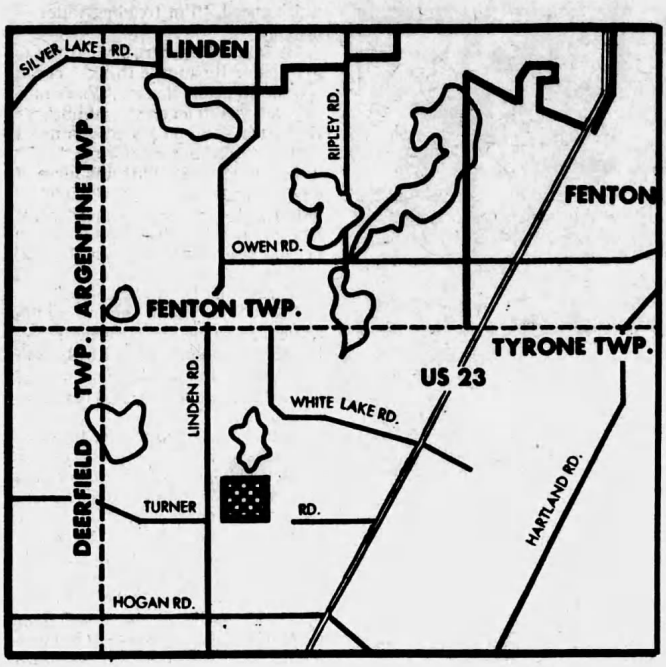
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Tyrone Twp. Board gives OK for 160-acre ski resort



Shaded area marks site of proposed ski area

By LAURIE YOUNG
Journal Staff Writer

A Mount Clemens developer received permission Monday to build a ski resort on 160 acres of agricultural land at the northeast corner of Linden and Turner roads in Tyrone Twp.

The Tyrone Twp. Board provided a special use permit for the developer, who was not identified. Andrew Tisaruk of Prominent Realty in Fenton, who is handling sale of the property to the developer, refused to disclose his client's name because the owner still is incorporating a firm, he said. Walter Tomy was the individual applying for the permit.

Township clerk Carroll C. Becker said he believes the developer is based in Mount Clemens. Michael Gilkey appeared at the Township Board meeting, saying he is spokesman for a development group. He said the group wants to keep a low profile until construction is under way.

Becker and Township Supervisor Royce E. Hyde said the proposed project could eliminate a bothersome "hangout" in the township.

"People from all over the county and Detroit make noise and tear up the property there, because it's an area they can run on and it's not supervised," Becker said today.

"We've had nothing but problems there," Hyde said Monday evening. "It's a regular hangout for motorcycles and four-wheel drives. If this group can do something constructive it not only would increase the tax base but clean up the area."

The resort is scheduled to include nine ski runs and four chairlifts, according to the group's spokesman, Gilkey. One of the runs could be more than 2,800 feet, the longest in southeastern Michigan, he said.

The ski hill site, less than a mile from U.S. 23, also may include a year-round restaurant and cocktail lounge.

The site easily will accommodate a ski resort, Gilkey said. Part of the hill already is built up and the area has weather conditions suited for skiing.

In addition to being in a snow belt, the slope faces northeast, Gilkey said. That means wind from the north and constant shadows on the hill will prevent the rapid melting of snow.

The hill, which now stands at 160 feet, probably will be raised as high as 300 feet, Gilkey said.

The site also has easy access to four U.S. 23 exits, including Silver Lake, Owen, White Lake and Center roads.

Tyrone Twp. is within an hour's drive from seven million people in Detroit, Lansing, Ann Arbor and Flint, he said.

Another group tried four years ago to build a ski resort but ran into financial and legal problems.

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