



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, July 23, 2020 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- Tom Gillispie, Chair
- Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- Fred Kinch
- Clare Siska
- Selby

Absent:

- Mike Perry

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. Regular Business

1. The minutes of the previous (July 13, 2020) meeting were approved unanimously with no changes.

II. New Business

1. Tom G reviewed the dog park related discussions that took place at the 7/20/2020 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

- 🐾 The YouTube link and relevant time stamps can be found at <https://actondogpark.weebly.com/updates.html>
- 🐾 Jon Benson, BoS Chair, and Joan Gardner, ADPC liaison, will meet with the Isaac Davis Way neighbors in short order; Jon B is setting up the meeting; Joan will represent the ADPC. Jon B will report back to Tom.
- 🐾 It was suggested that Joan might possibly be able to introduce reasons why a dog park may not be what the neighbors fear – Joan has access to all our data.
- 🐾 Selby reviewed his discussion with Town Counsel of last week, confirming that the Town has the legal right to pass and repass over Isaac Davis Way so a parking lot off IDW is legally sound. It's the utility easement held by three households on IDW that is being challenged due to the dog park proposal. An amendment would need to be made to three existing deeds to allow for the utility easement.
- 🐾 Selby has made suggestions to Jon Benson and Town Manager regarding what the town might offer the neighbors, e.g., plowing of IDW.

- 🐾 Improvements to IDW would be needed for a parking lot and we assume this would be covered by Stanton funds.
- 🐾 Now that the AHA can commence pre-purchase activities, soil testing can be done; winter weather does not impact soil testing activities. Best case scenario: AHA can position septic system on Kennedy land so IDW easement is not required.

2. Prepare for AHA 7/28 meeting

- 🐾 The committee articulated the goals for the meeting and discussed meeting materials
- 🐾 Tom G will prepare slides and send them to the committee for review.
- 🐾 Agenda for the AHA meeting, and Zoom link, can be found here: <https://www.acton-ma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/13380>
- 🐾 AHA agenda does not indicate a vote at this time, and Tom will encourage no vote as we let neighbor negotiations play out.
- 🐾 David James, sound engineer, will attend the meeting to address any concerns about noise.

III. Old Business

1. Communications:

- 🐾 Clare is keeping the weebly site updated but there is little traffic
- 🐾 Clare is also updating Facebook
- 🐾 All letters of support are being stored on Google Drive
- 🐾 An eblast will go out this weekend about the AHA meeting. Clare will work with Cathy
- 🐾 Individual email addresses of all committee members have been added to the Constant Contact distribution list

2. Fundraising:

- 🐾 Bumper stickers are being sold and distributed gratis.
- 🐾 Clare will schedule a meeting of Clare, Cathy F and Karen M to coordinate on sales and distribution
- 🐾 Business cards and flyers will be distributed at Loyal Companion on Great Road

3. Requests for discussion at future meeting(s):

- 🐾 Clare requested that the committee consider a vote to support the purchase of Great Hill prior to September Special Town Meeting, and if passed, to have our mascot, Parker, stand at entrance to STM with flyers supporting Great Hill purchase and promoting the dog park.
- 🐾 Karen asked if the requirement to have the dog park be voted at April, 2021 Town Meeting is negotiable. The impacts of such a requirement were discussed. Suggestion that a public hearing, hosted by the BoS, might meet the need.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next meeting Tuesday, 7/28 4 PM via Zoom, as part of the AHA's meeting (minutes: Clare; backup: Mike)
2. August meetings: Thursdays, 8/6 and 8/20 4 PM via Zoom.
3. Meetings with town resources: on hold pending results of JB and JG meeting with IDW neighbors.

IV. Citizens Concerns

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska