

Attachment 1

April 19, 2017

To:

Nina Daniel, First Selectman Town of Weston

Jonathan Luiz , Town Administrator

Tracy Kulikowski, Land Use Director

From:

The Weston Parks & Recreation Commission and David Ungar, Director Parks & Recreation Department

Re: Town owned Dog Park property options

The Parks & Recreation Commission was presented with a proposal at their regular meeting of February 13, 2017 for a Dog Park to be located at the Moore property on Davis Hill road.

After the proposal by Mark Harper and John Conte, and after Commission discussion, the Commission approved going forward with the plans for a dog park for this specific site.

Looking over the Town owned options for space for the proposed Dog Park that have adequate parking available I have the following report to submit.

Morehouse Farm Park, Newtown Tpk. 32.5 acres. All available usable land is currently developed with five athletic field areas, a pavilion storage building and parking lots with space for approximately 150 cars. The land not developed is ledge and undevelopable for this purpose.

Morehouse Farm Park is home to various sporting activities, specifically Weston Soccer with 600 participants, playing spring, summer and fall. Weston Youth Softball with 90 participants, 50/70 Little League, and an Adult Softball group that plays on Sundays. The fields are used 7 days a week with fields used after school during the week and all day on Saturday and Sundays. There are no fields at Morehouse that go unused. Presently, No dogs are allowed at Morehouse Farm Park and it is posted as such.

Bisceglie – Scribner Park, Newtown Tpk. 56 acres. This Town property is divided in half by the river. The developed part is divided in to two areas. First area is off of Newtown Turnpike and has three regulation Little League fields, a pavilion, scorer's booth and snack shed. There is parking for just over 100 cars available which is sufficient for three fields and also the pond use during the summer. The Weston Little

League has 305 participants and they play three seasons. The second developed area is Bisceglie – Scribner pond. This is a man made 200 feet by 80 foot blacktop swimming pond which is open in the summer free to Town Residents. The pond area also has a playground (which is open year round), picnic tables and three outbuildings for rest rooms, life guard house and maintenance equipment. The pond is enclosed by a four foot chain link fence and is fed by wells. Last summer we had a pond registration of almost 1,000 pond passes to our residents. All of the area that is not developed is wetland area or the ½ mile 22 station Kiwanis fitness trail. The second half of Bisceglie is across the river and has no access other than by Hillside Road, a one lane road with limited area for potential vehicle parking. This half of the park is mostly wetlands and is not desirable for a dog park due to its topography and wetlands and lack of access to adequate parking.

Important to note, When the Weston Intermediate School was built, the new School was put on the site of two well used baseball / softball fields. When the High School addition was constructed, this was put on the site of the HS varsity baseball and softball fields. This necessitated moving the HS baseball fields to Revson Field where we had two heavily utilized soccer fields. This was one of the many reasons for the Town constructing the Morehouse Farm Park fields and the Bisceglie- Scribner Park fields. Not necessarily as extra playing field space but as space needed in part to replace fields we lost due to the school construction.

Keene Park, River Road 12 acres. This property is a small pocket park with a toddler playground, picnic tables and a trail to the river. The area is mostly wetlands and has a small parking lot for approximately 10 -15 cars. This parking lot is used by fishermen and users of the playground.

Weston Transfer Station, Godfrey Road East. The Transfer Station is gated off after hours and no vehicular access is allowed after 3:45 due to the transfer station being closed. I am also unsure of any regulatory issues with a dog park being on top of a capped landfill. Although the property is large it is not a viable area as far as I am concerned for these reasons.

In Conclusion, The Parks and Recreation Commission does not believe any of these alternate locations to be appropriate for a dog park and any approval that was provided by the Commission was with respect to the Davis Hill site only.