

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE  
Meeting #8

6:00 PM, Monday, March 26, 2018.  
Town room, Town Hall.

Present:

Nina Allen  
Ellen Keiter  
Mike Chesworth  
Kaye Sherwood (formerly Dougan)  
Ted Diamond  
Gina Fusco  
Jim Pistrang  
Jack Jemsek  
Dave Ziomek (Assistant Town Manager)  
Jim Wald (Select Board Liaison)  
Carol Hepburn (Animal Control Officer)  
Ana Devlin Gauthier

Peter Wells, Berkshire Design Group

**Agenda**

Approve minutes from last meeting: Approved Unanimously.

Public comment on proposed site location.

- None

Review of Stanton Design Grant application

DZ: Spoke with National Heritage Program who are the

real decision makers in the dog park's design shape

They can veto our design due to the Grasshopper Sparrow nesting grounds.

Heritage does not want our dog park to intrude too far up the hill into the field

And our dog park must not negatively impact the solar panels project at the other landfill site.

PW: Presents aerial photos showing where the DP fence could go.

No trees can be planted according to DPW because nothing should penetrate clay cap

Area will be quite sunny after noon

Presents his map/plan

Proposed 90° parking of Old Belchertown Road must be approved by Planning board and DPW

Adding 2 ft. of topsoil to entire area (for footings).

DZ: The town can provide 12" of topsoil

We would have to buy \$30-40k of topsoil beyond that

Passes around sample patch of artificial dog turf for on the slope, west

See Map on website

GF: Can we keep the existing trees near the small dog area?

- possible

TD: Tick barrier perimeter?

- possible, good idea

DZ: Nat. Heritage will need to come out and walk the site and approve

PW: Donation suggestions: From contractors, DPW,

landscapers, anyone.

See handout

GF: Knows of a granite dump at UMass we could look to for donation asks.

JJ: Topsoil probably can be of mixed quality, but must meet the specs of PW

PW: Look to private sector for landscape donations

DZ: Once PW puts together the cost estimate, only then should we coordinate outreach for donations

PW: Donation outreach should happen up until bidding goes out.

JP: Is Stanton open to a second supplemental grant?

PW: Yes. Every six months a new amount, perhaps 5% of original grant, can be requested and provided

DZ: Our 90k ask from CPAC looks to have some excess funds at this point.

PW & DZ believe they will have things ready for Stanton by April 1st

This design plan is usable for Stanton proposal

TD: Re: Fundraising. Perhaps keep some things vague in our initial letter to Stanton to accommodate future fundraising for needed items.

DZ: Thanks to PW for his pro bono work so far.

Planning for Town Meeting CPA Article

JP: There will be an article at Town Meeting for CPA of which two line items will be our dog park (half from open space funds, half from recreation funds).

JP has decided (based on advice from many) that he need not recuse himself. But he will not be able to answer questions. So we other committee members should be there and prepared to answer questions.

TM can vote to limit the money to us (down to zero is possible).

TM meets early May. Maybe we could all be there.

### Report from the Rules subcommittee

GF: Looked at local surrounding dog park rules, AKC rules, Stanton rules.

See handout of Rules Committee meeting minutes.

Discussion of rules:

- Little dogs and big dogs stay separated. Some disagree.

- Carol Hepburn: Adamant that dogs should be kept apart by size.

- First section agreed upon

Revision to rules:

- Small dog area limited to dogs weighing 30 lbs. or less. Large dogs must be 30 lbs. or more.

- One handler and their dogs in entry courtyard

- No leashed dogs in the park

- No digging other than in designated digging areas

- No children under the age of 8

- Three dogs per owner maximum

- No professional dog handler usage
- No dog treats

### Report from the Sustainability subcommittee

JP: Spoke again with second lawyer on 501c3. Best to not go alone on being a non-profit

Ana volunteers to research poop stuff, composting.

Mike did some shoddy research. Will strive to do better

Ted will now contact the Dakin re: 501c3, replacing the disgraced Mr. Chesworth

Sustainability needs to come to grips with

- Future budget
- Non-profit status
- Relationship with the town

### Fundraising

For immediate construction would be good

Friends of the Amherst Dog Park to move into this roll along with sustainability

### Public comment on other items.

- none

### Items not anticipated.

- none

### Set next meeting date

Monday, April 23, 6pm

Adjourn: Seconded, approved. We out.

