



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 3, 2021 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- 🐾 Mike Perry
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Fred Kinch
- 🐾 Luisa Callahan

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. New Business

1. Citizens' Petition Response:

- Selectmen's response video is taking shape; Cathy Fochtman and Luisa Callahan are working on script and visuals, to be recorded and posted by Acton TV.
- Tom will prepare the ADPC presentation which he will present at Town Meeting.

2. Visit from Select Board candidate Himaja Nagireddy:

- Tom reviewed the committee's history
- Ms. Nagireddy reports that she is supportive of a dog park and impressed by the ADPC's work to date. Her questions focused on how a dog park generates revenue for the Town, and the social impact of dog parks. She expressed an interest in helping the various parties reach consensus

3. Stanton Design Grant:

- Tom will reach out to design firms in preparation for getting estimates.
- Additional work on the grant is tabled until after Town Meeting.

4. AHA Update:

- Fred reported that the dog park was skipped over at the last AHA meeting.
- AHA meets with the design firm weekly; they are getting close to final design on the building and grounds.
- No additional information on the septic system
- Tom reported from a discussion with Selby that the AHA parking lot will need a way to channel runoff. The plan is a catch basin in the far corner of 348 Main Street. Dog park design will need to factor this in.

5. Communications:

- Clare reported that the bulk of communications will continue to be managed by the Friends of ACDP.
- The weebly website and Facebook will be updated shortly and an eblast will go out in early June.
- There are several hands-on tasks. Committee members should contact Clare if they can help.

6. Financials:

- There is approximately \$7,800 in our fund at this time. An additional ~\$4K from dog license fees will be added at the end of the fiscal year (end of June)
- Karen Martin and Cathy Fochtman are working with the Town to transition financial management to the Friends of ACDP.

7. Friends of Acton Community Dog Park:

- Cathy Fochtman reported that the Friends of ACDP will be doing a large fundraising mailing the week of 6/7/2021, with corporate outreach to follow.

8. Finance Committee Report:

- Tom reported that after receiving additional information, the Finance Committee reconsidered their position and voted to Not Recommend the Citizens' Petition. The Finance Committee voted to Recommend Article 3, the Municipal Capital Budget, of which section C addresses the \$21K expenditure for the dog park construction match.

9. Stanton Foundation Follow Up:

- Tom has asked Selby to reach out to the Stanton Foundation for follow up on several items. Selby will follow up on his return from medical leave.

II. Regular Business

1. The minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved with no changes.

III. Old Business

1. None.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Tom reported that the Town Manager is working with the Board of Health to consider the viability of returning to in-person meetings. The Commonwealth may extend the remote option beyond the end of the public emergency. We will continue to follow.
2. Next ADPC meeting: 6/17/2021 via Zoom.

V. Citizens' Concerns:

1. Isaac Davis Way resident DJ Joshi asked to go on record, stating that he disagrees that the process has been mutually inclusive. He cited both the ADPC and Town representatives and the process "from start to finish." He expressed a desire for harmony believes the Isaac Davis Way neighbors have been "met with nothing" in their negotiations with the Town. The Chair thanked him for his comments.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska