

April 10, 2017

Warren Goetsch
Doug Owens
Illinois Department of Agriculture
801 Sangamon Ave.
PO Box 19281
AG BLDG FL 001
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Dear Mr. Goetsch and Mr. Owens:

This letter is in response to the request we received on March 31, 2017, for more information concerning the park referred to as Bob Harn Memorial Park. This park was mentioned in the letter we submitted to you on March 16, 2017, on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Isabel Township.

The original name for the park, Bob Harn Memorial Park, was suggested by members of the Concerned Citizens of Isabel Township group to honor Bob Harn who was the original property owner where the park is located. He and his wife, Jean Ann, were dedicated members of Isabel Church and hosted church-related gatherings on their farm property for many years spanning several generations. A great number of church and community-related projects benefitted from his generosity; however, he preferred to do so anonymously and did not want additional recognition. On March 19, 2017, the church membership requested the park be renamed to Isabel Memorial Park based on what they felt would have been Mr. Harn's wishes. The park's sign reflects this change and is the name shown on the map on page 3 of this document. This map also documents the distance from the proposed site of the facility and the park at 3281 feet, which puts the park within the setback area.

The park's neighbors, Pat & Laura Ebert, who have lived there since 2002, have continued Bob & Jean Ann's tradition of hospitality by hosting numerous events for family, friends, and neighbors, which have included local and out-of-state visitors. Their gatherings have ranged from extended weekends to special events throughout the summer with camping, games, and other recreational activities (campfires, fishing, swimming, boating, and 4-wheel rides). They also offered a space for vendors during both weekends of the Spoon River Scenic Drive held annually in our area in October.

We have not used a documentation system in the past to record the names of visitors to the park, but have implemented one now. As of 4/9/2017, the park has had 134 visitors since this system was put into place. As requested in your letter, we have provided a partial listing [see page 4] of the people who have attended events at the park in the past and who plan to attend future events. This list was developed with input from Isabel Church members and local residents based on their memories of past events. We believe attendance at these past events exceeded the 50-person requirement and will continue to do so for future events held at the park.

We also believe the number of visitors to the park will continue to increase as the weather gets warmer and people are able to enjoy the picnic area, walk around the pond, and attend the events scheduled for the upcoming months. These events include an Easter Egg hunt, two wedding receptions, and gatherings for Memorial Day weekend, the July 4th holiday, and Labor Day weekend with plenty of food, recreational activities, and camping. Isabel Church will be holding events at the park for its members and their friends, such as a picnic potluck in July and a wiener roast in September. The park will be open for local vendors and their visitors during the first two weekends of October for the 50th annual Spoon River Scenic Drive. Additionally, local residents may use the park for family gatherings by contacting the property owners at the phone number listed on the park's sign.

The Concerned Citizens of Isabel Township will continue to document the visitors to the park to demonstrate that the park meets the definition of a “common place of assembly” or “populated area” under the law for purposes of determining setbacks. We believe a minimum of 50 people per week will visit the park when it is open for events, and so believe it is a common place of assembly and that setbacks should be measured accordingly.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We await the Department’s written response regarding how this issue is being addressed.

Submitted on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Isabel Township:

Mike & Tracy Tomm, Representatives
14002 E Back Road, Lewistown, IL 61542
309-338-1520
ttomm68@gmail.com

CC: Governor Bruce Rauner, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Sen. Jil Tracy, Rep. Norinne Hammond, Sen. Dave Koehler, Rep. Mike Unes

Isabel Memorial Park (aka Bob Harn Memorial Park)

Map created with Google Maps showing the distance from proposed building site and the southwest border of the park.



Visitor Information for Isabel Memorial Park (aka Bob Harn Memorial Park) as of 4/9/17

Pat & Laura Ebert
Jake Wolfel & family
Darlene Wieland
Corbin Tomm & family
Kimberly Terry & family
Ted Tarvin & family
Debbie Richardson
Derek Porter
Anna Pierson
Carol Palmer & family
Kate Murphy & family
Rhonda Morris & family
Karen Moore
Shawn Minor
Lindsey, Madison, & Alex Ebert
George Lake
Amanda King & family
Sharan Kellogg & family
Brant Johnson & daughter
Laurie Johnson
Jane Huggins
Steve Hoover & family
Linda Graham & family
Michael Graham
Sherry Graham
Jade Ebert & family
Tabitha Ebert
James Chrysokos
Pat Campbell & family
Doug Brooks & family
Keisha Brooks & daughter
Erin Briar
Shelva Beck
Michael Barker & family
Katrina, Ava, & Evan Hartsock
Roger Arnett & family

Cindy Arnett
Les & Vicki Ebert
Chuck & Tracy Mustered & family
Mike & Tracy Tomm
Don & Sherry Beatty
Gil & Sheila Shilling
Allen & Sallie LaRiviere
Richard & Rorie Dixon
Tara & Ron Ward & family
Gary & Robin House
Leon & Peggy Kiltzmilller
Matt & Michelle Howe & family
Jason & Melissa Goldring & family
Joel & Medina Musser & family
Brian & Lonna Porter & family
Brian & Liz Bohannon & family
Sam & Linda Porter & family
Mike & Karen Snedeker & family
David & Judy Howe
Cheryl & John McDaniel & family
Skylar Tomm
Jeremy & Jessica Mustered & family
Brian & Jenny Stilts (Indiana)
Mike & Jeannie Ebert
Monte & Janet Graham
Chris & Heather Ebert
Brenda & Gary Scheland & family
Greg & Felicia Jeurgens & family
John & Connie Hardy
Craig & Cindy Porter & family
Michael & Cassie Thomas & family
Jean & Carmen Ebert
Cody & Brittany Richardson
Jason & Beth Sebright & family
Jody & Anna Pierson
Jim & Angel Richardson