### **Weston Conservation Commission**

24 School Road Weston, Connecticut 06883-1028

### PERMIT

To conduct a regulated activity or activities under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations. This Permit shall expire five years from the date of approval. If permitted activity will not be completed by the expiration date, Application for Permit Renewal must be submitted prior to that date.

Application/Permit Number 18-01

Permit Number 18-01

Map 17 Block 1 Lot 17

Address of Permitted Property:

**Lords Highway East** 

Name of Owner(s): Town of Weston

Name of Applicant/Authorized Agent:

Town of Weston/John Conte

Address:

56 Norfield Road

Expiration Date:

Date of Approval: May 3, 2018

May 3, 2023

Activity or Activities: establishment of a dog park with parking

Reference: Map(s)Plan(s) Title:

Latest Revision Date:

### See attached list of documents

Under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 22a-36 to 22a-45 and the Town of Weston's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, and having reviewed all facts and circumstances bearing on the application, the Commission finds that the proposed activity will have no substantial adverse impact on inland wetlands or watercourses, provided that the approved plan and the standard conditions and any special conditions of this Permit are fully implemented. The duty and obligation to comply with the approved plan and the standards conditions and any special conditions shall rest exclusively with the Applicant and all heirs, successors and assigns. All Permits are subject to the following general conditions:

- A. Prior to the commencement of any work on the site, the Contractor Compliance Agreement must be signed and returned to the Commission's office by the contractor who will perform the permitted activity.
- B. Implementation of the erosion and sedimentation control plan prior to any site preparation activity. Erosion controls are to be inspected by the applicant weekly

and after rains and all deficiencies must be remediated within twenty-four hours of finding them. The applicant shall maintain such control measures until written permission is received from the Conservation Planner to remove such measures.

- C. Upon completion of the work, the Applicant or the Applicant's Designated Agent shall submit a letter to the Conservation Commission stating that the property was developed and the work completed as permitted.
- D. Per CGS Sec. 22a-42a (d) (2), as amended, "Any permit issued under this section shall be valid for five years. Any such permit shall be renewed upon request of the permit holder unless the agency finds that there has been a substantial change in circumstances which requires a new permit application, provided no permit may be valid for more than 10 years."
- E. Any changes in approved plans shall require notification to the Commission and may require that a new application be made.
- F. Applicant agrees, represents, and warrants that it will obtain all required federal, state and local permits prior to commencing any work on the site.
- G. The deposition and/or removal of any earth, loam, topsoil, humus, sand, gravel, clay, stone, or quarry stone to and from the property shall be subject to Section 240-36 C. of the Zoning Regulations of the Town of Weston.

The Commission also approved, at the Town's discretion, moving the dog park to alternate locations for the chain link fencing for the dog park, to the west of the driveway shown on the plan or closer to Lords Highway East, shown on the map as location A and location B. It can be no larger than the original proposed 3.5 acre dog park area, and they must stay at least 30 feet from the property line to the western border.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please feel free to contact me at (203) 222-2681.

Sincerely,

David R. Pattee

Conservation Planner

# PROPOSED DOG PARK; LORDS HIGHWAY EAST, MOORE PROPERTY; MBL 17-1-17 CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPLICATION 18-01; TOWN OF WESTON

Date/Date Recd

Pages Document Title

Certificate of Mailing [Special Meeting Agenda for 4-26-18]	4	4/20/2018
Letter from Town Engineer to Commission; Enclosure: Property Survey	4	4/25/2018
Letter from Town Engineer to Commission Encl: WMC Consulting Engineers Re Amended Drainage Eval	34	4/25/2018
Letter from Town Engineer to Commission Re: Cultec Recharger	1	4/25/2018
Conservation Commission Special Meeting Agenda for 4-26-18		4/26/2018
Exhibit G to Intervenor's Supplemental Memo: Report from Trinkaus Engineering, LLC	5	4/26/2018
Exhibit F to Intervenor's Supp Memo: 4-30-10 Memo: Town Engineer to First Selectman Re Cemetery	2	4/26/2018
Exhibit E to Intervenor's Supplemental Memo: Report from SavATree	ω	4/26/2018
Exhibit D to Intervenor's Supplemental Memo: Ridgefield Article	2	4/26/2018
Exhibit C to Intervenor's Supplemental Memo: New Canaan Article	2	4/26/2018
Exhibit B to Intervenor's Supplemental Memo: Report from JMM Wetland Consulting Services, LLC	18	4/26/2018
Exhibit A to Intervenor's Supplemental Memo: GIS Map		4/26/2018
Intervenor's Supplemental Memorandum	<b>∞</b>	4/26/2018
Letter from Robert & Jane Atkinson to Commission	1	4/26/2018
CD of Videos taken by Robert Casson on 4-16-18		4/26/2018
CD of Videos taken by Sid Dudash on 4-16-18		4/26/2018
Conservation Commission Special Meeting Draft Motions for 4-26-18	_	4/30/2018
Conservation Commission Special Meeting Agenda for 5-3-18	1	5/3/2018
Legal Notice Decision	_	5/7/2018
FOI Request from Steve Nevas to Conservation Commission	2	5/7/2018
FOI Request from Steve Nevas to Conservation Commission	<b></b>	5/7/2018
Conservation Commission Special Meeting Draft Motions for 5-3-18		5/7/2018
Conservation Commission Special Meeting Draft Minutes for 4-26-18	6	5/9/2018
Conservation Commission Special Meeting Draft Minutes for 5-3-18	2	5/10/2018
Email from AnnMarie Fontana to Stephen Nevas Re: PDF copy of Intervention sent to Commission	<b></b>	5/10/2018
The Weston Forum Legal Notice Publication of Decision		5/10/2018

