

May 15, 2023

Township of West Orange
Planning Board
66 Main Street
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Re: Essex County Turtle Back Zoo
Animal Wellness Center
Block: 163 Lot: 13
West Orange, New Jersey

Project No. 22-11-001

Planning Board,

Please find below a brief description of our proposed project at the Turtle Back Zoo.

Essex County is proposing to remove the existing Wolf Exhibit at the Turtle Back Zoo in order to construct a new Animal Wellness Center.

Private Vehicular access for service and loading will be provided from Zoo access road that connects to Northfield Avenue. The access road will connect from the northern corner of the Wellness Center site to the rear of the building along a paved driveway. The public will approach the Wellness Center from the western side of the site to a raised entrance plaza in front of the building. All public areas of the site will be handicap accessible. The exterior of the building will be themed to be part of the North American habitat. Public entrance plaza will provide covered viewing areas through large glass windows into the Treatment and Nursery rooms. Zoo guests will have the opportunity to observe wellness checks and procedures as part of the zoos ongoing mission to education. The interior of the building is organized by the following functional zones. Public Zone includes entrance Lobby, display and meeting room. Private zone for zoo personnel include administrative and tech offices, Hospital, Treatment and Quarantine wings. Outdoor space on the east side of the building will house outdoor animal yards.

Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Lorrie Sciabarasi, AIA
LS/ye