

Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting Minutes Final
Tuesday, May 28th, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Room 121, Town Hall
472 Main Street, Acton, MA

Present:

Clare Siska, Chair
Tom Gillispie
Mike Perry
Karen Martin
Fred Kinch

Absent: Joan Gardner

Chair Clare Siska opened the meeting at 7:32 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the Acton Dog Park Committee on 4/23 and 5/14 meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously.
2. Follow up on Action Items from previous meeting (s).
 - a. Karen - ActonTV can help with communication about forum (PSA); will come with someone from Dog Park committee and video properties with narration - committee felt only do that once we have narrowed down locations
 - b. Blurb sent to Action Unlimited; will send date/time to Beacon
 - c. Clare sent article to Beacon - no response but got some additional contact info
 - d. Clare sent e-mails to committees.
 - e. Clare confirmed with Melissa to get rec dept mailing
 - f. Meeting with Qin and Bettina set for Rm 126 at 2 on 5/30.

II. New/Special Business

3. Citizens Concerns - visit from Matt Post - neighbor of Main Street Property - represents the neighbors
 - a. Not of the opinion that its the best place for a park.
 - i. Proximity to Rt 2 - several neighbors have lost dogs in traffic

- ii. Parking lots right off Rt 2 might attract bad activity. Prox of Police Station hasn't stopped some problems at skate park.
 - iii. Wondered how many in Acton wanted a park - Clare provided stats
 - b. How big?
 - i. Clare described sizes of other parks, our goal of 10 parking spaces.
 - c. Five neighbors are disinclined. Can use Matt as main contact.
 - d. Concerns: noise, dirt spot, lighting in parking lot; makes me uncomfortable
- 4. Follow Up: Great Hill Event #2 and recent feedback
 - a. about 50% non-Acton residents
 - b. a lot of support - no objection to proposed smaller enclosed area
- 5. Confirmed BOS has authority to raise dog registration fees
- 6. Forum topics etc
 - a. Plan extra meeting Tue 6/18
 - b. Clare will draft an outline of forum and send to committee
 - c. Karen suggested we each take a main point in the benefits of dog parks and come to forum prepared to speak to that. Fred said he'd do that for socialization.
 - d. Flyers - some rework suggestion - Fred will rework, send draft, then final to Tom to landscape. Each will print out copies for their location.
 - e. Flyer Locations: - 25 per location
 - i. Veterinarians:
 1. Acton Animal Hospital - MP
 2. Powder Mill - CS
 3. Boston Dog - CS
 4. Apple Country - KM
 5. Sager - MP
 6. Family Friends - KM
 7. Country Canine - FK
 8. Great Road - MP
 - ii. Pet Stores
 1. Loyal Companion - CS
 2. Unleashed - TG
 3. Ericsons - KM
 - iii. Other
 1. Dog star - CS
 2. Post Office - KM
 3. Library - KM
 4. Hardware Store - KM
 5. NARA & Arboretum Kiosk - CF
 6. Senior Center - KM
 - f. Karen: one key forum goal is to listen and collect feedback
- 7. Tabled Design Brainstorm and initial draft of BoS presentation.

III. Citizen's Concerns

See Above.

A motion to close the meeting at 9:32 PM was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gillispie