

Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting minutes

Second Floor Meeting Room, Acton Memorial Library

September 19, 2017

Committee Members Present:

- Mike Perry, Chair
- Clare Siska
- Tom Gillispie
- Rodney Smith
- Joan Gardner (BOS)
- Cathy Fochtman (Rec Dept)

Absent:

- Bill Alstrom
- Betsy Kristl
- Karen Martin

Other Attendees:

Mr. Perry called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Comments from the Public

- None

Review and accept prior meeting minutes

- The amended minutes of the 9/7/2017 meeting was unanimously accepted.

Committee visits

- Committee started working on a list of other town committees to visit.
- Clare and Cathy suggested reaching out to town committees for support, heading towards actually getting letters of support. Cathy reported that this is often done when grants are being sought to confirm interest levels.
- Getting a sense of support level from other committees is consistent with the charge. Clare reported getting some clarification from Katie Green (BOS?) as follows: need to document and get letters of support from groups larger than just the ADP, and to identify any possible opposition/concerns – i.e. clarifying the justification for a dog park prior to starting the design and implementation.
- Clare put it best – ask the committees what they would need to support a dog park in Acton?
- After some discussion, the list of committees we plan to visit is:
 - Commission on Disabilities
 - Open Space Committee
 - Stewardship Committee
 - RITE (correct?)
 - Recreation Department
- Tom will assemble a spreadsheet of these committees and contact their chairperson for meeting dates where ADP could be on the agenda. Committee will then divide and conquer list.
- Clare volunteered to assemble a set of talking points/elevator message to use at these committee meetings and at the upcoming Oktoberfest.

Additional Items

Cathy reported getting from the Town Clerk a list of registered dog owners and their dog's breed(s). Joan asked if we could get them plotted in the GIS system giving us a visual image of dog ownership by geo. Cathy will investigate. May want to have this for the Oktoberfest table.

Committee identified a goal of presenting progress and what support we've gathered so far to the Board of Selectmen sometime in Nov. Mark will request this through Joan.

The committee received an e-mail from member Bill Alstrom just before the meeting announcing his resignation and lots of details about his decision. The committee all felt it was too much to process right away and will discuss at the next meeting. Members need to be careful about exchanging e-mail on this subject outside the full committee meetings. Cathy will reach out to Bill about how to officially inform the Town Clerk of his resignation which would then trigger the VCC to find a replacement.

Oktoberfest

- Cathy and Betsy have been exchanging some e-mails and ideas.
- Cathy reports:
 - Recreation Dept. has a table (\$40) and we'll use this to share info on ADP
 - 10AM – 3PM on 10/14 in West Acton
 - Cathy will provide tent, table, chairs, sand bags
 - Cathy will work with Clare and Betsy on a poster, flyer and stickers. Finalize at next meeting. This should leverage the material Bill wrote for the Municipal Quarterly and Clare's talking points.
- Clare's company will donate additional treats and doggie bags.
- We'll assemble 200 ziplock bags at next meeting with treat, doggie bag, and sticker with ADP's page on town's website (charter, etc)
- Cathy will provide 2-3 clipboards with "sign up if interested" sheets to collect name and optional e-mail
- We'll finalize table times next meeting – several members have already volunteered for some time slots
- We recognized that Cathy volunteered for a lot of this work and the committee will certainly help as needed.

Future meetings and calendar events:

- ADPC full committee: All Tue evening 7:30 – 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, 11/21
- Cathy recommended flushing out more future meeting dates/times at the next meeting

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gillispie