

Present: Tom Failla, Chairman; Jane Connolly, Vice Chairman; Don Saltzman; Ken Edgar; Sally Korsh; Britta Lerner; Richard Wolf

Also Present: Nina Daniel, First Selectman; Chris Spaulding, Selectman; John Conte, Town Engineer; Mark Harper, Animal Control Officer; Patricia Sullivan, Town Attorney; Tracy Kulikowski, Land Use Director; members of the public

Digitally recorded on 4/17/17

YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSGw8NM6CIM>

DISCUSSION/DECISION [CONTINUED]: REFERRAL FOR CGS SECTION 8-24 REPORT, PROPOSED COMMUNITY DOG PARK, PORTION OF MOORE PROPERTY, MAP 17, BLOCK 1, LOT 17, DAVIS HILL ROAD

7:01 p.m. Chairman Failla stated the format of the meeting.

Members of the public who were not able to speak at the April 3rd meeting, but had signed in, were called to be given the opportunity to speak.

Those present:

Not in favor: -Freda Welsh, 22 Richmond Hill Road
-Cliff Feller, 133 Old Hyde Road

The Commission and Town representatives began a discussion. Mark Harper, Animal Control Officer, spoke regarding the property selection process for the proposed dog park. First Selectman, Nina Daniel, spoke about the comments she has received, both for and against the proposed dog park and its proposed location. First Selectman stated there is no contract between the Town of Weston and the Weston Dog Park, a non-profit organization. Pat Sullivan, Town Attorney, spoke about the 8-24 process, a report which includes whether the identified property is an appropriate use of Town land. Vice Chairman Connolly stated the details proposed between the Weston Dog Park and Town of Weston should be brought forth to the Commission for review, which includes the concept, responsibilities and duties of each party. Commission members questioned whether enough information, as would be found in a Memorandum of Understanding, was presented before them to make an informed decision.

CONT'D

Commission members continued to discuss their views and recommendations regarding the proposal. Richard Wolf recommended a study be done, giving the pros and cons of this proposed location and other town-owned property. The authority of the Commission and potential procedural steps following the 8-24 referral were discussed. Sally Korsh recommended a better analysis of the proposed location and the business points of the proposed dog park.

John Conte, Town Engineer, discussed reports that he had prepared approximately five years ago regarding suitability of various Town-owned sites, in connection with a proposed Town cemetery. Mr. Conte also addressed certain aspects of a consultant's reports submitted by those opposed to this location for a dog park. He addressed the potential design of the proposed dog park, potential environmental concerns and a traffic analysis.

The members then agreed to hear further public comment.

The following members of the public spoke:

Gary Weist – Old Hyde Road
Marcia Hutter
Keith Johnson – 44 Singing Oaks Drive
Carleigh Welsh – Richmond Hill Road
John Matluck – 11 Lords Highway East
Jeanine Lombardi – Goodhill Road
Joan Dudash – 26 Lords Highway East
Michelle Halpin – Norfield Farm Lane
Seth Anderson – 15 Richmond Hill Road
Maria Proto – 7 Roscrea
Steve Gaskin – Birch Hill Road
Evelyn Schultz – Newtown Turnpike
Frank Costello – 5 Lords Highway East

CONT'D

Ms. Daniel gave a statement and asked the Commission to go forward with providing the 8-24 referral report. Ms. Daniel is continuing to look at potential alternative locations, but requests the Commission to provide their report on this proposed location. Mark Harper spoke regarding crime concerns.

The Commission members discussed closing further public comment. By a 4-3 vote (for, Chairman Failla, Korsh, Lerner and Wolf, opposed, Saltzman, Edgar and Connolly), the public comment period was closed.

Britta Lerner stated that all of the information provided to the Commission has been valued, read and appreciated.

9:08 p.m. Public comment officially closed

The Commission requested John Conte provide reports he presented this evening and asked Maria Proto, on the Weston Dog Park Board, to provide the members with information on the organization, including a charter and any fundraising activities. The members asked the Town to provide additional information.

The members agreed to continue this discussion on April 24, 2017.

9:11 p.m. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

AnnMarie Fontana, Administrative Assistant

Approved: May 1, 2017