

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE

Meeting #10

6:00 PM, Monday, June 18, 2018.

Town Room, Town Hall.

Present:

Jim Pistrang
Ana Devlin Gauthier
Ellen Keiter
Mike Chesworth
Ted Diamond
Jack Jemsek
Gina Fusco
Kaye Sherwood

Agenda

Approved minutes from last meeting

Extension of the term of the DPTF

JP: We do not need to be reappointed until next January.

Status of review of grant proposals

Notes from DZ (absent):

- Met with Nat Heritage people and yes we can do the dog park at the proposed old landfill site.
- Contacted Stanton, grant will be submitted tomorrow, 19 June.

They are impressed with our organization.

We will probably hear back by end of July.

- We cannot start reuse study until after July 1 (new fiscal year)

JP Status of other PetSafe grant (25K)?

EK: Need letters of written commitment from town leaders on town stationary to apply by June 30.

JP: Amherst Rotary Club has a grant they could offer if we ask?

EK: Yes. The Rotary Club has a community grant we can apply for.

TD: We will need to get bids for design work?

JP: But we need a “yes” from the Stanton Found before we can put out a proposal

Update on Friends strategies (governance, fiscal agent, etc.)

TD: Contacted the Dakin re: fiscal agency. Concerns from Dakin accountant and lawyer as to legal, fiscal responsibility

- Why can't we have an earmarked account with the town?

JP: Money contributed to the town means we must deal with the bureaucracy.

- Perhaps a letter of understanding.
- Arrange a meeting with Dakin and DZ to answer questions?

GF: Kestral is still a possibility and may be the better choice. They has done this sort of thing before
And Kestral deals constantly with the town

KS: Will connect Kestral.

TD: Will hold off on Dakin for now

Timeline of activities for the next 6 months

JP: Construction of dog park could begin Spring 2019.
Opening could be Fall 2019 to Spring 2020

Start January:

- Begin a push to build Friends Group. Press release.
- Better for timing. Closer to opening of the park.

Otherwise too soon.

The Friends group will need to assemble their plans to maintain the dog park and raise funds in conjunction with the town.

Town will need a memorandum of understanding from Friends of the Dog Park

We should share a first meeting with ADPTF and the Friends of DP.

Fall 2018:

- Design finalized, with public meeting for same.
- Bid out design?
- Determine the relationship with the town.

Press Release strategy

- Site announcement

ADG: Suggests a sign at the site now with proposed map.

JP: Will ask DZ about sign on site and press release.

Public comment

Public Attendee: Dog park is wonderful. Will the dog park have an impact on the existing town areas where folks walk their dogs?

JP: The hope is the dog park will take pressure off existing areas. But we do not see changes to current regulations

Public Attendee: Would the Friends of Dog Park encompass dog concerns in other town areas?

JP: We have not talked about this. FOADP could chose to be involved in other dog things. But we see it focussed on our dog park.

Public Attendee: We don't want to see new regulations.

Public Attendee: How much will the dog park cost?

JP/EK: About \$300K

Public Attendee: Will little dogs be allowed in the big dog area?

JP: Our veterinarian on the committee and the animal control officer recommended no. The danger to small dogs is too

serious.

Public Attendee: Does everyone on the committee have a dog?

All but DZ

Public Attendee: Have you modeled on other dog parks?

Yes. Agawam is closest. Other parks are mentioned that everyone looked at.

Other items not anticipated by the chair

ADG: Has found info on dog waste disposal. Will send to JP to post on website. Will present at next meeting

Set next meeting date

Will postpone determining a new meeting date until later.

Move to adjourn. So done.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

KS: Will connect with Kestral. (And arrange meeting with town?)

EK will send inquiry to Rotary Club community grant

JP and Dave to work on press release

JP To call re: town letters for PetSafe grant

JP to ask DZ about the need to bid for design

ADG: Will present dog waste research report at next meeting.