

## **AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE**

### Meeting #14

6:00 PM, Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

Town Room, Townhall.

### Present:

Jim Pistrang

Ellen Keiter

Mike Chesworth

Kaye Sherwood

Ted Diamond

Jack Jemsek

Gina Fusco

Dave Ziomek

Carol Hepburn

Nina Allen

Peter Wells

### **Agenda**

Approve minutes from last meeting

Approved with corrections those in attendance

### Design Review & Project Update

PW: Not much new to report since last meeting.

- Formally submits design contract for Berkshire Design to work.

- Shows an sample of the presentation and design maps/ plans that would be submitted.

TD: Concerned about having grass in the wetter part of the big dog area.

JP: Where is the landfill cap is in the build area.

PW: Will meet with DZ and Tighe & Bond to define restrictions around the site.

PW: Biggest concern is the need for 1132 cubic yards of fill to grade the site.

- The problem with this landfill site means we must add material—we cannot move existing material.

JP: Can the town donate the needed fill?

DZ: Will check.

PW: Current budget that stays within the Stanton grant budget (\$247K) does not include:

- Shade structures
- Benches
- Boulders
- Fill

JJ: Can we use an “Agricultural Fence” (which is cheaper) fencing (used in Ludlow dog park) rather than chainlink?

PW: Because of the landfill cap, we cannot use the posts that need to be hammered down 4” in depth.

JP: Can't the fencing they are putting around the old landfill be a part of our park's fencing (to save money).

DZ: To take advantage of that we would need to wait for the solar project, a few years out. Timing is the problem.

TD: Community Preservation money? Any money left over?

DZ: Not clear yet, but we may be under budget there and see some money come back.

DZ: Re: Agricultural fence: Concerned about longevity, quality versus cost saving. Pennywise, pound foolish.

PW: Chainlink will last longer and require less maintenance.

DZ: Still, this should be looked into.

JJ: What about the fencing beyond the edge of the cap? No need for special footings.

JP: True. Footings could be used in perhaps half the fencing.

PW: Possible, yes. But recommends chainlink for the entry gates.

DZ: Chainlink lasts, e.g. Mill River baseball field fence put up in 1972

DZ: Concerned that shade structures are on the option list rather than a must. Shade structures are a MUST.

PW: Most of the things in the budget we must have.

- Not a lot of reductions can be made.
- Gravel instead of asphalt on some of the parking a

possible cost saving.

## Mass Civic Engagement Course

Students working on their project for waste disposal system for the dog park present their current work

A list of contacts for researching the problem is passed around.

Findings:

- Three basic options for dealing with dog waste:
  - Digesting
  - Composting
  - Disposal
  
- They spoke with five(?) local composting farms and found some interest but nothing firm at this time.
  
- Composting dog waste.
  - Need specific quantity numbers per month to provide the farmers before they can assess their interest.
  - Possibly join with other towns to get above a threshold of waste amount

EK: Cost?

STUDENTS:

- Hauling fees are the only cost they know of now.
- There would be different policies company to company.

JP: How easy is it to contaminate a load, i.e., by someone throwing in one plastic bag, or litter, etc.?

STUDENTS: It would depend on the process used and the company.

JJ: Reports the Agawam dog park has a cubic yard per month going to the landfill at this time.

### Web Page Status

The students present their recommendations for what should be on the website.

- Handout attached.

corrected to .org

JP: Domain name: AmherstDogPark.com is available.

- He can get the domain name
- Has free hosting to offer
- Looking for volunteers to help with website

### Discussion on the plan:

DZ: Would like to see move of the alternates (e.g., shade structures) to definite includes.

- This is already a basic dog park.
- Not a lot of room to cut to stay within budget
- Fundraising ,fundraising, fundraising.

PW: Recommends we set up the most area we can with less frills. Frills can be added later.

GF: Once again: Can we use the area of scrubby trees out on the north end of the park?

