

Wyckoff Suburban News

Wyckoff governing body reintroduces smoking ban in parks

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Wyckoff – The Township Committee has reintroduced an ordinance to ban smoking at outdoor public areas, excluding parking lots.

The ordinance, reintroduced on July 16 and scheduled for a public hearing on Aug. 6, adds two public areas under the "parks" definition: Russell Farms Community Park and the Larkin House, which had not been included in the law previously proposed.

The committee tabled the original ordinance introduced June 3. Committee members said that while they supported protecting children on public ball fields, they considered it an "unjustified burden" on taxpayers to prohibit smoking in parking lots of designated areas.

The smoking ban would cover all township public areas, including Memorial Field Complex, the Gardens at Wyckoff, the Zabriskie House/Museum, Zabriskie Pond and Zabriskie Park. Adhering to state law, Wyckoff already bans smoking inside public buildings.

As she did on June 3, Susan Winton of Wyckoff spoke against the smoking ban.

"You are not in control of the air we breathe," Winton said. "People can walk away, especially when they're outdoors, if they don't want to be next to someone who smokes."

Joe Savage, however, commended the governing body.

"I think what you're doing is wonderful," said Savage. "Children and adults should not have to be subject to smoke in their lungs. Please pass it."

Franklin Lakes, Mahwah and Waldwick, all towns in the Suburban News coverage area, ban smoking in their public parks.

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http://www.northjersey.com/recreation/events/216872321_Wyckoff_governing_body_reintroduces_smoking_ban_in_parks.html