



## **Acton Dog Park Committee**

June 25, 2019

7:00 pm

Public Safety Building, EOC

371 Main Street

Acton, MA 01720

**Present:** Clare Siska, Chairperson  
Tom Gillispie, Vice Chairperson  
Karen Martin  
Mike Perry

Board of Selectman Liaison, Joan Gardner

**Absent:** Fred Kinch

### **1. Opening**

This meeting was our Public Forum Meeting.

Chair Clare Siska opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Siska presented our progress to the people in attendance . This took about a half hour after which the meeting was opened for comments .

Notes and suggestions were put on paper for the attendees to see and they are as follows:  
(Discussions ensued regarding them, and we made sure that all were heard.)

Wetness came up about Great Hill.

Playdates

Size does not need to be large. Maynard is small.

Bettina Norton offered support and felt that the north Acton highway department area would be good, if available.

The shape of the rough map of the Great Hill park was brought up. Concern about the lack of room on the east side of the fenced in area.

Dogs not off leash can be well behaved.

Inclusive space

Puppies and rescue dogs would be able to socialize at Great Hill.

Great Hill is a great place to run dogs and they support the dog park idea, but are opposed to too much fencing. Likes the unofficial.

Hounds and terriers are difficult to train. Material for the walkway? Wants to avoid pavement, or concrete. Concern about professional dog walkers. A license process?

Favor of dog park, abutter of Main Street had questions regarding financial, safety, and aesthetics.

One did not like 3 parks.

Importance is “community”

Great Hill, like the open space, pond, like combining issues, and scheduling.

Concerns about parking.

Abutter on School Street, concerned about conservation land.

People with disabilities - smaller spaces; Stimuli self-select.

One wanted us to consider looking into agility equipment.

Consideration of the 3 parks and who would use them.

One thought that the Main Street property would cause people to park at the Public Safety building. And would we allow out-of-towners.

One thought that we could run into a question of the park vs. conservation.

The “unofficial” Dog Park seemed constraining to some, such as small children. Someone who was in the area killed chickens historically.

Conservation and the whole town cannot picnic there, and the suggestion was brought up about the t-ball field on little Great Hill. The discussion was addressed to indicate how difficult it is to go up to that field, even with the walkways.

Main Street will cost more than we think, according to one. He also suggested that when the skateboard park on Hayward Road was built, there was unwanted drug traffic.

We started with 11 properties and are down to two.

Acton residents only or not. Parking concerns.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:30 p.m., the forum was over

### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Perry**