PW: It's an idea worth pursuing

- We could prune the pines, thin the limbs, and try to include the area.

- Could be muddy

NA: Visited Granby dog park where there are mud areas. No problem for dogs.

TD: It might be worth it to use the area to add shade space.

JP: Is the pine tree area outside the cap?

PW: Will check out this "pine tree" area to consider use. This would be in the small dog area.

JP: then take some small dog area for big dog area?

## Shade Structures

JP: As extras: Can we go out to bid with more than we have money to pay for?

DZ: We need some shade structures/benches in the initial design. Maybe add more later. We must People with disabilities, etc. need these.

PW: There is some natural shade on the south side.  
Shade structures are not cheap.

Even Sail Structures ain't cheap.

TD: Re: Sail Structures: Describes a boulder he saw used for a shade structure base in Provincetown.

- Could stay on top of the cap.

PW: Likes the idea. Will look into this.

DZ: Challenges with wooden structures: carpenter bees!  
Ahhh!

Alternative shade structure options will be considered by all concerned.

### Planning the PR and Fundraising Campaign

JP: Kestrel and Dakin will NOT be participating as fiscal agencies for our dog park.

- Kestrel states it's not within their mission.
- Dakin simply passed.
- The town will be able to handle donations targeted to our dog park.

DZ: If the town holds the dog park funds, large projects would need to be bid out.

JP: Community Theatre group has found their own 501-C3 works better.

- Spending flexibility, especially small amounts
- Our dog park being a simpler entity should mean it's less troubled by the issues of bureaucracy.

PW: RE: Town holding the funds:

- Anything over 10K requires three bids. You must take the lowest bidder.

- 25K means public competitive bidding required.

DZ: RE: handling Dog Park funds:

- First choice, create a 501C3.

But if the town holds the funds:

- Fundraising requests must be spelled out in detail.

- What's being funded: construction, longterm maintenance.

- The town will require it give permission for large projects.

JP: How funds are set aside for different purposes must be tracked.

- Friends of the Dog Park funds, etc.

- The MOU must spell all this out.

HANDOUTS:

- List of potential donors.

- Notes from Fundraising subcommittee meeting,

12/07/2018

- EK's Task List: for starting a fundraising campaign.

We need a Fundraising Campaign/Capital Campaign - Target amount: 100K

- Financial donations

- In-kind donations

TD: Suggests a sponsorship donation menu

- Recognition for donation

- Naming rights

NA: Kickstarter? GoFundMe?

GF: As a town entity, we cannot do this.

EK: Rotary Club is still a possible for a grant.

JP: Wants EK's Task list turned into a concrete plan

- Dates with phases
- A subcommittee that will take this and make a plan
- We need to begin fundraising before the bid goes out.

DZ: Bid documents can contain contingencies.

PW: change orders can come through later.

DZ: But we need the budget firmed up first of all.

JP: Timeline for when bid goes out?

DZ: Some time in February.

- Too many variables to go earlier.

PW: If we get answers to pertinent questions we could go out to bid in February

- Submit to Stanton first
- Stanton currently requires three weeks for review.
- So bid could be delayed until March

TIMELINE ESTIMATE: Bid goes out February-March.

JP: We need a plan for capital campaign by January.

- Fundraising Committee will meet to make plan.
- Target launch fundraising in January.

Optimism is high that people in the area love dogs and will help fund the park.

### Memorandum of Understanding Status

JP: Research has been done.

- Will draft doc for next meeting

### Public comment

None

### Set next meeting date:

Fundraising Committee: 6:00pm, Monday, Jan 07, 2019

Determined: DPTF: 6:00pm, Tuesday, Jan 29, 2019

Move to Adjourn: seconded, unanimous.

### ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

ALL: Email your appropriate, no-conflict dog memes to Nina Allen for the Facebook page.

DZ and PW: Confirm hanging questions about the site with Tighe & Bond, Gilford Mooring, DPW, and the DEP