10-2-06/2-20-18 1 Apper	9	7	2-15-18/2-21-18 82 Subm	1	2/22/2018 4 Conse	2/22/2018 2 Email	9		2-22-18 12	1	2/22/2018 1 Portio	2/22/2018 1 Portio	_	2-20-18/2-22-18 4 Email	2/22/2018 8 From	4-3-17/2-22-18 1 Apper	4/3/17/2-22-18 104 Joann	2/26/2018 1 Notice	2/27/2018 1 Email	3/5/2018 2 Letter	3/13/2018 1 Letter	3/14/2018 1 Notice	3/14/2018 1 Notice	3-13 to 3-15-18 2 Email	3/22/2018 1 Conse	4/2/2018 2 News	4/19/2018 3 Revise	4/19/2018 1 Apper	4/19/2018 20 Att to	4/19/2018 1 App A	4/19/2018 33 Att to	
Appendix B-1 to Intervention Petition: Memo Re: Asphalt Millings	Appendix A to Intervention Petition: Report from SavATree	Petition to Intervene Pursuant to CGS 22a-19	Submission of Robert Casson: Letter / Attachments / CD	Conservation Commission Special Meeting Agenda for 2-22-18	Conservation Commission Special Meeting Minutes for 2-22-18	Email from Lisa Brodlie to Tracy Kulikowski	Pictures of Moore Property and Surrounding Property	Drainage Map 30	Report: The Nature Conservancy's Saugatuck River Watershed	GIS Map of 9, 11 & 15 Lords Highway East	Portion of Property Survey [Page 2 of 3]	Portion of Property Survey	Property Survey Alternate Road Access [Page 1 of 3]	Email of John Conte & HydroCAD Software Solutions LLC	From John Conte: Revised Drainage Report	Appendix G of Joanne Butler's Letter and Exhibits	Joanne Butler's Letter and Exhibits	Notice of Continued Public Hearing for 3-26-18	Email to Stephen Nevas from T. Kulikowski Re: Submission Deadline	Letter to Commission from S. Nevas Re: Incomplete Application	Letter from First Selectman to Commission Re: 28-day Extension	Notice of Continued Public Hearing for 3-26-18 — Meeting Canceled	Notice of Continued Public Hearing for 4-26-18	Email to Stephen Nevas from T. Kulikowski Re: P.H. & 3-5-18 Letter	Conservation Commission Special Meeting Minutes for 3-22-18	News Alert: Dog Park vote passes in Weston	Revised Access Driveway Plan: Attachment: Revised Property Survey	Appendix B to Revised Access Driveway Plan: Appendix G of Joanne Butler's Letter and Exhibits	Att to Rev Access Driveway: Intro Saugatuck Rvr Watershed & Saugatuck Rvr Watershed Partnership	App A to Revised Access Driveway Plan: Public Drinking Water Source Protection Areas for Weston CT	Att to Revised Access Driveway Plan: WMC Consulting Engineers Re: Drainage Evaluation	Revised Access Driveway Plan: Letter from Town Engineer to Commission

1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018	1/23/2018
44	. 2	5	_	5	11	<b>∞</b>	Ų	6	5
Appendix K to Applicant's Submission: Previous Soil Reports for Davis Hill Road Access Property Survey	Appendix J to Applicant's Submission: Aquifer Protection Areas	App I to Applicant's Sub: Letter from Weston American LL/Weston Parks & Rec/Weston Soccer Club	Appendix H to Applicant's Submission: Dog Park Rules	Appendix G to Applicant's Submission: Agreement Letter: Town of Weston/Weston Dog Park, Inc.	Appendix F to Applicant's Submission: Highway Capacity Analysis	Appendix E to Applicant's Submission: Traffic Counts	Appendix D to Applicant's Submission: Cost Estimates	Appendix C to Applicant's Submission: Letter from WWHD	Appendix B to Applicant's Submission: Drainage Report

# APPELLATE COURT STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PAC-200014

DANIA FELLER ANDERSON ET AL.

٧.

TOWN OF WESTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOVEMBER 20, 2020

### ORDER ON PETITION FOR CERTIFICATION TO APPEAL

ON CONSIDERATION OF THE PETITION BY THE PLAINTIFFS FOR CERTIFICATION TO APPEAL, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED DENIED.

BY THE COURT,

RENE L. ROBERTSON
ASSISTANT CLERK-APPELLATE

NOTICE SENT: November 20, 2020 HON. TAGGART D. ADAMS COUNSEL OF RECORD CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT, FST CV18-6036841-S

DANIA FELLER ANDERSON, SETH ANDERSON, SIDNEY A DUDASH,

JOAN DUDASH, BRIAN O. WELSH, CAROLYN L. WELSH, FREDA WELSH,

DENNIS SARITSKY, FRANK COSTELLO,

CLIFFORD FELLER

CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF WESTON

## INTRODUCTION

Dania Anderson, and the nine other residents of the Town of Weston, Connecticut (Town) identified in the above caption, appeal the decision of the Weston Conservation Commission (Commission) dated May 3, 2018, approving the Town's application for a wetlands permit on Town owned property in connection with the Town's plan to establish a dog park of 3.5 acres in size, including a 1,200 foot access road, a 22 vehicle parking area and an 80 foot turn around area. The Town property on which the dog park is to be located is approximately 36.5 acres in size, and has been referred to in the record as the "Moore Property". In April 2018. Weston voters passed a measure approving the establishment of a dog park on the Moore Property by a vote of 888 to 798. Docket Entry (DE) 109.00, pp. 435-436; Return of Record (ROR) 71.

This court heard limited testimony and full arguments at the trial of this case on January 14, 2020. In arriving at its decision the court has read and considered the briefs of the parties, the entire record of the proceedings before the Commission, including all testimony, documents, and other materials, some of which were submitted in the form of flash drives.

