasured institution in the community.

Signed and dated this the 19th day of August, 2026, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and Town Manager.

Signed by:	Cory R. Fellows Council Chair	Attested by:	Yolande P. Justice Clerk to the Council