

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE  
Meeting #4

7:45 PM, Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Town Room at Town Hall.

Present:

Nina Allen  
Ellen Keiter  
Mike Chesworth  
Ana Devlin Gauthier  
Ted Diamond  
Jim Pistrang  
Gina Fusco  
Jack Jemsek  
Jim Wald (Select Board Liaison)  
Carol Hepburn (Animal Control Officer)

Minutes from previous meeting approved

Agenda

Announcements

Site location status

News from DZ (who could not attend tonight): Sights still under review, progressing slowly

CPA Request

JP: Notes it makes sense to put in request proactively, so if

we do need to purchase land we can get it.

And could possibly adapt application later to refine the use of money we may get.

“For acquisition of land and/or improvements.”

Stanton Foundation requires minimum 10% participation of applicants

Application due Friday, December 8th, 2017

Details: (see CPA webpage)

- Specify project scope and feasibility
- Amount of money requested
- How this request meets the CPA criteria
- Acquisition or preservation of conservation areas?
- How many people served?

CH: 1600 dog licenses, est. 400 unlicensed. approx. 2000 total in Amherst

ADG: Suggests we acknowledge we are working to represent all people of the Amherst community, as this is a public endeavor

TD: Good if we can get funds approved for land acquisition regardless of Stanton Foundation grant coming through, as we could work to raise those missing funds.

EK: Volunteers to work through the CPAC application process

ADG: Offers her support

Report to Town Meeting, Monday, November 6th

JP: Now believes it best to give Town Meeting a heads up on our plans and hopes.

— Offers a draft report to start the discussion

NA: Volunteers to deliver the presentation to TM

FINAL T.M. PRESENTATION TEXT (written here by committee):

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Amherst is home to over 2000 dogs and the humans that love them. We are striving to make Amherst an even more dog-friendly community by creating a place where dogs and their people can come together to socialize and play. The Amherst Dog Park Task Force was established in the spring of 2017. Our vision is to build a fenced-in park in Amherst that is free to all visitors and is supported and maintained by volunteers in the community.

The task force has nine members appointed by the Town Manager as well as three non-voting liaison members: Dave Ziomek, the Director of Conservation and Development, Carol Hepburn, the Animal Welfare Officer, and Jim Wald representing the Select Board. The task force first met in June of 2017 and has had four full meetings as well as several subcommittee meetings. Members of the task force have been working in five separate areas: Site Location, Design, Funding, Rules & Regulations, and Sustainability.

The first goal is locating a site for the park. The task force is working closely with town staff to identify possible locations. Our pref is to use donated land or land already owned by the town, but we are also looking at the possibility of purchasing

land.

The current plan of the task force is to submit a request to the Community Preservation Act Committee in December, requesting funds to purchase land for the dog park. We plan to supplement the CPA funds with a grant from the Stanton Foundation of Massachusetts, which supports the development of enclosed dog parks in Massachusetts cities and towns. The Stanton Foundation grant will pay nearly the full cost of building the park.

Task Force meetings are posted and the public is welcome to attend. In addition, we will be reaching out to the Amherst community, looking for support and volunteers to assist in the maintenance of the park once it is built. We will be looking for your support in the 2018 Annual Meeting to vote in favor of a CPA allocation.

The members of the task force believe that a dog park will be a benefit to dogs, their families, and the community at large. We are grateful for the strong support that we are receiving from the Town Manager and town staff. We hope that Town Meeting will support our efforts as we move forward.

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Friends of Amherst Dog Park Startup Activities

Logos (draft logos offered by MC)

— Square design chosen and to be adapted by MC also to banner.

Logo will be used on:

GoogleDoc form

Facebook page (note: needs logo, wording, should have new content once a week)

JP: Goal is to bring in people in.

TD: Business cards would be great.

— with logo, name, site links

— Suggested blurb: “Lend a paw. Help us build a dog park in Amherst.”

NA: Will try designing a one-side-only biz card first as it is less expensive. And also an 8.5 x 11 flyer

#### Public Comment

None

#### Other Business Not Anticipated

None

#### Schedule Future Meetings

Full meeting: Thursday 30th Nov., 7:30pm for next meeting to approve CPAC proposal

#### Adjournment

Motioned, seconded, moved.