### II. JURISDICTION

The plaintiffs, Sidney and Joan Dudash, are statutorily aggrieved as abutting landowners to the Town property. It is claimed that Freda Welsh and Carolyn Welsh also own abutting property, and this is not contested by the Town. Other plaintiffs, the Andersons, Welsh, Savitsky, Costello and Feller are classically aggrieved because they intervened in the proceedings before the Commission while it was considering the Town's application. Finley v. Inland Wetland Commission of the Town of Orange, 289 Conn. 12, 25-26 (2008) (person who intervenes in administrative proceeding is entitled to appeal the decision). On February 20, 2018 eight individuals intervened in the proceedings before the Commission pursuant to General Statutes §22a-19 (permitting such intervention in any local administrative proceeding affecting air, water or other natural resources of Connecticut). DE 109.00, pp. 130-136; ROR 37.

### III. STANDARD OF REVIEW

The standard of judicial review of administrative agency action centers on the concept of "substantial evidence." The leading commentator on Connecticut land use law has described the concept as limiting a court's authority to reverse a land use agency decision on factual findings, if there is substantial evidence in the record to support those findings. Attorney (and former Superior Court Judge) Robert Fuller points out that the doctrine imposes important limitations on the power of a court to overturn a decision of an administrative agency and provides a more restrictive standard of review than standards using weight of the evidence or clearly erroneous

action, stating "[i]t is something less than weight of the evidence." Fuller, Connecticut Land

Use and Practice, 4th ed. §33:12, pp. 325-326 (2015) found at 9A Connecticut Practice Series.

In a recent opinion the Connecticut Appellate Court affirmed this court's decision in

Putnam Park Apartments, Inc. v. Planning and Zoning Commission of Town of Greenwich, 193:

Conn. App. 42 (2019) and described the substantial evidence rule as:

"similar to the sufficiency of the evidence standard applied in judicial review of jury verdicts, and evidence is sufficient to sustain an agency finding if it affords a substantial basis of fact from which the fact in issue can be reasonably inferred .... [I]t must be enough to justify, if the trial were to a jury, a refusal to direct a verdict when the conclusion sought to be drawn from it is one of fact for the jury .... The substantial evidence rule is a compromise between opposing theories of broad or de novo review and restricted review or complete abstention. It is broad enough and capable of sufficient flexibility in its application to enable the reviewing court to correct whatever ascertainable abuses may arise in administrative adjudication. On the other hand, it is review of such breadth as is entirely consistent with effective administration... The corollary to this rule is that absent substantial evidence in the record, a court may not affirm the decision of the board."

Id., 54 [quoting from Meriden v Planning and Zoning Commission, 146 Conn. App. 240, 246-247 (2012)]. See also, Farmer v. Easton Conservation Commission, Superior Court, judicial district of Fairfield at Bridgeport, CV 17-6063560 (March 23, 2018, Radcliff, J.)(2018 WL 1883579)

The Putnam Parks Apartment court drew on a long line of Connecticut Supreme Court cases elaborating on and defining the substantial evidence rule. E.g. Tarullo v Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 263 Conn. 572, 584 (2003) ("the possibility of drawing two inconsistent conclusions from the evidence does not prevent an administrative agency's finding from being supported by substantial evidence ...." [quoting Samperi v. Inland Wetlands Agency, 226 Conn. 579, 587-588 (1993) and citing Huck v Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, 203 Conn. 525, 540-542 (1087)].

### IV. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

There is some confusion in the administrative record of this matter. In part, the confusion stems from very poor transcripts of the several public meetings held by the Commission. This necessitated the filing of "corrected" transcripts and the filing of various returns of record in the court docket. See e.g. Docket Entries 109.00, 110.00, 112.00, 116.00, 117.00, 118.00 and 124.00. After some false starts in preparing this decision the court accepts the Commission's statement that the "entire" record is found at Docket Entries 109.00 and 124.00. See DE 124.00 at 1.

### V. <u>DISCUSSION</u>

The plaintiffs assert a number of claims in support of their appeal. Among other things, they emphasize the claimed failure by the Town and the Commission to identify, locate, and inventory wetlands in or close to the proposed dog park in violation of Commission Regulation §215-3. C; failure to identify and take into account the steep slopes of the area and flooding and ponding of adjacent land, and not requiring the Town, as applicant, to describe how the dog park would "change, diminish or enhance" the function of the wetland involved. The plaintiffs also claim the Commission violated its Regulation §215-11 by not stating on the record its reasons for its decision. The court will discuss those claims in the following portions of this decision.

In considering the dog park application the Commission was charged with the limited task of determining whether the proposed use would have an adverse effect on wetlands.

"The sine qua non of review of inland wetlands applications is a determination whether the proposed activity will cause an adverse impact to a wetland or a watercourse."

River Bend Associates, Inc. v Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission, 269 Conn. 57, 74 (2004) (italics in original). "A significant potential for impact to wetlands is insufficient the impact must be likely and adverse..." Patchen v. City of Milford Inland Wetlands Agency, 2015

WL.1244327, Superior Court; judicial district of Ansonia-Milford (Stevens, J., February 25, 2015) quoting Cocchiola Paving Inc. v Oxford Conservation Commission, Superior Court, judicial district of Ansonia-Milford, CV 14-6015102 (January 8, 2015, Hiller, J.) This limited jurisdiction conferred on the Weston Commission was recognized by its Chairman Michiel Zegers who commented near the outset of the hearings that "our charge in Weston . . . is [to] address the ... wetlands and watercourse regulations in town. We don't address other issues, unless those issues impact the wetlands." DE 124.00 at p. 6 of 437; ROR 104b at p. 1. In response to a direct question from Commissioner Rosenvinge, John Conte, Town Engineer, who presented the Town's application, affirmed that there was no argument being made that the dog park would impact wetlands. DE 124.00, p. 16 of 437; ROR 104b, 11.

expert, Steven Trinkaus that is found at DE 109.00; ROR 41, pp 153-156. Specifically, Conte disputed Trinkhaus' conclusion that the dog park project would increase the volume of surface waters and further stated the small amount of drainage would not affect the wetlands which were 520 feet away. DE 124.00, pp. 10 and 20 of 437; ROR 104b, pp. 5-6. of 437; ROR 104b, 15. Nevertheless, Conte made some changes to accommodate the Trinkaus view resulting in a part of the project being "over-designed", in Conte's opinion. DN 124.00, pp. 10-11 of 437; ROR 104b, 5-6.

The Westport Weston Health Department provided two letters to Conte from its director, Mark A.R. Cooper. The first stated his opinion that "the added nitrogen from dog urine at the proposed park ...would be diminutive with no off site impact." The second emphasized the proper use of dog feces receptacles in the proposed park. In addition, Conte stressed to the Commission that rules regarding pick-up of solid waste would be strictly enforced and in the

proposed dog park there would be additional receptacles for dog waste. DE 124.00; ROR 104b, pp.32, 35-36, 40-41. Further, Conte repeatedly emphasized to the Commission any increased water drainage would not affect the wetlands. DE 124.00, 20-21 of 437; ROR 104b, 15-16.

At a continued public hearing on April 26, 2018 soil scientist Otto Theall stated there were no wetlands or watercourses within one hundred feet of the dog park's proposed road and parking area DE 124.00, p. 158 of 437; ROR 104d, 18. As pointed out by the plaintiffs in their reply brief, Mr. Theull candidly testified at the Commission's April 23, 2018 hearing that he had not done any research on "how likely [dog parks] are to contaminate nearby wetlands. I was asked to delineate wetlands." Reply Brief, DE 131.00 at 18; DE 124.00 p. 215 of 437; ROR 104d p. 75. In that regard, Theall reported there were no wetlands found within a hundred feet of the proposed road based on fifty soil samples taken in the subject area. DE 109.00, pp. 18-21 of 605; ROR 5, pp 18-21.

Plaintiffs contend that the Commission overlooked, or ignored, evidence and information provided by Robert Casson, a Weston resident opposing the dog park who took a video in April 2018 near the wetlands in question during a rainy day (2.3 inches) showing water runoff in that area. This narrated video was shown to the Commission at its April 26, 2018 meeting by Casson who does not live close to the proposed dog park. DE 124.00, p 118 of 437, ROR 35. Mr.

Casson, who describes himself as a biologist, also submitted a lengthy and thoughtful written document in opposition to the Town's dog park application. DE 109.00, pp. 181-273. He made three main arguments: (1) the Town had not made an adequate assessment of all the "environmental factors associated" with the selection, design, operation and maintenance of the dog park leaving open the possibility of contamination of *inter alia* wetlands, woodlands and animals; (2) the Town ignored the potential benefits the Moore Property as a whole, and (3) the

Town's proposed use of Recycled Asphalt Product (RAT) for the surface of the proposed road was dangerous. The RAT proposal was eventually dropped in favor of a gravel roadway.

The Commission also had before it a report of Wengell, McDonnell and Costello, Inc., consulting engineers (WMC) sent to Conte. DE 109.00, pp. 504-537. ROR 80. This report concluded:

Any minor increase in flow to the wetland area as a result of the construction of the access drive and parking lot associated with the Dog Park would require storm-water runoff to travel 500 ft. overland through the natural terrain and forest litter before reaching any point of concern. It is our opinion that any increases in peak flows during the 50 yr. storm event are negligible and will not result in adverse impacts to the wetlands or areas down gradient east of Davis Hill Road.

Id., 505.

There were also pictures and reports of erosion in the southern portion of the proposed dog park compiled by James McManus and George Logan, two soil scientists who were consultants hired by the plaintiffs. In their written report before the Commission (found at DE 109.00, pp. 554-560 and ROR 85) McManus and Logan made the following comments and conclusions:

"A careful review of the area of the proposed 20-foot wide, gravel access road and parking areas, as well as the area of the proposed dog park, did not reveal any regulated wetlands and watercourses. However, regulated resources were observed within the eastern and southeastern portions of the overall site adjacent to Davis Hill Road"

Id 554-555. As a conclusion, McManus and Logan opined that plans for the dog park were incomplete because the wetland outside the dog park had "not been fully delineated and evaluated" and "there is no assessment or analysis of potential short-term and long-term, direct and/or indirect impacts to regulated areas in the submitted record... We are of the opinion that there is a reasonable likelihood of unreasonable pollution and degradation of on-site and off-site regulated wetlands." Id., 559-560; ROR 85. The court notes that earlier in their report dated April 25, 2018 McManus and Logan stated their opinion in a significantly different fashion, i.e. that an increase in nutrients from dog feces and urine "will change the physical characteristics of

the wetlands ... [and] will result in an adverse physical impact to the regulated resource." DE 109.00 at p. 556; ROR 85 at p. 556 (emphasis in original).

The information before the Commission contained varying estimates as to how many trees would have to be cut down primarily as a result of constructing the planned road. In his initial report to the Commission the Town Engineer Conte said no trees, except those that were dead, would be removed. DE 109.00, p. 275 of 605; ROR 49.

A report by a group, SaveATree, submitted by the plaintiffs estimated that 140 trees: would be required to be removed by the construction at the proposed new road. DE 109.00, p. 143 of 605; ROR 38. On April 19, 2018 Conte appears to have reported to the Commission that a change in the alignment at the new road would reduce the number of trees to be cut by seventeen. DE 109.00, p. 437; ROR 72.

On February 10, 2018 five Commission members walked the proposed the dog park site, and the minutes of this event noted they viewed the locations identified for the driveway, the dog park enclosure and "the wetland area" DE 109.00, p. 127 of 605; ROR 34. This event took place over two months prior to the Commission's decision to approve the Town's application.

