

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE

Design Subcommittee Meeting #1

Tuesday, July 18, 2017. 7:00 PM, Town Room at Town Hall.

Present:

Mike Chesworth
Ted Diamond
Gina Fusco
Carol Hepburn * (Animal Welfare Officer)
Jim Pistrang

One member of the public was present

Possible dog park features were brainstormed. Research provided by Gina gave insight into what the top ten dog parks in the country are like. The Stanton Foundation website with its comprehensive recommendations was also consulted.

Our prioritized wish list is as follows:

1. MUST HAVES

- Fencing, 5' - 6' height, coated steel preferably
- Doggy Bags (for waste)
- Play Elements, basic, simple, inexpensive, e.g. boulders, incline ramps, a pipe to run through.
- Dual Gate Entry (ala airlocks on space ships)
- Shade, trees or artificial. Live trees may need protection around trunks
- Trash Receptacle(s) for people
- Shed or Storage Structure (for maintenance supplies)
- Maintenance Gate (for mower access)
- 20 Parking Spaces (minimum)

- Signs, posted with rules
- Separate Big Dog and Small Dog Areas
- Multiple Surfaces (considering what's best for dogs, expense, maintenance, and wheelchair access)

2. MAYBE HAVES

- Lighting and Pavement
- Water for Dogs (site dependent)
- Irrigation (to avoid smells and for maintenance)
- Overflow Parking
- 1 to 2 Acre Site
- Sprinkler Feature for Dogs (site dependent, with timer to avoid wasting water)
- A Shelter (ala a bus stop)
- Walkway (site dependent)*

3. NICE BUT NOT REQUIRED

- Walkway (site dependent) *note: this item straddles categories 2 and 3
- Second Entrance

4. DO NOT WANT

- Toys
- Ornamental Landscaping
- Water for Humans

Carol suggested we all together take a “road trip” to the dog park in Agawam.

Ted relayed his professional experience as a vet with a kennel as to suitable surfaces: Artificial turf is the best (but expensive), followed in descending order by stones (move downslope over time), mulch/wood chips (smell of urine and must be replaced often), natural grass (wears to bare patches, becomes mud)

The one member of the public in attendance was invited to offer comments \ and she graciously did.

The meeting was moved to adjourn, seconded, and agreed,

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Ted will contact Peter Wells to follow up on his offer to help in the design of the Amherst Dog Park.