



**Dog Park Committee
Final Minutes
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
7:30–9:30 PM
Room 121, Town Hall
472 Main St., Acton, MA**

Committee Members Roll Call:

Clare Siska, Chair
Cathy Fochtman- Absent
Tom Gillispie
Betsy Kristl- joined via phone at 8:45
Rodney Smith-Resigned
Joan Gardner
Karen Martin

Members of the Public:

Veronica Zolina, Member, VP May Dog

Call to Order:

Ms. Siska called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Citizen's Concerns:

None given

Guest Speakers:

Veronica Zolina, MayDog Park shared her dog park experience with the Acton Dog Park Committee. April Leal, President of MayDog was unable to attend.

Key points:

- 2008 MayDog was formed under the umbrella of MA Dog
- MA Dog has resources for town's establishing dog parks
- Formed MayDog as a non-profit and fund raise through individual and corporate donations
- Grassroots process
- Developed a community presence at Farmer Markets etc...
- Negotiated with the solar array to be used as a dog park.
- The town owns the land and license to May Dog.
- Downside the land was assigned, smaller than they would like, and set location.
- Have small dog hours since only no separate area for small and big dogs.
- Town's concern for winter maintenance so park only opened from May to November.
- Proposed year around and negotiated to close due to snow and ice.
- Park open to the public with no fees; use at your own risk and liability. State Statue.
- Sanitary issues- lots of about poop issues.
- Relationship of trust with the town and DPW for plowing.
- Parking lot has expanded from five cars to seven or eight cars.
- Installed three waste stations; poop bags and trash can.

- Regular trash pick-up for from contracted services; board once a week organizes trash.
- Two clean up per year.
- Users do a good job of picking up.
- Board consists of four people. Start with asking for volunteers and vetting for board membership.
- Over ten years board has turned over 3-4 times.
- The park allows tennis balls and toys (many); no food and no beverages; no glass.
- Some issues with kennel cough so shared materials are cleaned and purchased.
- Volunteer washes the tennis balls.
- No running water. Create a water brigade. People bring home and fill and bring back.
- Friends of MayDog Facebook to communicate out any needs or concerns.
- Animal control office is a friend of the May Dog Park.
- 4 mo. Old; licensed with the town they live in,
- Have deputies; permission to talk to people; correct behaviors;
- Can eject people- call MayDog or the police.
- Have had issues with a dog biting; report to the Animal Control Officer.
- Solar contractor put up the fence.
- Biggest expense is insurance because it is a non-profit. Need to cover the board members; garbage bags, sticker; wood chips; and leaf bags. Try to get wood chips donated. Surface maintenance 2-3 times per year.
- Income is donations. Used to have business donations and discounts.
- Annual fundraising event- Dinner; music, and auction. The year daytime picnic.
- Applied for grants and will continue for specific projects. Especially Pets grant for a bench.
- Annual budget \$3,500-4,000. for the basics.
- Renew license with the Board of Selectman.
- Six-foot fence/consider for snow build up.
- Air lock gate and large gate for service or ambulance (can't be locked). Needs to have signage.
- Handicap accessibility did come up but weren't able to address in the design plan. Wood chips are able to be navigated by wheelchair.
- Pre-emptive complaints about the park.
- Open dawn to dusk. Barking has not been an issue.
- Have discussed lighting the park.

Review and accept prior meeting minutes:

The minutes for the 3/27/18 meeting was read, amended, and accepted.

Finish defining site requirements:

Refer to the site requirement documents in Google Drive.

Events:

- Report from Town Meeting- not well attended/we had presence
- Acton Cleanup Week, Poop Patrol, T-shirts-Arboretum people are thrilled about the Poop Patrol; flags to show where poop has been; a picture will be taken of the flags; take a poop count, take down flags, space kiosk to advertise.

Calendar invitation has been sent; Karen will post on Facebook

Tee shirts- 10 extra large orange T-shirts, on sale for \$3.33, Betsy has a stencil.

- Memorial Day Parade, Banner-defer
- ABFM Community Table – date requests (JUNE 11–OCT 22)- the application is up for the community table is up; need to choose three dates in August, September, and October. Clare will pick dates.

Stanton Foundation Design Grant Application – Update:

No new business

New Business:

- Resignation of Rodney Smith
- Need new memberships
- Karen will put something on Facebook about needing new members.
- Clare will put information in her business newsletter and Facebook
- Members took brochures to pass out to generate interest

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 PM, Room 46, Acton Town Hall

Some upcoming agenda items:

- Visits from more dog park representatives
- Reviewing potential land parcels (GIS + in person)
- Upcoming Visibilities and Special Events
- Brainstorming and identifying specific funding sources
- Reviewing features/photos from other dog parks
- BoS presentation planning

Adjourn at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Martin