



## DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Committee Members Present:

- Tom Gillispie, Chair
- Karen Martin, Vice-chair
- Clare Siska
- Nadia Byrnes

### Other Attendees:

- Jeff Bergart
- Cathy Fochtman
- Fred Kinch

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

### I. New Business/Old Business Updates

- a. Quick Agenda Review/Clarification – 5 min
- b. Bid/Construction Updates
  - i. Sewer extension work is ongoing – start of build on pump house is TBD - update on sewer to come in next few weeks
  - ii. Housing authority has gotten approval to purchase land
  - iii. Select Board meeting – Feb 10
- c. FBO work
  - i. Rules
    1. Discussed enforcement plan
      - a. With questions / concerns – contact Rec Dept
      - b. Cathy to follow up with Melissa at Rec Dept to confirm this is okay
    2. Discussion of unaltered dogs
      - a. Believe that due to evolving veterinary recommendations and the fact that there is already content around behavior proposed in the rules that we do not specify
    3. Inclusion of required license
      - a. Tom checking with Thom to confirm whether requiring a license potentially
      - b. conflicts with the requirements of MGL

- 4. Weight limits
  - a. No prescribed limit for small dog - Allow owners to determine what constitutes a small dog
- 5. Visualization of rules
  - a. Karen's niece, who did the ACDP logo, will work on some mock ups
- ii. Rules Sign
  - 1. Town has contact with company that can make metal signs – we are free to find our own vendor as well
  - 2. Currently part of FBO list
- iii. Use kiosk for more detailed information
  - 1. Helpful phone numbers
  - 2. Tips about what healthy dog play / aggressive
  - 3. Get involved!
  - 4. Contact for ACDP Committee
- iv. Solar Lights
- v. Others
  - 1. Poop bag dispensers
    - a. Samples of poop bags coming to Clare
    - b. Consider eco-friendly option for dispenser
  - 2. Water
    - a. Tom confirmed that contractor is responsible for digging ditch and laying pipe from main to fountains / hydrant locations
    - b. Confirmed that we would like to have both frost-free hydrant and fountains in each area (small & all dog)
  - 3. Benches
    - a. Nadia to confirm with Thom whether we need offloading support or if DPW can support

## II. Regular Business

- a. Updates from various meetings/activities – 5 min
  - i. AHA
  - ii. Friends Updates
  - iii. Communications Updates
    - 1. Waiting on approval to send announcement
    - 2. When ready, plan to send photos to outlets broader than ACDP communications (i.e. Acton Exchange)
  - iv. T-Mobile grant application
    - 1. needs to see details that confirm that the project is ready to be executed within 12 months
    - 2. Also need up to 5 references that town endorses this project
    - 3. Goal is to submit the application in Q2

- 4. Clare to send link
- v. Meeting last Wednesday
  - 1. Calendar contest
  - 2. Benevity
- vi. Upcoming events
  - 1. Fifer's Day – 3rd Saturday in June (June 21)

### **III. Minutes – 5 min**

- a. Approve previous minutes with possible corrections.

### **IV. Old Business**

- a. Anything not covered above

### **V. Schedule Future Business**

- a. Next meeting – Discussion
  - i. Plan to continue discussion on rules at next week's meeting
  - ii. FBO discussion continued
    - 1. Benches
    - 2. Solar
    - 3. Kiosks / message boards
- b. Schedule: tbd

### **VI. Resident's Concerns**

- a. Time permitting, members of the public are welcome to provide input or raise questions or concerns about the committee's work.

### **VII. Adjourn**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Byrnes  
Member, Acton Dog Park Committee