



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, May 28th 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- Fred Kinch
- Mike Perry
- Clare Siska

Absent:

- Tom Gillispie, Chair

Vice-chair Karen Martin called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. New Business

1. Clare Siska went through the committee's presentation for the two Board of Selectmen candidates who were in attendance: Jim Snyder-Grant and Terra Friedrichs. Candidate feedback:

- overall very positive and supportive
- commended committee on efforts to date, especially outreach and addressing of concerns; request that we continue these efforts
- Jim SG informed us about a proposed state project to upgrade the Rt 2 / Main Street intersection:
https://hwy.massdot.state.ma.us/ProjectInfo/Main.asp?ACTION=ViewProject&PROJECT_NO=610553# We should stay engaged and make sure projects align.
- Would like BoS to be able to review a sample agreement between "Friends of" and a town for how the Friends would maintain the park; present a sample agreement to BoS as part of request for site approval
- Would like recycling efforts, not just trash management, included in the plan
- Recommend the "Friends of" group be formalized as soon as possible to demonstrate a committed group exists and is willing to raise funds and maintain the park
- Completion of sidewalk from Rt. 2 past park to AHA development is very desirable
- Can coffee or ice cream shop be located nearby?
- Be sure to maintain vegetative buffer from Rt. 2 up slope to dog park
- Suggest town meeting weigh-in by citizens would be handled as part of CPA grant approvals at a future town meeting

2. Clare Siska reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee voted unanimously on 5/27/2020 to endorse the Main Street location for the dog park. The TAC asked that we make every effort to include parking as close to the gazebo as possible for those with limited mobility. ADPC will include TAC in design discussions.

3. Karen Martin reported positive feedback from a recent Commission on Disabilities meeting. The COD will take a vote on supporting the Main Street location at their next meeting.

4. Additional outreach

- Karen has reached out the the Open Space Committee and is waiting to hear back
- Clare will set up an Instagram account for sharing visuals

5. Meeting with neighbors 6/25:

- Committee endorsed letter, agreed that Clare could make final edits, mail and send immediately.
- Tom will work on a revised draft of the slides targeting neighbors concerns.

II. Regular Business

1. The minutes of the May 14, 2020 were approved unanimously. Mike will post through the Town Clerk's office.

III. Old Business

1. Common Objections:

- Fred continues to compile common objections and how other dog park groups have addressed them.
- Karen recently spoke with Will Wagner from Chelmsford, who reports that Chelmsford is now promoting its dog park as a reason for people to move to their town. Karen will attempt to get more specifics.

2. Communications:

- Website has been well received. Clare will continue to update it.
- The most recent version of the logo was reviewed and the committee voted unanimously to adopt it. Kelly will now start working on bumper sticker and business card designs.
- The majority of responses to eblast were positive with some constructive suggestions
- Tom recently contacted Jon Benson via email, briefing him on neighborhood outreach efforts.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next meeting Thursday, 6/11 at 4 PM via Zoom (minutes: Karen), followed by the meeting with the neighbors on Thursday, 6/25 at 4 PM via Zoom (minutes: Fred).

2. Meeting with BoS: Targeting this summer, earliest would be July, after neighbors meeting, presentation to AHA(?), and installation of the new Board of Selectmen / BoS committee liaison assignments.

IV. Citizens Concerns

1. No citizen came forward with concerns at this meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska