



285 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796
860-672-6346 • www.littleguild.org

August 29, 2023

Re: Proposed Temporary Location at Foote Field of The Little Guild

Dear Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am writing to give additional context to our request to use a small portion of Foote Field as a temporary location. The Little Guild is in dire need of a new facility and has been working toward this goal for several years. We provide an animal control facility for the town, which is required by state law, and provide myriad services related to animals and people who own them throughout the area. We currently own a hilly 2 acre triangular property, which severely impacts our flexibility for a new building. We reached an agreement with our neighbor, The Cornwall Conservation Trust, for a lot line adjustment which will give the Trust a trailhead for the Trust on our property and will give the Guild a property that will be more trapezoidal in shape and thus easier to build on. Challenges for the building remain, including the terrain.

Because of the range of necessary services that we provide and our very strong desire to retain our staff of 10 and our volunteer base, it is critical for us to stay open during the estimated year or so of construction. We had been planning to build the facility immediately adjacent to the current facility and stay open in our current facility while construction took place on the site. We were advised that it was feasible though challenging. However, when we examined what that would entail in terms of site work, it was untenable as it would mean, among other things, almost a million dollars of site preparation, remediative landscaping and added constructive effort.

Thus, we are in need of a temporary home. We explored several options, including the possible use of the old Torrington animal shelter, but our regulator would not allow it. Working with our regulator, we created a plan to use two construction trailers (one for staff and one for cats) and a small, prefabricated kennel for 6-8 dogs. We need water, parking and an electrical hook up for these trailers and kennel, which severely limits the locations we might use. We approached the Town for help and suggested the firehouse next to us or the transfer station, neither of which was ultimately practical because of possible interference with town functions, among other issues. Foote Field has the space, water, parking and electrical hook up and was on a busy, accessible road. Working with the Town, we chose a location on the field that would least intrude on town functions.

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When our new facility is complete, Cornwall will have a beautiful animal shelter, paid for primarily through the generosity of foundations and individuals with help from the Town, that will provide space for students and groups to come and visit and a place we can all be proud of. We intend to be excellent neighbors and look forward to serving Cornwall and the area for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Doeblin, Board President

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