The plaintiffs have contended that the Commission ignored or down played the issues raised by potential runoff, crosion, etc. The evidence supporting this contention is not persuasive as shown by the WMG report just discussed. Moreover, at a non-public Commission meeting that took place on May 3, 2018 the Commission noted the Town's plans to remove fewer trees than originally planned and, as noted earlier, to use gravel for the road rather than asphalt millings. The Commission also discussed differences of opinion expressed by the plaintiffs'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Court is not entirely clear how the number of seventeen was reached.

hydrologist and the Town's expert with respect to water runoff. The Commissioners found the Town's hydrologist more credible on this point. DE 124.00, pp. 342-347; ROR 104e at 19-22.

At the same meeting the Commissioners discussed the plaintiff's claim that the Town's application was incomplete because the wetlands in the subject were not delineated fully. This claim was dismissed because the Commission accepted the wetlands boundaries as flagged by the plaintiffs' soil scientist when making its determination. DE 124.00, pp. 354-358; ROR 104e 29-33. Subsequently at the meeting, the Commission approved the Town's application. DE 124.00, pr. 404 of 437; ROR 104f, p. 79. During the meeting and before a vote, members of the Commission commented that the plaintiffs (referred to as "interveners" as that point) did not want the dog park, but noted the Commission's jurisdiction was limited to wetlands and the application should be approved because, in the words of the Commission chair, "nobody has shown there would be significant impact on the wetlands." DE 124.00, pp. 392-395; ROR 104e, pp. 67-70.

Shortly thereafter the Commission voted, 4 to 1, to approve the Town application with the finding that "the Commission has reviewed all the items presented by the Interveners and we feel they have not shown there would be significant impact to the wetlands." DE 109.00, p. 603 of 605; ROR 104e. This finding, stated both in the transcript of the Commission's proceedings and the motion for approval suffices as a statement of reasons for the Commission's action.

After a careful review of the full administrative record of the Commission, the court has no doubt the record contains substantial evidence to support the Commission's decision to approve the Town's application to site a dog park on the Moore property. There was strong evidence presented by John Conte, the Town Engineer, and WMC, that water flows and other natural events would not affect the nearby wetlands. There was little persuasive evidence that

dog urine or feces would be a problem or have an adverse impact of those wetlands. Soil scientist Otto Theall specifically offered no findings on the likelihood a dog park would contaminate the nearby wetlands.

The plaintiff made specific objections that the Commission was not compliant with its own regulations namely sections 215. 3C, 215-7.D (5) and 215-7.E (3).<sup>2</sup> The first regulation (215. 3C) requires the Town to inventory and maintain current records of regulated areas within the town. The parties agree that the wetlands at issue do not appear on the Weston Wetlands Map. However, the court does not find the omission fatal to the Commission's decision, because new wetlands are discovered, located or created all the time. In addition, the Commission had full information about the specific wetlands at issue at the time it considered and ruled on the Town's application. The Comission's review was not hampered by the fact that the specific wetlands were not included on the Weston Wetlands Map.

Regulation 215-7D(5) requires an applicant to describe how its project "will change, diminish or enhance the ecological communities or functions of the wetlands... involved in the application." The Town Engineer stated on more than one occasion that the subject application would have no such effect. Even though the plaintiff's experts opined otherwise, the Commission had substantial evidence to support its agreement with the Town Engineer.

Plaintiffs also assert the Commission did not properly enforce its Regulation § 215-7E

(3) requiring an applicant to certify whether "water runoff from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private property." DE 124:00 p. 424 of 437. The plaintiffs' assertion is plainly wrong. The Town's application is found at DE 109.00, pp. 9-11, and the box signifying "water runoff from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> These regulations are found at DE 124.00, pp. 415-437; ROR 105.

property within the adjoining municipality" is not checked. This is perfectly appropriate because this portion of the application refers to proper notice being given to "adjoining municipalities," a circumstance not pertinent to the dog park application before this court.

### VI. CONCLUSION

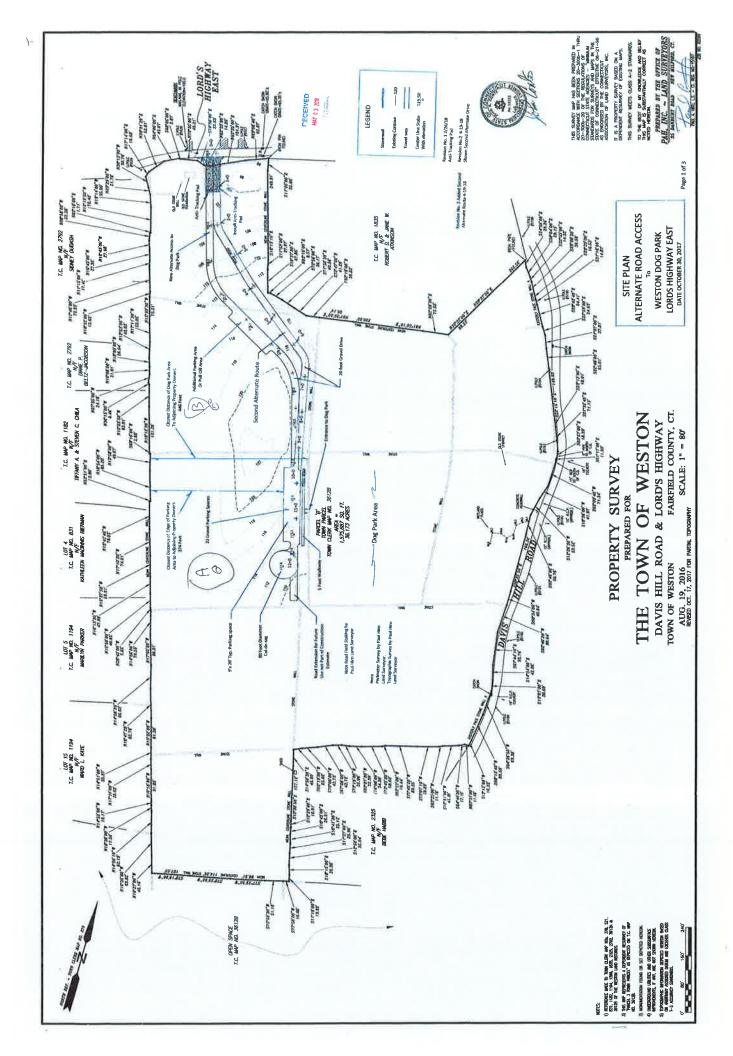
The plaintiffs in their initial petition to the Commission and by this appeal have evinced sincere concern over the effect of the proposed dog park and the attendant access road and parking facilities. The Commission for its part was diligent in assessing the information presented by the plaintiffs, the applicant Town and other sources was and careful to recognize both the limitations and responsibilities of its duties and jurisdiction.

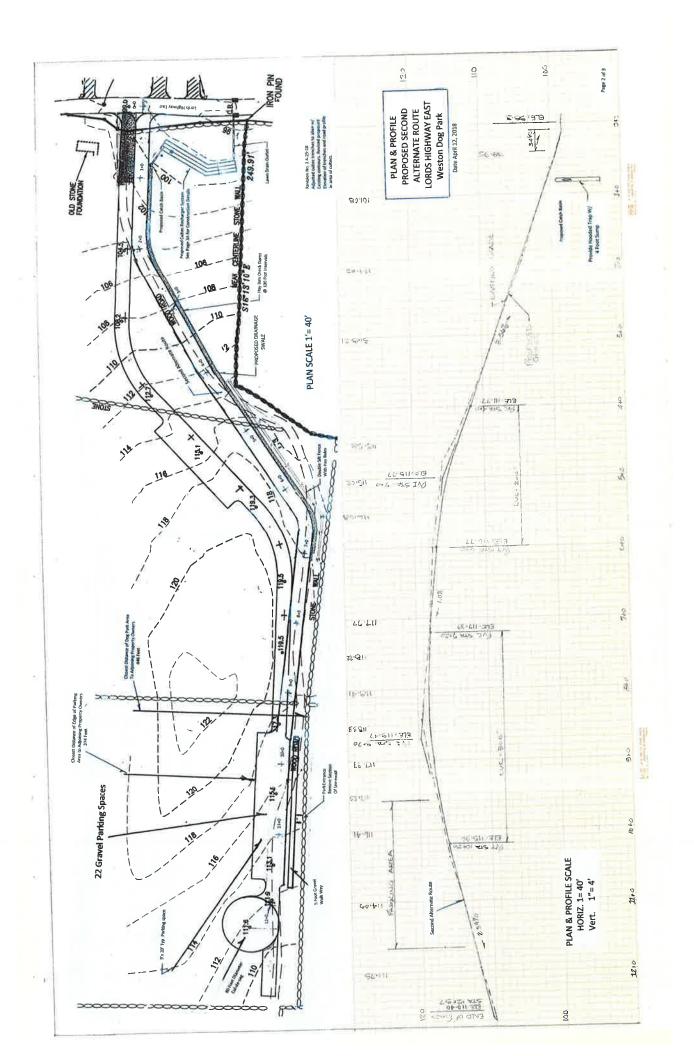
For the reasons stated above the court finds there is substantial evidence to support the Commission's determination, and the appeal is dismissed.

BY THE COURT.

TAGĠAÈDD. ADAMS, JUDGE TRIAL REFREE

Decision entered in accordance with the .....
foregoing 8-26-2020, JDNO
Notice sent, ander 3000.
Andrew Lorenzo





Construction Notes Standard Specifications for

TYPE "CG" CATCH BASIN TOP

5 Foot Gravel Walkway

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DRIVEWAY & GUTTER DETAIL CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE 1 (P) 10 (P)



DOUBLE SILT FENCE W/ HAYBALE

GRASSED CHANNEL DETAIL

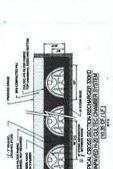
CONSTRUCTION NOTES & DETAILS ALTERNATE ROAD ACCESS WESTON DOG PARK LORDS HIGHWAY EAST DATE OCTOBER 30, 2017

CASE APPEARANCE AND CONTR.

WOTE ATTENTION FABRIC DOSE
WITH FOURIER TRESONERS
SOLL AND BATTENTS OF SERVICE
STAN MACION OF LEAVING

THEFOR COTT

TEMPORARRY SILT FENCE CHECK DAM



Typical Cross Section Recharger® 330HD Unperved H20 Installation

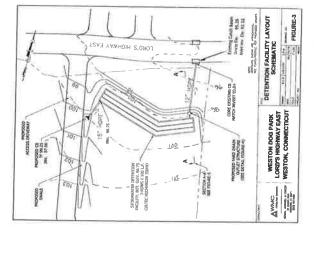


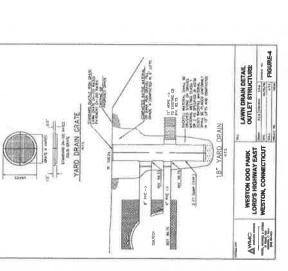
Revision No. 1 Double Six Fence with Hay Bales 1-22-18 Revision No. 2.2/26/18
Process Stone Road Base
See of Leaching System
See of Catch Basin Grates

