

Dog Park Task Force Meeting Notes

December 10, 2019

6:15 Meeting called o order by Jim Pistrang

In attendance: Jim Pistrand, Ellen Keiter, Jack Jemsek, Gina Fusco, Dave Ziomek (non-voting)

Review of previous minutes/approved

Dave Ziomek:

Updates:

Kiosk:

- Entry kiosk updates from Mike Lui from Berkshire Design. Berkshire Design will add the needed dimension measurements to the plan so that Barry Roberts can build. Mike will work up the final design, send it to Dave Z who will send it to Jim P who will contact Barry.
- The inner part of the kiosk. Do we buy the inner pieces? Plexi glass, corkboard, etc. Ellen will see what the Eric Carle museum uses in their outdoor kiosk.
- No need to stress about a time line on this.

DEP:

- Risk Assessment was accepted by the DEP.
- Town will submit Post Closure Use permit.
- Mike tweaked the plans to move the storage shed and lessen the amount of fill needed. These updates will be brought to the Planning Board in January.
- DPW had hoped to get donated fill from the town. However, town fill is not up to spec. Mike determined that it was less complicated to buy the fill rather than to process it through the town and get it up to spec.

Construction:

- Dave is reaching out to National Heritage in regards to sequencing the construction as to not disturb the nesting birds. We may have to have two

phases of construction to avoid the birds when they are nesting and taking care of their young. How will this affect the bid and how will we word the bid? We could possibly have a contingency in the bid? It will depend upon whether or not there are nesting pairs on the site. Mike is working on an updated cost estimate as starting and stopping a project will be costlier. Mike would like to know where we are in regards to pledges. Are there any items that have been funded with pledges that we can take off the list?

- Project will go out to bid on January 15th. Bids are due Feb 12th.

Press:

- Dave spoke with Scott Merzbach today. He'll call Jim for updates on the project. Will run a story in about two weeks. Jim has notes for what he will tell Scott. Jim will update the web site in regards to fund raising information so that Scott can add this info to the piece.

Fund Raising:

- Dave spoke with Kristen DeBoer of The Kestrel Land Trust. She shared her thoughts on fundraising. She would like big gifts to go to the town. Smaller gifts can go through the Kestrel web site where folks will be able to designate that they want their donation to go to the Dog Park. She needs to clear all of this with her board. She feels our website could use some work in regards to our goals and conceptualization. Donators would get a free year membership to the Kestrel Trust. There would be a time limit on this as Kristen wants a definitive start and stop to the fund raising campaign that is linked to The Kestrel Trust. Dave will follow up with Kristen.
- Discussion on the best way to collect donations then followed. Going forward, how will fund raising play out? Kestrel is a short term solution. Ellen noted that once The Friends of the Amherst Dog Park group is up and running they will have to figure out the best way to collect donations. Jack will check in with his bank about how other groups do this and is it possible to have an account tied to a Paypal account where funds could be collected. How does a Go Fund Me page work? Very difficult and complicated to create a 501C.

Jim:

Fund Raising Pledge updates

- Dave: Will talk to one of his staff about updating the Dog Park web site to better reflect the things that Kristen would like to see.
- Jim: For now, he will add a google form to our web page for pledges. Someone will follow up on the pledges made.

Dave:

- Another BIG question. Both Mike and Peter Wells (from Berkshire Design) feel that the grass in the dog park should be left alone to grow for one full season. This would mean the dog park would open in the spring of 2021. A limited opening with fencing to keep dogs in the pebble area and off the growing grass was discussed.

Next Meeting Date: January 21st at 6:00

Meeting adjourned 7:15