

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE

Meeting #13

6:00 PM, Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Town Room, Townhall.

Present:

Jim Pistrang

Ellen Keiter

Mike Chesworth

Kaye Sherwood

Ana Devlin Gauthier

Peter Wells

Agenda

Approve minutes from September 11 meeting: Approved unanimously

Approve minutes from October 18 meeting: Approved unanimously

Project Update

Design Review

Peter Wells, Berkshire Design

PW: Had survey crew stake out the back of the dog park to determine height requirements.

- We cannot cut into the land so most will need to be fill
- Has numbers for amount of fill needed: 1100 cubic yards
- 495 cubic yards topsoil
- Cost estimate: \$245k, no shade structures, frills
- We need to get this down to 225k for Stanton

Foundation grant

- Need to determine which machines (size/weight) are allowed to do the work on this site.
- Perhaps the town can help with paving to save perhaps half of the asphalt budget.

ADG: Benches seem expensive?

PW: These are middle-of-the-road prices - Benches could be donated.

JP: Sand mound could be optional

PW: Donations can be had to lower costs: sand, block, etc. Brooms on site to help maintain the rice stone, a good idea.

JP: The cost of the chainlink?

PW: Fencing is expensive. Plus, no footings can be dug, so spread footings.
- This is uncoated chainlink.

MC: How can we cut costs?

PW: Sand mound, boulders, benches, shade structures. These numbers are estimates. Contractor bids will be different.

- We do not have to get this set. number down to 225K - Each contractor's bid will be different

Donation priorities: - Topsoil

- Fill

- Benches

- Asking the town to pave, common fill

JP: Electrical service?

PW: Fountains will need pumps. Not enough pressure on site. - Pipes not being below 5ft. means the pipes will need shut-offs, blow outs, etc. for winter.

EK: (Passes out Fundraising plan/skeleton). See attached.

- Donation ideas

- Founder contributor levels -

PW: Many towns are raising dog license fees to raise some money for their dog parks

JP: May be not fair for Amherst residents, funding the park like this.

JP: Timeline moving forward?

PW: Multiple plans to come. - 2-3 months.

- We need these plans for Stanton Review. - And to revise to go out to bid.

- The low bid is what Stanton will pay for.

KS: Must we go with the lowest bidder?

PW: Yes. The lowest reasonable bid.

PW: Could go out to bid as early as Jan/Feb 2019

- Is DZ good with this? (regarding what preliminary work he is doing)

- Going to bid Jan/Feb is good.

JP: Keep moving forward so we can go

PW: Question for DZ:

- Is the area OK as to where the stakes are now?

- Assuring the common fill is available?

- Machinery on the landfill?

- Permitting? Design review board? Conserv Comm? Planning Board? Town Council?

Hope we can simply submit a "Request for Determination." (we desire a "negative")

At this time, Berkshire Design will go slowly until these questions are resolved.
Tigh & Bond engineering to be involved in assessing some of the issues on site.

What the committee needs to do for design:

Chose: bench style, trash receptacle, recycling bins.

UMass Civic Engagement Course Presentation

- Waste disposal - cheapest

- easier

Anaerobic digestion:

- Possible bio-gas user in Hadley - Simpler than composting

Composting

- dog waste requires more energy to compost

JP: How critical is the bag for the dog poop?

Biodegradeable. Not plastic.

Signage on receptacles helpful to improve results.

Next steps: Will contact farms in Hadley re: taking our waste to bio-digest.

Website design.

- Framework looks very clean and well done - Needs content from us

JP: Domain cost and hosting?

- Has access to hosting site free - Not sure, will speak with DZ

- Kestrel may be able to host on their site as a subdomain

Public comment None

Other items not anticipated by the chair

EK: Get word out about the coming dog park

ADG: Yard signs? Like co-op signs, announcing the coming dog park

JP: Bylaws?

ADG: (Looks it up): Duration for election signs only.

Thoughts on signs:

- Should look polished, serious - Logo, website enough.

EK: When do we get more PR

JP: Next meeting we can focus on a PR plan. Closer to when bids will go out, when people can begin making donations

Set next meeting date:

Determined: Tuesday, December 11

Move to Adjourn, seconded, unanimous.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Submit above questions to DZ

JP: Ask about Kestrel Trust status

JP: Follow up with Jack on his research of Memorandum of Understanding