



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, September 24, 2020 4:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

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

Absent:

- 🐾 Mike Perry

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

I. New Business

1. Clare reported that at the most recent Land Stewardship Committee, the Land Stewards voted to send a letter to the BoS reiterating their objection to the use of 70 Quarry Road for a dog park; they declined to take a position on Morrison Farm.
2. The committee discussed each of the four properties on the BoS short list, including any new information that has come to light. The conclusion was that neither Morrison Farm, 70 Quarry Road, nor School Street are feasible. Committee members agree that the 348 & 352 Main Street parcels are the best option and that any issues of concern can be addressed and mitigated.
3. Committee members voted unanimously to recommend the 348 & 352 Main Street parcels as the location for Acton's dog park, and to ask for a vote of approval at the 10/19/2020 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This recommendation will be formally made to the BoS in early October, accompanied by an analysis/recommendation document outlining the committee's rationale.
4. Committee members reviewed, discussed, and edited the analysis/recommendation document.
5. Next Steps for 10/19/2020 meeting:
 - a. Tom G will make a next round of edits and send to committee members for final review. Clare will make a final editorial pass.
 - b. Tom G to send to the BoS ASAP (target 10/5/2020), copying ADPC, Tom Tidman, Selby, and the Town Manager
 - c. The final document will also be CC'd to Lisa Tomyl with the request to include it in the 10/19/2020 BoS meeting packet.
 - d. Use of a slide show at the BoS meeting will be discussed / decided at the committee's next meeting.

e. Outreach and communications:

- i. The committee reviewed a number of communication and outreach strategies and assigned tasks for members.
- ii. Once the analysis/recommendation document is sent to BoS, individual members will reach out to BoS members as follows: Jon Benson (Tom); Jim Snyder-Grant (Clare); Dean Charter (Karen); David Martin (Fred); Joan Gardner (Mike). Goal is to explore any questions and/or concerns they might have prior to the 10/19/2020 BoS meeting. Strategy to be discussed at our next meeting.

II. Regular Business

1. The minutes of the previous (9/3/2020) meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Announcements:
 - a. The *Beacon* published a dog park-related Letter to the Editor from Toni Norton in its 9/24/2020 edition.
 - b. For those who have not been sworn in for a new term, please reach out to clerk@actonma.gov
 - c. We have had an inquiry from a potential new member for the committee. Tom has followed up with her and Karen will forward her the application information.
 - d. There appears to be a new dog officer in town: Nelda Maldonado. There is no information about Tack Palmer's status.
 - e. The agenda for the Acton Housing Authority's 9/29/2020 4 PM meeting includes a dog park discussion. Karen is available to attend; others are welcome.
 - f. BoS is discussing reopening town hall and allowing small in-person meetings. Committee to consider whether and when we want to go back to in-person meetings.

III. Old Business

1. None.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next meeting Thursday, 10/8 via Zoom at 4 PM – Minutes: Karen
2. Site discussion with Board of Selectmen: Monday, 10/19/2020 @ 7 PM
3. Follow up meeting: Thursday, 10/22 at 4 PM – Minute taker TBD

IV. Citizens Concerns

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska