



Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 14th 7:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom

Present:

Clare Siska

Tom Gillispie, Chair

Karen Martin

Dean Charter-Selectboard Chair and Liason

Fred Kinch

Nick Boivin

Absent:

None

Other Attendees:

Joe Will

Cathy Fochtman-Friends of the Acton Community Dog Park

Jeff Bergart

Stephen Tremble

1. Opening

Chair Tom Gillispie opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

2. New Business

A. Updates

Sewer Extension- Meeting was held with Dennis Dale, Acton Engineering, and GPI (Sewer Extension Company). Discussed grades and slope. The sewer extension is positive and reduces the need for fill due to reduction in slope. Additional information will be added as needed.

McManus Housing Project- Funding secured through the state. AHA hopes to be under construction in the spring.

B. Dog Park Survey

Clare shared results and her analysis. There were lots of positive comments about the design and the work of the ADPC. Important dog park features were parking, shade, dog waste, and separate area for small and large dogs. Only request was no time-out area. There was a range of responses to the ground cover choices. Most preferred grass and/or some type of landscaping stone. The committee agreed to do more research on ground covers to gather additional information. Additional topics to research are the needs of maintenance to access the park. Parking continues to be a concern but has been discussed and reviewed extensively. There was discussion on tree placement to ensure owners can view dogs. In summary, key issues to address based on the survey:

- Size of small dog area
- Shade and trees
- Airlock placement and location
- Possibility of opaque screening and pricing
- Doggie septic system
- Service gates

C. Dog Park Size

Committee reviewed Dennis' documents and comparisons with known areas in Acton. The committee discussed the bottle top neck at the top of the large dog areas. Wider than thought to be and the possibility of a roped off area for dog training or agility. Potential funding source.

D. Other items

Recreation Commission-Open Space Plan Liason needed. Karen volunteered to review documents and report to the committee.

Dean- Selectboard busy with budget and shared the news about the McManus funding.

Friends Update-Developing a plan to move to 501C status. Goal for more corporate fundraising but being sensitive to the fund raising already being done for the Recreation Department.

Senior Park-Steve will contact Dennis to arrange an update for early January. Jeff discussed combining forces on the development of the trails for both properties and the potential pros and cons of different surfaces.

Meetings-Next meeting will be December 28th if Dennis is available, and if not on January 14th.

Nick has been officially sworn-in! Welcome and congratulations.

4. Citizen's Concerns-none
5. Adjournment

At 8:31P.M., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Martin

Vice-Chair