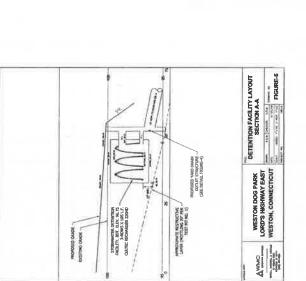
Page 3 of 3

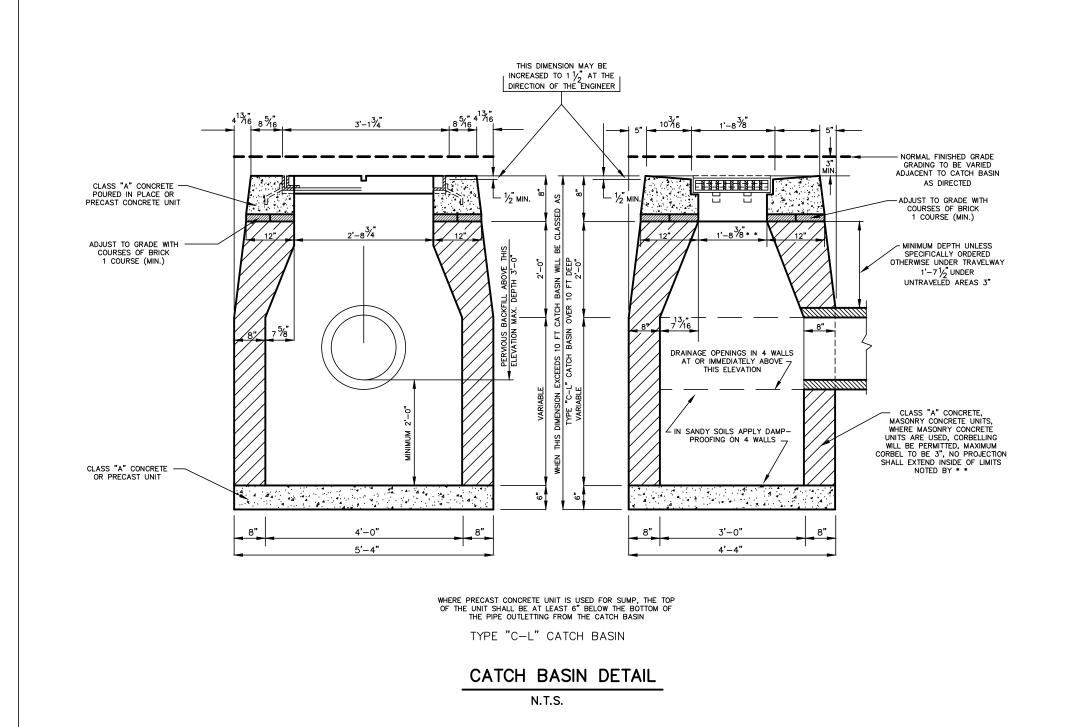
CULTEC RECHARGER SYSTEM
WESTON DOG PARK
LORDS HIGHWAY EAST
Westen, CT Date 425-18

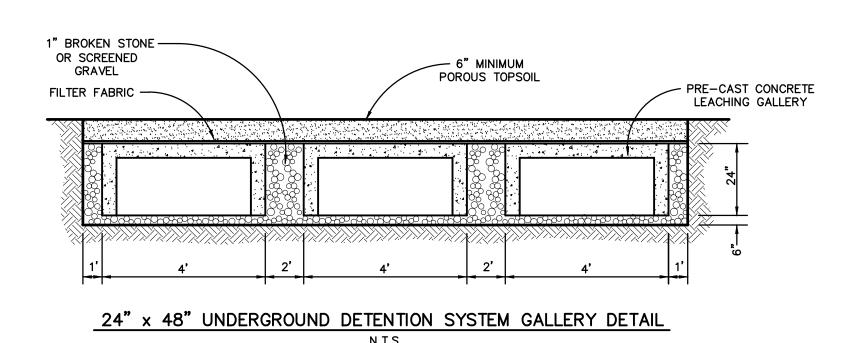
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

