

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Ed Schwarz, Vice-Chairman Catherine Minter, Michiel Zegers, James Smith, Ted von Rosenvinge and Sarah Schlechter

Mr. Schwarz opened the February 23rd meeting of the Weston Conservation Commission at 7:30 p.m.

SET WALK DATE

The walk date was set for March 11, 2017. The Commissioners will meet at the site at 8:00 a.m.

RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:

- Iron Shields Investments, 31 Hidden Spring Drive, Single Family New Construction

MOTION TO RECEIVE:

Mr. Schwarz made a motion to receive the application for Iron Shields Investments and Mr. Zegers seconded. All in favor, the motion carried (6-0).

DISCUSSION/DECISION: TOWN OF WESTON, DAVIS HILL ROAD, WESTON DOG PARK

Mr. Schwarz explained to those in attendance that the Commission is limited to hearing only wetlands concerns. John Conte, Town Engineer and Mark Harper, Animal Control Officer, came forward to present the application. Mr. Conte explained that the proposed location of the dog park is the "Moore Property" which the Town purchased a few years ago. It is bordered by Lords Highway East and Davis Hill Road and the entrance would be south on Davis Hill. He noted that it is a 35 acre parcel with natural stone walls sectioning off parts of that parcel. The dog park would utilize a small portion of the 35 acres and the parking area would be 2.5 acres with a small portion of that for entrance. Mr. Conte noted that the Soil Scientist located the location of the wetlands and indicated that it is a small area adjacent to Davis Hill on the easterly section, which is why they are here for review. He indicated the location of the park and noted that the only tree removal is for the immediate parking area which would be for 15 parking spaces. Mr. Schwarz questioned how far from wetlands is the parking area and Mr. Conte stated that it is 65 ft. with the closest point at the entrance. He also noted that the first portion of the entrance will be paved but the remainder of parking area will be gravel. He then explained how they would handle drainage and runoff.

Ms. Minter questioned whether they would install silt fencing at the paved portion to prevent erosion? Mr. Zegers questioned whether there would be any plowing? Mr. Conte stated that they are not recommending use during snow fall, and have no intention to plow. There will also be a chain across the entrance and Parks & Recreation will be in charge of maintaining the park.

Mr. Schwarz questioned why they can't move further away from the wetlands and Mr. Conte explained that the land gets steeper and there is bedrock. Discussion on maintenance of the park ensued.

Mr. Conte then indicated the specifics of the paved part of the driveway construction and the construction sequencing. He then handed out a copy of the proposed Park Rules.

Mr. Harper noted that Parks & Rec has a guy that goes around to the town parks and picks up garbage and fines will be heavily enforced for waste not picked up. He also noted that any violations more than twice will end up in eviction and banned from future use. Mr. Harper then explained why he picked this particular parcel noting that it is an interior section of the parcel and will have no impact on wildlife. It is the clearest piece that doesn't have a lot of invasive species of briar bush which is a big carrier of ticks. Mr. Conte then noted that the area will be fenced in with a 5 ft. high fence and an emergency gate.

John Matlock, 11 Lords Highway East, stated a concern with how to prevent others from out of town coming in to use the park. Mr. Schwarz explained that is not a purview of the Commission. Mr. Harper noted that they have limited the number of parking spots to address that concern.

Cindy Harmino questioned whether there will be an environmental impact follow up.

Jeff Farr, Richmond Hill Road, noted that the area is heavily wooded with a lot of deer in the area and therefore a lot of ticks, any questioned whether there was expectation in future that would be doing spraying for ticks? Mr. Harper stated that they have no intention of spraying of any kind.

Hearing no further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Zegers made a motion to approve the application for Town of Weston, Davis Hill Road, Dog Park as shown on plans prepared by Paul Hira, P.E. dated and revised 2/23/16. Mr. von Rosenvinge seconded. All in favor, the motion carried (6-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schwarz made a motion to approve the Minutes from January 26, 2017 and Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor, the motion carried (6-0).

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Minter made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Delana Lustberg
Recording Secretary