



Allen Township Supervisors

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Ilene M. Eckhart, Manager

ALLEN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

RE: Savage Road Trail Extension & Dog Park Development

Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:00 PM

A Special Public Input Meeting of the Allen Township Supervisors was held on Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067. Purpose of the meeting has been published to obtain public input regarding the proposed development of the Savage Road Trail Extension & Dog Park Development.

Present: Supervisors: Michelle Drzewiecki and Bruce Frack; Ilene Eckhart, Manager. See attached sign in sheet.

Mr. Frack provided a brief background of the proposed use of the property located on the western side of Savage Road on Northampton County's Nor-Bath Trail Parcel, as well as the status of the project proposed by the Township to create a Trail Extension and Dog Park Development.

Summary of Comments:

Robert Kern, Phyllese Drive, voiced his objections to the dog park development portion of the proposal. He was supportive of the trail extension. He objected to the spending of tax payer money for a park for dogs.

Barbara Sommers, Hogan Way, questioned who ultimately decides if this project goes forward, the Board or the citizens of the Township. She further questioned who was fiscally responsible if a dog bite occurs at the facility and who will fund perpetual maintenance for the project? She felt the area would be better utilized as a passive, natural recreation area.

Metro Leshak, Kohls Road questioned how many residents contacted the Township desiring the Township initiate the project? He further questioned how many dog licenses were issued by Northampton County for the past year?

Patricia Yost, Oak Hills Drive, questioned the maintenance and was concerned with taxes considering all the improvements that would be required such as a water fountain and feces cleanup? She

questioned the cost for the City of Bethlehem to run their facility. She further questioned who would monitor the area and who will respond if there is a problem? She was concerned with irresponsible pet owners who would use the facility and not follow the rules.

Robert Jakoubek, Saw Grass Drive, indicated that the signage on the existing adjacent Nor-Bath Trail specifies "No Pets" and that our proposal allowing dogs would be contradictory to the County's position. He presented pictures of signage used at other facilities for the Board's use if the proposal is developed.

Dick Stewart, Oak Lane, stated he was in favor of the area to be established for people to exercise their dogs.

Mike Nagle, Snow Hill Road, indicated he was in favor of the proposal. He further questioned if plantings would be native species. He further suggested that there be an area at the entry of the dog exercise area that was paved. He indicated a problem exists at the facility in Bethlehem, where the entry is not paved and this area becomes very muddy.

Tom Ronnie, Bally Drive, he felt the field area on the north side of the parcel would be a much better place for the dog exercise area.

David Drzweicki, Old Gate Road, voiced support for the project.

Merrit Snyder, Hogan Way, was concerned regarding the proper enforcement of rules.

Jim Yost, Oak Hills Drive, was concerned that any dog may bite.

Judy Brownmiller, Phyllese Drive, was concerned with the location of the parking lot and also requested the Township consider possibly moving the portion for the dog park area to the northern side of the parcel (trail). She indicated she was not opposed but asked that whatever is decided be done in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

Laird Brownmiller, Phyllese Drive, indicated he would rather see the dog park than another playground.

Frank Hrkach, Oak Lane, voiced concerns regarding perpetual maintenance.

Mr. Frack and Mrs. Drzewiecki thanked everyone for their comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart
Manager