

Zoning ordinance change paves way for Lucky Dog Park

Written by KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM
Wednesday, 10 April 2013 18:38

Lucky Dog Park is one step closer to reality.

The Port Washington Common Council on Tuesday amended the city's zoning ordinance to allow dog parks as a conditional use in three zoning districts — agricultural, industrial and public and utility lands.

“Dog owners are looking for appropriate places to exercise their dogs,” Ellen Paulus, who with her husband Bob is proposing the dog park in the city's industrial park, told aldermen.



Paulus said the park could be a great asset to the city and its residents, as well as a draw for tourists.

She was the only person to speak during a public hearing on the ordinance change, which was unanimously approved.

The Pauluses still need to obtain approval from the council for a conditional use permit that would allow them to develop a one-acre dog park next to their printing shop at 1270 Mineral Springs Dr.

That action, which was recommended by the Plan Commission last month, is expected to occur at the Common Council's Tuesday, April 16, meeting.

To create the park, the couple plan to fence the roughly one-acre of land surrounding their

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shop, Paulus Printing, then subdivide the area for large and small dogs.

A smaller area would be set aside for people to rent for limited time periods, she said. It would be ideal for dogs that aren't suited for a group setting or owners who don't want their dogs interacting with other canines.

If all goes well, Paulus said, the couple would eventually like to build an indoor running arena, similar to a horse arena, that could be used in winter or during inclement weather.

The goal of the park is to provide an enclosed area where dogs can socialize, exercise and play off leash, Paulus said.

Lucky Dog Park would be a private facility, with families paying daily, monthly or annual fees as members.

Before a dog could use the park, it would be checked to ensure it has proper vaccinations and the right temperament to interact safely with others, Paulus said.

She and her husband would monitor the park at all times, she added.