



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, September 2, 2021 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Present:**

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Fred Kinch
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Luisa Callahan
- 🐾 Mike Perry
- 🐾 Dean Charter, Select Board liason

**Members of the Public:**

- 🐾 Cathy Fochtman, Friends of ACDP
- 🐾 Dennis Dale, Dale Design

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

**I. New Business**

1. Meeting with Dennis Dale, Dale Design

- Dennis Dale introduced himself and reviewed his background and experience. He is currently working on a dog park in Methuen, designed the landscape architecture for the Hosmer House, and is intimately familiar with the 348 & 352 Main Street sites, having done initial concepts for the Town in the past.
- Dennis has already completed a site analysis of these parcels for the Town.
- Enthusiastic about the project and appears to share our values.
- Willing to do preliminary sketches for the Stanton Design grant. Busy for the next 4 – 6 weeks; estimates we could work together starting in October to have something completed by Thanksgiving 2021, with final tweaks in December for submission by January 1, 2022.
- Tom G reported that several other design firms have said they are not interested.
- Dean C advises that many design firms are busy; if we like Dennis Dale and have a good feeling about him, we might as well move ahead after speaking with the Town Manager about any procurement issues.

- The committee voted unanimously to move forward on preliminary designs for the Stanton Grant with Dennis Dale, with a completion date no later than January 1, 2022. Tom G will clear this with the Town Manager.
- Clare will create an area in our Drive folder to focus on site design; we will give Dennis access when his involvement is approved by John Mangiaratti.
- The committee would like to know if there are any more Stanton Design grants available in 2021 for which we can apply. Tom G will contact Stanton to inquire.

2. 348-352 Master Plan update & 9/8 walkaround:

- Dean reports that he and David Martin, Select Board Chair, would like us to continue with our work and not be held back by the Senior Park concept. That concept is still in its infancy, and they do not want to slow us down. Once Senior Park gets more traction, they will cycle back to see how the projects can/will be combined.
- Town Manager to brief Select Board at Monday, September 13 meeting.
- The September 8 property walkaround appears to be focused on landscaping for the AHA building site and includes the neighbors. Tom G has reached out to Kelly Cronin about attending. Mike P is also available.

3. Septic Updates:

- Dennis informed us that the septic plans show the site raised up (mounded) by ~ 4 feet.
- Sheryl Ball, Health Director, has confirmed that we can install fencing between the AHA's two leach fields, so long as the perimeters are well marked when the septic is built.

4. Stanton Design Grant & next steps:

- Preliminary Design sketch is our most pressing need and we will approach as noted in #1, above.
- Tom G reports that all other requirements for the Stanton Design grant are well in hand and just need to be pulled together.
- Dennis Dale's existing documents will be valuable additions to our application.

5. AHA Update:

- No updates beyond what is covered in #s 2 and 3, above.

6. Communications Update:

- Clare committed to the following by mid-September: update the website; draft an eblast; provide Facebook access to Karen, Cathy, Tom and Pam. Anyone with this access can post on FB and is encouraged to do so.

- Clare will also do some work on reorganizing our Drive folder.

7. Friends of ACDP and Financial Report (Cathy):

- Cathy reported that we now have \$10K in the dog park gift account. This is 50% of the Friends group's fundraising target!
- Cathy spoke to the audience at a recent NARA Recreation event.
- Maura Haberman, Recreation Dept., has invited us to partner with them for the Pooch Parade on October 24. Any proceeds will go to the dog park. Cathy will meet with Maura and the Friends of ACDP to work out details.
- Plans for Oktoberfest are coming together. Committee members are asked to sign up for a slot at Oktoberfest and/or any of the other upcoming events. Clare will resend the link to the sign-up sheet.

## **II. Regular Business**

1. Review of 8/5/2021 meeting minutes was deferred.
2. The committee unanimously approved the minutes of 8/19/2021

## **III. Old Business**

1. None.

## **IV. Schedule Future Business**

1. Next ADPC meeting: 9/16/2021 – Minutes: Karen
2. Oktoberfest 9/25/2021

## **V. Citizens' Concerns:**

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

## **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska