

# Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting Minutes

Acton Town Hall, Room 46

27 March 2018

## Committee Members Roll Call:

- Clare Siska, Chair
- Cathy Fochtman
- Tom Gillispie
- Betsy Kristl
- Mike Perry - absent
- Rodney Smith
- Joan Gardner - absent
- Karen Martin

## Members of the Public:

- Joe Will
- Kelly McPherson, Natick FIDO dog park - guest

## Call to Order

- Ms. Siska called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM.

## Citizens' Concerns

- None given

## Review and accept prior meeting minutes

- The minutes of the 3/20/18 meeting was read, amended, and accepted.

## FaceBook Administrator role & Constant Contact

- Karen shared updates on work so far.
- Interesting info to share - folder in Google Drive
- Karen is now editor on page - reporting once per week - in conjunction with Melissa Rier at Rec Dept.
- Cathy will add content to Constant Contact and an update - will post updated flyer
- Goal is to get updates every few weeks - Karen and Cathy will work on this

## Member Reports highlights

- Banner - Cathy has online source. Kelly suggests the "window" style
- VistaPrint too
- Karen is FB admin
- Materials for Town Meeting approved and table assigned

## Kelly McPherson - Natick FIDO dog park

- Gave us tons of useful info and background - detailed notes recorded by Tom

## Stanton Grant update - Tom

- Best to hear from other towns at this point - Clare arranging

- Copied a bunch of Billerica's docs into our google drive - folder for Billerica. Committee took a quick tour thru them.

#### **Town Meeting Plans**

- Tom/Clare 1st night
- Karen/Betsy 2nd night
- 6:15 - show up
- Materials ready
- Signup sheet

#### **Acton Cleanup Week**

- Clare will reach out to schedule a time to pick up poop in Arboretum - 1PM on Sat 4/21 Rain date following Sat
- Get some publicity out of it

#### **New Business**

- Fundraising
  - Poop bags, tee shirts
  - Betsy will work on a tee shirt design & shirts
  - Betsy moved we accept a gift from Critter Sitters for \$250 to Acton Dog Park - will go through BOS into gift account that Cathy will administer. Unanimously accepted.
- Betsy is checking into Tufts in Grafton - students studying it - see if they've done research - add as future agenda item

#### **Dog Story**

- Karen - Brody pic on FB - more likes than anything else.

#### **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gillispie

# Statement to ADPC re: Conflict of Interest

2/27/2018

A question has been raised, and persists, about whether there is a conflict of interest by my serving as committee Chair, or of serving on the committee at all, since I am the owner of a dog-sitting business. On the advice of counsel, I'm entering the following statement on this subject into this meeting's record.

~

My sole interest in serving on this committee, in whatever capacity, is to build a dog park in Acton, no more, and no less. While the Volunteer Coordinating Committee and I discussed this question and they found no cause for conflict, I originally recused myself from serving in a leadership role, because I wanted to avoid the *appearance* of a conflict of interest.

But as the committee's work progressed, it became clear to me that I could add value in more of a leadership role and, as Mike shared with me his concerns about completing his term, I further researched the conflict of interest laws, consulted with Joan Gardner, our Selectmen liaison, and determined that I could legitimately fill that role. My qualifications are documented in my volunteer application, which are a matter of public record.

My role as Chair, and the process that resulted in my assuming that role, has been reviewed and cleared by Steve Ledoux, Town Manager, and the Board of Selectmen has been notified. Finally, in accordance with Massachusetts laws, I have filed a DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST with the Town Clerk, who will distribute appropriately.

Should anyone question any specific action or actions on my part that you believe are in violation of Conflict of Interest Laws, you are entitled to file a complaint with the State Ethics Commission.