

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE

Site Location Subcommittee Meeting #1

7:00 PM, Monday, June 27, 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)

JP: Re. Google Docs. Info OK but no opinions, deliberations.

DZ: Urges feedback on site ideas, wishes to cast the widest net to consider all possibilities.

Questions posed:

— One Park or Two? Discussion led to all agree to build one dog park.

— Size?: Discussion led to: Minimum 3/4 acre. Agreed that separate sections for small dogs and big dogs.

— Parking?: Agreed 20 minimum spots.

- Water/Restrooms?: Agreed no public restrooms. Water not essential.
- Traffic considerations?:
- Noise?: Agreed will be an issue. Buffer zone if possible.
- Natural water features?: Stagnant water is not good. Agreed water feature is not desirable.

BRAINSTORMING ON SPECIFIC SITES:

INSTITUTION provided site:

UMass, Hampshire College, Amherst College, Hitchcock Center

Question: Can we buy / use land in Hadley?

TOWN SITES:

DZ: Conservation spaces would require “change of use” conditions.

NA: Elf Meadow? Conservation. No neighbors

Old Landfill / New Old Landfill. Old Landfill a possible. But: Solar panels to come. Habitat for endangered sparrow.

East Street School field, 1.4 acres

N. Amherst Fire Station, field behind

Hawthorne Farm? Parking a problem.

REC AREAS as possible sites

Playing fields are at a premium. Avoid.

Groff Park: Access without disrupting park visitors. Parking?

PRIVATE sites

Discussed expense as a problem. No money for land from the Stanton Foundation.

OK to mention to prospective landowners donations (not sales)

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

- Minutes and notes to DZ and staff
- After next two sub-committee meetings JP to approach local media to announce Task Force plans, needs
- JP to set up meeting with P. Bockleman, DZ, and staff to discuss land acquisition procedures.

Moved to adjourn. Seconded. Agreed

Minutes recorded and submitted by M. Chesworth