



**Dog Park Committee
Final Minutes
Tuesday, December 11, 2018
7:30–9:30 PM
Room 126, Town Hall
472 Main St., Acton, MA**

Committee Members Roll Call:

Clare Siska, Chair
Mike Perry
Tom Gillispie
Fred Kinch
Joan Gardner- BoS Liaison
Cathy Fochtman-Town Liaison- arrived later in the meeting
Karen Martin

Members of the Public:

Graham Knowland
Bill Alstron
Cynthia Heiland
Sharon Logan
Joe Will

Clare called the meeting to order at 7:32.

Citizens' concerns:

Graham Knowland of Esterbrook Road expressed concerns about the lack of information and the process the committee is using to select a location. He was concerned that the committee might not have all the information needed in regard to the location in the rear of the Brookside Shops.

Clare reviewed the process used by the ADPC to review potential location.

Bill Alstrom indicated other concerns about the land in the read of the Brookside Shops.

Citizen's also expressed concerns about the Morrison Farm land.

The committee then moved to the general agenda at 7:52 PM.

The minutes for the November 27, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman's Update:

- Town Manager Meeting-Clare reviewed the key points of the meeting with the Town Manager.

Walker Property-The town received four RFI's for the Walker Property. The town is considering two of the proposals from NOW and the Acton Housing Authority. The NOW proposals has a small dog park and the Acton Housing Authority is open to co-use with a dog park. The Walker Property committee is expected to finalize their decision on January 15th.

Funding Sources- The committee can reapply for CPC funds for 2020. Clare discussed doing fundraising until 2020. The Friends of the Acton Dog Park Committee could

be used as leverage with CPC. There was also discussion about the possibility of raising dog license fees. The Town Manager will research and by-laws would need to be changed to have a separate account. The manager was pleased that the committee is thinking long term and thinking about on-going maintenance. Bill Alstrom suggested a FOB system to collect user fees for the use of the dog park Great Hill- Selby has indicated use for a dog park should not be an issue since it is currently used for recreation. It appears a definitive answer is still needed. Fred Kinch's research will be submitted for the town departments to review. Procurement laws- if under \$300,00 easier process. Important to be familiar with the process. Karen Martin has had work experience with procurements. Other properties- The TM asked if the committee has considered other properties. Joan suggested the committee look at McPherson Field near Conant School. Discussion ensued about the school building elementary schools. Since there is not a finalized plan for school properties might not be an option.

- Morrison Farm Committee- the committee learned three concerns for the use of this land. The river is stocked with trout, it is a flood plain, highly sensitive eco-system, and the Conservation Commission unanimously opposes the use of the property.
- Conservation Commission Meeting- Clare and Tom attended the meeting on December 5th.

Follow-up: Preliminary Design Sketches- Fred Kinch is working with Qin.

Review Final Survey Data- survey results indicate concerns about the property behind Brookside Shops, (lowest rating), with all other locations having a very similar rating.

Discussion: Land Options-Clare moved that the committee narrow the choice to Walker property and Great Hill. Mike 2nd. Discussion ensued. Joe Will suggested the committee consider other properties. The vote was unanimous.

Finalize BoS presentation:

The committee reviewed and revised the slides in the BoS Presentation.

Community Outreach:

- Acton TV- Karen was taped and will send additional pictures for the ad.
- Special Town Meeting- Clare and Fred handed out flyers and talked with town residents.

New Business:

Fred Kinch will contact Qinto hold the work on designs at this time.

The committee began to review the size of the Walker and Great Hill properties and parking.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Martin

Coming up:

- Monday, December 17: ADPC presentation to Board of Selectmen
- Tuesday, December 18, Open Meeting Law Training, 4:30-6:00 or 6:30-8:00.
- Wednesday, December 19, ADPC meeting, 7:45 PM, Town Hall Room 9
- ADPC meetings January 15th and 22nd.