

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE
Meeting #1

7:00 PM, Monday, June 12, 2017. Town Room at Town Hall.

Present:

Nina Allen
Mike Chesworth
Ana Devlin Gauthier
Ted Diamond
Kaye Dougan
Gina Fusco
Carol Hepburn * (Animal Welfare Officer)
Jack Jemsek
Ellen Keiter
Jim Pistrang
David Ziomek * (Director of Conservation and Development)
Paul Bockelman* (Town Manager)

Handouts:

Agenda for this meeting
Committee Charge
List of Potential Sub-Committees
“Designing a Model Dog Park” (article, Mich. State Univ. College of Law)
“Provincetown’s Pilgrim Bark Park on Cape Cod makes Dog Fancy’s Top 10” (article, examiner.com)

Introductions and Announcements

Elect Officers

Chair: Jim Pistrang nominated, seconded, elected unanimously
Vice Chair: Ted Diamond nominated, seconded, elected unanimously
Secretary: Mike Chesworth volunteered, seconded, elected unanimously

Review of Task Force Charge

Paul Bockelman leaves the meeting.

Current Status of Site Selection and Funding

— Dave Ziomek described the basics of potential land availability and limitations in Amherst. An inventory is under way. He will advise on all issues of land possibilities and usages issues.

— For funding, Ted Diamond suggested the Stanton Foundation (see website) \$225K possible. But no longer usable for land acquisition. Nina Allen suggested Pet Safe (or Pet Smart?).

— Jim Pistrang urged not considering existing park space or requesting money from town if possible.

— Dave urges everyone to read the Open Space and Recreation section of the town website

— Carol Hepburn suggested a possible spot owned by UMass

Discussion of Subcommittees and Subcommittee Assignments

— Everyone spoke to their choices of sub-committees:

Site Location:

Kay, Dave, Ana, Jack, Ellen, Gina

Design:

Ted, Mike, Dave, Ana, Carol, Gina

Funding:

Kay, Ted, Dave, Ellen, Nina

Rules and Regulations

Ted, Jack, Carol, Nina, Gina

Sustainability:

Mike, Ana, Carol

Jim will be an at-large member for all sub committees.

Discussion:

— Dave wants to hear from everyone and brainstorm on site choice. Site choice is the priority.

— Questions on land possibles, asks, and donations should go to Dave Ziomek.

— Jim proposed anyone may come to any sub-committee meeting if they wish.

— Open Meeting law states NO DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE FORMAL MEETINGS but sending information is OK. Jim will post all meetings, including sub-committee meetings, to public 48 hrs. in advance.

Discussion of Timeline

— Our goal is to have a site determined, a rough design, and an idea where the money comes from by Fall 2017. Community Preservation Funds are a possibility. Application must be made early December. Town Meeting could then vote Spring 2018.

Schedule Future Meetings

- 1) Site location (sub-committee should first meet late-June/early-July)
- 2) Funding & Design. (sub-committees should first meet early-July)

Other Business Not Anticipated

— Dave Ziomek reminded us if someone wishes to donate land to contact him. Acquiring property by the town should/can go to executive session for confidentiality reasons.

Public Comment

None present.

Adjournment

Moved, seconded, agreed.

Action Items

- Jim will confirm using GoogleDocs is OK.
- Jim will initiate a presence on the town website for Amherst Dog Park Task Force
- Jim will create Doodle pages to get the meetings lined up.
- Gina Fusco volunteered to research existing dog parks within a 50 mile radius.