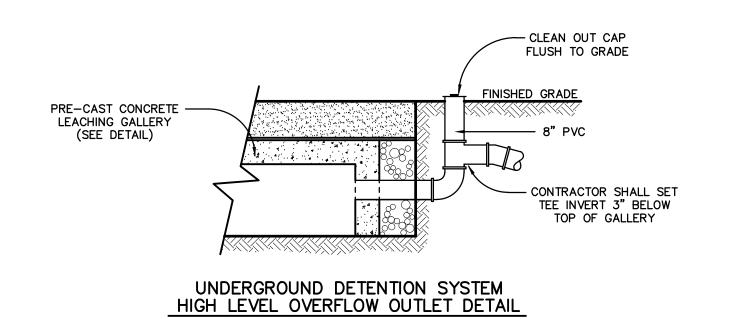


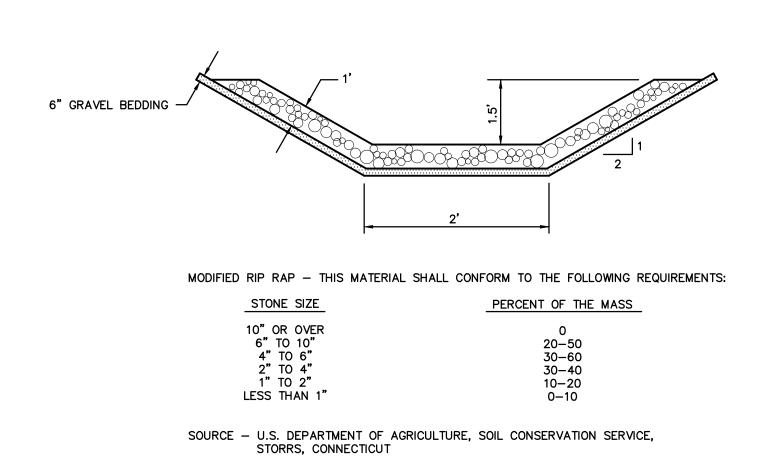




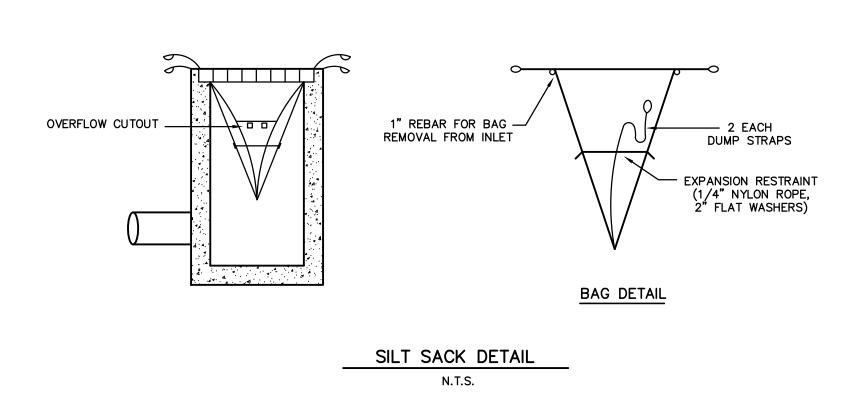


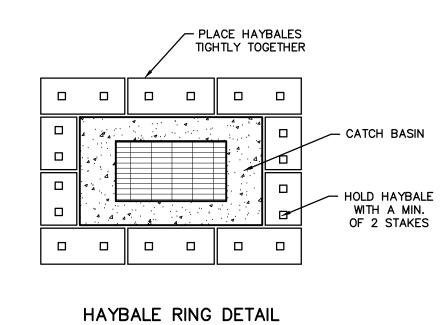


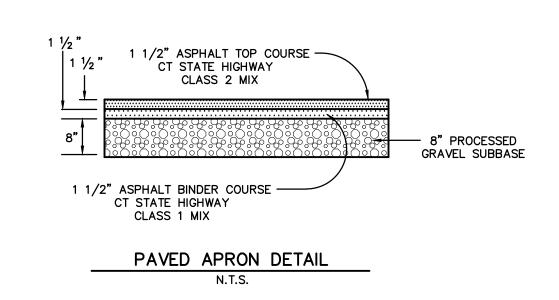


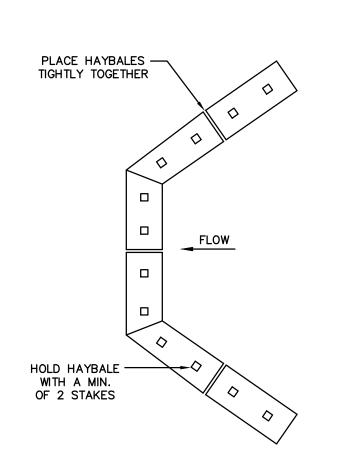


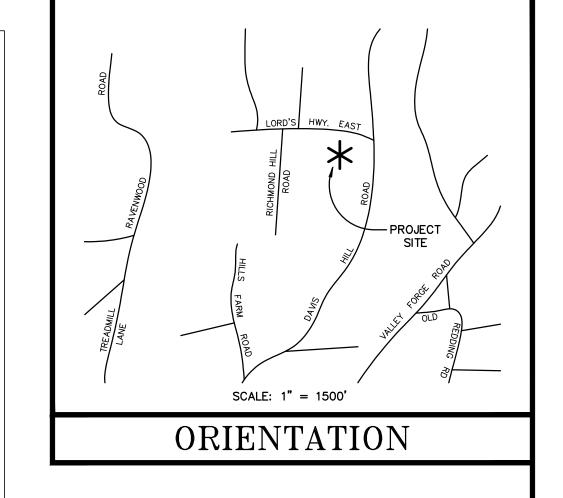
# RIP RAP CHANNEL DETAIL N.T.S.



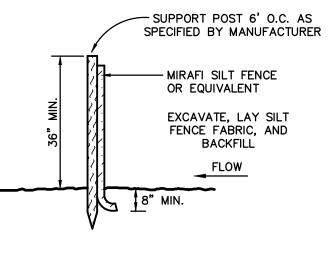




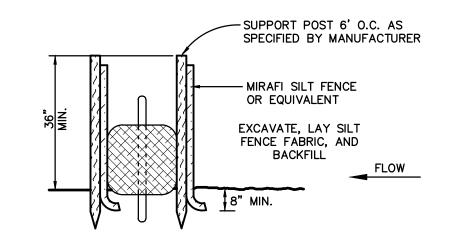




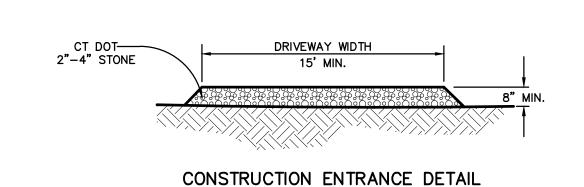
HAYBALE CHECK DAM DETAIL

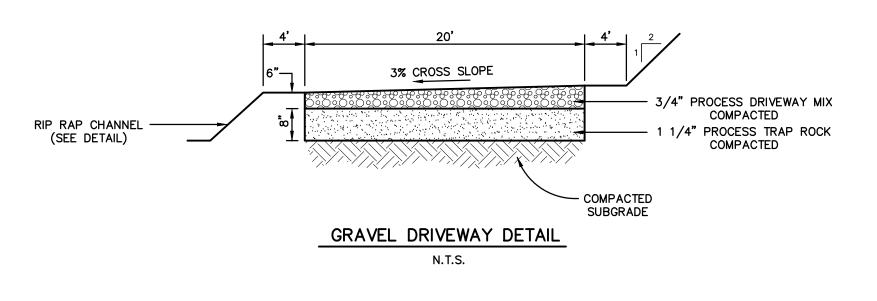


SILT FENCE DETAIL



DOUBLE ROW SILT FENCE BACKED WITH STAKED HAYBALE DETAIL





N.T.S.

