

Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting minutes

Second Floor Meeting Room, Acton Memorial Library

September 7, 2017

Committee Members Present:

- Mike Perry, Chair
- Betsy Kristl
- Clare Siska
- Tom Gillispie
- Rodney Smith
- Karen Martin

Absent:

- Joan Gardner
- Cathy Fockman
- Bill Alstrom

Other Attendees:

- Joe Will

Mr. Perry called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Comments from the Public

- None

Review and accept prior meeting minutes

- The amended minutes of the 8/22/2017 meeting were unanimously accepted.

Report of research from Betsy Kristl

- Shared findings from research the Chelmsford and Maynard Dog Park Committee needs to consider and make decisions of the following attributes:
 - Size
 - Shape
 - Play Structures
 - Water for drinking or swimming
 - Traffic patterns
 - Shade (man-made or natural)
 - Seating
 - Location of available utilities
 - Entrance/exit
 - Handicapped accessibility
 - Rules and regulations
 - Toy availability (i.e. Maynard)
 - Fence height
 - Additional positive attributes and aesthetics

Rodney Smith indicated that committee needs to consider surface coverings. Bark Mulch is not considered an option because of fleas. Karen Martin indicated lighting should be a consideration during the winter months.

There was a discussion on liability. Betsy Kristl has researched and will provide additional information to the committee.

Report on Interview of Local Dog Parks- Tom Gillispie

Tom interviewed Kelly McPherson from FIDO of Natick

Key findings for the committee's consideration:

- Use of the Stanton Grant for funding- need to local raise 10% The grant monies funded the design.
- Work with the community to establish "Friends of the Dog Park"
- Natick choose not to have water access.
- The importance of open communication and being positive. Active presence in the community.
- Consider a succession plan
- Once built town will maintain

Tom also interviewed Adam Conn of MayDog- Maynard Dog Park

- Solar panel proposal was tied to the dog park.
- No burden on the town
- Worked to get to know the selectman
- Worked with the Animal Control officer
- Board of Selectman reviewed the proposed rules
- Do need a level of specificity with the rules/dogs have been not allowed to return
- Poop patrol deployed
- Plan on 2-3 years to achieve an enclosed park
- Hard to "sell" something that is not tangible.
- York, PA amazing dog park. Learn from others.

Tom did not hear back from the Chelmsford Dog park and will request justifications from all three dog park committees.

Discussion regarding details on Octoberfest.

Known details:

- Saturday, October 14, 2017
- West Acton
- Acton Dog Park Committee will share a table with the Acton Recreation Department

Additional details to be determined at next meeting:

- Sharing the responsibility of manning the table
- Determine if donations will be asked for
- Determine any freebies to give (milk bones/poop bags)
- Determine what written material or flyers will be provided or copies of the charge of the committee
- Determine if a survey will be formal or informal
- Determine if email of people interested in the Acton Dog Park would be gathered

Joe Will brought to the attention of the committee the Open Space Committee and the Stewardship Committee. This committee would provide information on additional lands the town is interested in purchasing in the future. He also suggested the committee consider other upcoming dog events such as Woofstock.

The committee agreed that at the next meeting, we should identify all the potential town committees that we should meet with to do this work and how to work effectively with the Board of Selectman.

Future meetings and calendar events:

- ADPC full committee: Thursday, September 19, 7:30 PM

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Martin