



**Dog Park Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, September 25, 2018
7:30–9:30 PM
Room 126, Town Hall
472 Main St., Acton, MA**

Committee Members Roll Call:

Clare Siska, Chair
Cathy Foctman
Tom Gillispie
Joan Gardner
Mike Perry
Karen Martin
Fred Kinch- Absent

Members of the Public:

Joe Will
Lola Farra

Call meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Citizens' concerns-none

Review and accepted prior meeting minutes-minutes accepted with the addition of last names.

Updates on land options; status of parcels:

- Discussion at the Land Use Commission about the possibility of the Walker Property for development and/or potential dog park site. A RFP is in process. Mark Selby indicated the Dog Park could put in a proposal. A conceptual design will be needed for the proposal.

Reports on presentations to committees:

- Land Stewardship – Tom Gillispie was unable to attend. He will reach out to the committee for another meeting time if possible.
- Commission on Disabilities – Karen Martin attended and shared the four potential sites being considered. The Commission is in favor of a dog park that is accessible to people with disabilities. Helpful resources and information was provided to the dog park committee regarding accessibility issues for the design plan.
- Healthy Acton – Cathy Foctman attended. A survey is being developed to identify gathering places available or needed in town. The committee will look at the results to see any alignment with the potential dog park.

Land options discussion & Next Steps

- Presentation to BoS- Joan Gardner will request a date for a presentation to the BoS.
- Discussion with Town Manager- Joan Gardner will request a meeting with the Town Manager, Mark Selby, Joan Gardner, Clare Siska, and Cathy Foctman to update and discuss potential sites.

The committee had an extensive discussion on the following:

- Pros and cons of each site.
- Including the land behind Trader Joe's and the Walker Property on the potential site list.
- Reviewed the process for identifying the most suitable location.
 - Consider the conflicts with other stakeholders

- A meeting with the Town Manager, Mark Selby, Joan Gardner, Clare Siska, and Cathy Fochtman will be scheduled to ensure clear communication and to assist in the process moving forward.

Planning presentations to other committees:

- Acton 20/20, October 9- Potential of a shared meeting time on October 9th.
- Conservation Commission- Not heard back. Clare Siska will reach out.
- Great Hill- no additional updates on the status of Great Hill.
- Morrison Farm- considering reaching out to Marianne Ashton for a meeting.

CPC Update and follow-up planning – Tom Gillispie attended the meeting and received needed information on applying and the timelines. He will begin the process using the provided template. Due November 18th.

Events:

- ABFM Community Table, September 23- Public response positive for a park, varied opinion on location, concerns about clearing trees.
- WAVMA Oktoberfest, Saturday, September 29- Clare Siska will set up, Karen Martin 10:00-11:00 and Tom Gillispie 1:00-3:30
- Acton Fire Department Parade and Open House, October 13- plans have changed and the Acton Dog Park Committee will not be participating.

Membership updates:

Fred Kinch- Official Member

Lola Farra in attendance provided her background and expressed an interest in being a committee member.

Maureen McLaughlin has not stated whether or not she will be applying to be a member.

New Business:

Acton TV has requested an opportunity to create an advertisement for the Acton Dog Park Committee. No decision made at this time.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 PM, Room 121, Acton Town Hall

Priority agenda item: Funding sources and next steps:

- Recreation budget?
- Stanton Design Grant?
- CPA funding?
- Other?

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Martin