

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE
Meeting #5

7:30 PM, Thursday, November 29, 2017. Community Room,
Police Station.

Present:

Nina Allen
Ellen Keiter
Mike Chesworth
Ana Devlin Gauthier
Kaye Sherwood (formerly Dougan)
Ted Diamond
Jim Pistrang
Gina Fusco
Jack Jemsek
Carol Hepburn (Animal Control Officer)
Dave Ziomek (Assistant Town Manager)

Agenda:

Review & approve Oct 24 minutes

Approved

Recap the Nov 6 TM presentation

Thank you, Nina. Great job.

Site Location update

Looking at a number of public and private sites.

- Two private sites being appraised for market value.
- Public: Looking at one site closely. Further analysis in

progress.

- Select Board has been asking for a surplus property policy. Other groups are looking along with us.
- E Street School? 1.5 acres, problematic access: NOT IN TOP THREE OF DZ's List

TD: Can you talk about public sites? - Amethyst Brook?

DZ: Amethyst Brook: Not in top three.

Here's why:

- Conservation land purchased with "self-help grant". Comes with a lot of restrictions. The CC could stop dog walking immediately
 - Environment not compatible
 - wetlands
 - Farmer with 10-year lease
 - Community gardens
 - From the banks of the brook a 200 ft. setback is required
- Summary: Amethyst Brook poses too many obstacles to be a viable site for our dog park

JP: Jim, Ted and Mike went to the LSSE meeting on Nov. 8th.

- They strongly questioned why we could not get public land for our site
- If we have exhausted our public land possibilities LSSE will gladly support us
- LSSE had concerns about competing for CPA funds

KD: Should we start a list of public lands being struck off our possibilities list?

DZ: We are preparing that list.

- Will talk to LSSE about competition for the same CPA funds
- This committee does not want to take existing recreation

land away for the dog park

JJ: Colleges?

DZ: Not pushing the college option at this time. We must own the land to get the Stanton Grant OR CPA funds. Leasing is not possible. It's complex to get land from the colleges—must go through trustees.

Review and approve CPAC proposal

Thanks to EK for writing the proposal.

Discussion of Noho private dog park.

DZ: A private site must be determined before CPAC will approve funds

- Timing: Town cannot buy land until after July 1, 2018
- Stanton Grant application after that

A line by line discussion of the proposal revisions ensues.
See **revised proposal with EK**.

EW will submit revised proposal, cc'ing to DZ.

- A link to Dog Park website to go with CPAC proposal. And attach images, logo.
- KS volunteers to put together a collection of visuals to put in PDF for submission.

Kudos to Ellen for graciousness while being edited by a room of opinions

Motion to approve document as revised.
Approved.

Review status of Facebook page, logo, business card, flyer

Friends of Amherst Dog Park will need to split off as its own entity, separate from this committee

A non-profit, tax-exempt entity will be established to accept donations.

Council will be sought for pro bono help with this by Carol and Ted.

Approved text for biz card:

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“Friends of Amherst Dog Park” (logo)

Lend a paw, help us build a
dog park in Amherst

Join our mailing list • get involved

amherstdogpark@gmail.com

Like us on [f] Friends of Amherst Dog Park”

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Square logo to be revised with outlined dogs by Mike

Banner logo add “Friends of” above.

Logos in JPEG format to be sent to Ana for Facebook page

Ana will add the revised logo to Facebook page

Nina will carry on and finalize the business cards and when complete email the design to us all.

Kate will print them out in draft hard copies for next meeting

Public comment

none

Other business not anticipated

none

Schedule Future Meetings

Ana & Nina volunteer to go with Jim to Conservation Committee to present and request support Weds, Dec 13
JP will send out Doodle Poll to determine next meeting date, possibly in January

Adjournment

Motioned, seconded, moved.

FUTURE ACTIONS:

Dave continue to work on finding the site and will start a list of properties out of consideration

Ellen will submit the revised and approved proposal to the CPAC, copying Dave.

Carol and Ted will approach a lawyer for help make Friends of Amherst Dog Park a separate entity.

Mike will revise the logos and send to Nina.

Nina will complete the design of the business cards and flyer.

Ana will add the update the Facebook with logo and wording as per cards.

Jim will keep on truckin'