



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Fred Kinch
- 🐾 Mike Perry
- 🐾 Luisa Callahan
- 🐾 Dean Charter, Select Board liaison

Members of the Public:

- 🐾 Cathy Fochtman
- 🐾 Joe Will
- 🐾 Jeff Bergart
- 🐾 Steve Trimble

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. New Business

1. Review of Design Proposal

- The committee reviewed and discussed the design proposal submitted by Dennis Dale Design and which has been signed by the Town Manager.
- It was moved and seconded that the committee accept the proposal of Dale Design dated April 12, 2022, for the design of Acton's dog park. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Design work, Next Steps

- Tom will notify Dennis Dale to schedule the committee's next meeting with him.
- Tom will also notify the Town Manager of the committee's vote.
- Clare reported on the recent Select Board meeting where the Main Street sewer extension had been discussed. The sewer design has progressed to 60%, and the Town Engineer

anticipates reaching 90% design within six weeks. The 60% design includes a 10 ft. x 10 ft. fenced enclosure which would be required on 348 Main Street, should the Main Street sewer extension be funded. Placement of this structure will have impact on the dog park design and should be addressed before 90% design is achieved. Tom will follow up with both Dean Charter and Dennis Dale to determine how to address this.

- The Select Board authorized the Town Manager to submit a joint application for a Housing Choice Community Grant, which could provide funding for sewers, demolition of the Kennedy Landscaping structures, removal of the existing septic system at 364 Main Street, and other infrastructure to support the AHA housing project. Grant awards are expected to be announced by September 2022.
- It was noted that final determinations regarding Main Street Campus parking and whether the Acton Housing Authority (AHA) project will use septic or sewers will significantly impact design and design timing.

3. Main Street Campus status review / update

- Steve Trimble reported on the initial meeting of parties interested in the Senior Park / Main Street Campus project. He will send an update via email. Steve reported that:
 - i. The Acton Housing Authority has been briefing abutters on the concept.
 - ii. Steve will invite abutters and surrounding neighbors, via US Mail, to a meeting in a neutral location to formally introduce the project, gather initial input and define next steps in terms of community engagement.
 - iii. The Main Street Campus project will be coordinated by a subcommittee under Acton's Recreation Commission with representation from relevant groups (e.g., ADPC, AHA, etc.)
 - iv. As the project is funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), the Town Manager is looking into any federal restrictions on ARPA spending that would impact the selection of a designer.
- A discussion regarding parking ensued. Tom suggested, and will coordinate, a meeting with key individuals to define the most optimal parking solution for both the Senior Park and the dog park. He was urged to include Tom Tidman, Natural Resources Director, and Franny Osman, for the Transportation Committee.
- It was also noted the issue of the use of the existing curb cut is yet to be determined.

4. AHA project meeting status:

- Karen reported that the AHA is supportive of the Main Street Campus concept, including both the Senior Park and the dog park. Kelley Cronin is the primary contact.

5. Financial/Friends updates

- The “Friends” have put together a fundraising appeal to all registered Acton dog owners, to be mailed by the end of April.
- A Pet First Aid & CPR class will be held at the Public Safety Facility on May 14.
- Plans are also being put into place for tables at NARA summer events and the AB Farmers’ Market.
- The Friends propose placement of a “Future Home of Acton Community Dog Park” banner at 348 Main Street, before the ground freezes in the fall. Tom will brief Kelley Cronin on the concept. The committee determined to postpone this until at least after the initial Main Street Campus meeting with the neighborhood. Placement of the banner will need approval of the Select Board, most likely a consent agenda item.

6. Communications updates

- The Pet First Aid & CPR class has been heavily promoted through multiple channels. Additional communications to be determined as summer events and design timing evolve.

II. Regular Business

1. Review of previous meetings’ minutes

- The minutes of 03/14/2022 were approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

1. None.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next ADPC meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7 PM – virtual meeting.

V. Citizens’ Concerns:

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

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska