

Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting minutes
Room 126, Town Hall
March 20, 2018

Committee Members Present:

- Clare Siska, Chair
- Tom Gillispie
- Betsy Kristl
- Joan Gardner(BOS)
- Mike Perry
- Karen Martin
- Rodney Smith

Absent:

- Cathy Fochtman (Rec Dept Liason)

Members of the Public:

- Joe Will

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

There were no citizen concerns

The minutes from the January 27 meeting were accepted with a motion by Karen Martin and seconded by Tom Gillispie.

Clare Siska reported on the Action Items:

- Natick Dog Park: nothing to report
- Chelmsford Dog Park: the organizer is “too busy” to attend an ADPC meeting, but welcomed the ADPC members to come to a monthly meeting of the Chelmsford Dog Park Committee.
- Maynard Dog Park: Veronica will attend the April 17th ADPC meeting
- Wilmington Dog Park: Betsy Kristl reported that she had visited the Wilmington Dog Park, which was created by the Town (as opposed to citizen committee), but that the WDP has no web presence.
- Burlington & Billerica Dog Parks: Plans are in the works; Tom Gillispie will contact the appropriate committees
- Four potential committee member has been referred by the Volunteer Citizen Committee.
- A Rotating Clerk Calendar was established.
- Cathy Fochtman will check on the cost of a banner for the Memorial Day Parade. Betsy also offered to investigate banner sources, either through local vendors or via the internet.
- ADPC Facebook page review: visitor posts were discovered to be separate from the moderator’s posts.

There was discussion on the “Voice of the Committee” and how to respond to emails, etc. Clare will act as the official VoC and will CC the Committee on her responses or will delegate another Committee member if necessary.

There was a discussion of the upcoming Town Meeting (Monday, April 2) and the materials that will be available. There are a lot of the original flyers left, and there will also be flyers on picking up dog poop, Lyme disease, a new ADPC flyer. There was further discussion on the wording of the new ADPC flyer, with calls to keep it light, but to avoid flippancy. Betsy will offer a new version in a few days.

Tom offered a brief overview of the requirements for applying for funding from the Stanton Foundation. The Foundation requires a Letter of Assurance from a member of the Town's Board of Selectman and a sketch of the proposed park. Since funding is limited, the Committee would like to submit an application as soon as possible, or at a time when the chance of being awarded funding is most optimal. The Foundation also offers a Design Grant. The Committee will need to choose a site and provide cost estimates for the application for a Design Grant. This subject will require more discussion and will be a standing item on future meeting agenda.

Betsy provided a report and photos taken at the Wilmington Dog Park, which includes a parcel for large dogs and a parcel for small dogs. There is no flowing water source, but positive comments were made about benches and stumps available for play and seating.

New Business: Acton Clean-Up will be April 21-29

Betsy reported on her new pup, a miniature Australian Shepherd from Texas

Rodney moved to adjourn the meeting; Karen seconded.

The next meeting of the ADPC will be Tuesday, March 27, at Town Hall room 46.