

Dog Park Task Force Meeting

9/24/19 6:00pm

First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Present: Nina Allen, Jim Pistrang, Ted Diamond, Gina Fusco, Jack Jemsek, Dave Ziomek, Ellen Kieter

Jim's Updates:

Dog License Fee Increase:

- Paul Bockelman says we can't raise fees of dog licenses just for the dog park
- it is a good argument and we should follow up with Paul about it
- fee increase recommendation: \$10 for spayed/neutered and \$20 for not spayed/neutered
- it would have to be approved by Town Council

Dave's Project Update:

- Stanton
 - we haven't received the money yet but have been approved for grant
 - we don't know if it's reimbursement
 - they recommend we wait to bid until Jan/Feb to get better price
- Amherst Planning board has approved us
- Town Council voted in August to approve the use of the location on Old Belchertown Road for the dog park
- Natural Heritage
 - Landfill Solar and Dog park applications were put in together
 - permit for the dog park should come out within ~45 days
- Overall we're in good shape to start construction Spring 2020

Ted- Do we have the funds to start designing the welcome kiosk?

- Yes, Dave will contact Berkshire Design to get that going
- Ted (and maybe Mike C) will meet with Mike Liu (Berkshire Design) to discuss the design

Jim- What about the "Future Home of Amherst Dog Park" sign?

Dave- Pretty much ready to go with that – will send out the design to us and we'll put it up soon

Fundraising

We have some commitments from committee members: Jim a bench, Ellen a founder, Ted large pavilion We've received a few donations. We don't know if we can do electronic donations yet. We can do cash, in kind, and check. Dave will follow up on that. Alternative- Dave could check with Kestrel to see if they would accept electronic payments for the dog park

Jim has approached 10 people via email, 3 responded:

- One person said they'll get back to him
- One person asked if they could get together with a group of friends to purchase one of the items (answer: yes)
- One person donated

Jim re-sent the donor tracking spreadsheet

Stanton has recognized that dog parks need to raise money and they probably will be ok with donor recognition being displayed.

We still do not know if we will be doing any type of “In Memory Of...” display.

Ted has a contact that has experience doing commemoration displays that has said he is interested in talking with us about some sort of design.

Dave suggests collaboration with Public Art Committee

We still need to contact people/businesses about being founders before offering cheaper/temporary advertising opportunities.

Dave suggests sending letters and then following up in person or over the phone

Gina suggests going at the beginning of the month because businesses have budgets

Ellen and Gina will research what businesses have online applications for donations

We need to follow up with the Rotary Club about possible donation – Dave is speaking at their meeting on Thursday and will mention it. Ellen will email some members.

We will all try to reach out to more people and businesses about big donations.

How can we raise awareness about the dog park status? When should we start doing that?

- Article in the paper?
- Email people?
- Meeting in town room?

Ted suggests we wait until everything is planned. It will be easier when it’s closer to happening. We will also know how much money we need when we are closer to the start of the construction.

Dave suggests an event/dog walk when we put up the “Future Home of...” sign where people can talk to us and see the site. Ellen will look into planning this (possibly 9am Sat 11/2?)

How should we thank people for donations?

- Town sends an acknowledgement (tax purposes)
- An additional email from us is probably enough

Next meeting ~~11/13~~ 11/12

Meeting adjourned.