

AMHERST DOG PARK TASK FORCE  
Meeting #6

6:00 PM, Wednesday, January 24, 2018. First floor meeting room, Town Hall.

Present:

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

Agenda:

Announcements

Reviewed and Approved Minutes of Prior Meeting  
-Moved, seconded, approved

CPA Request Update

EK: Presentation to be made tomorrow evening, 1/25/18, 6:30pm in 15min session in front of CPAC.  
Preliminary questions from CPAC are to be answered.

Maintenance?

- Friends of the Dog Park, boy scouts(?).

JP: We will be asking for 90K instead of 200K for site research, assessment, landfill site study (65K for reuse study, 20K for Stanton earnest money, 5K for surveying).

There will be a CPAC public hearing on 7pm Thursday, Feb 8th. All are welcome to attend and will be able to speak for the dog park.

We can assure the CPAC that we need this one-time funding only.

JP: "Move to vote on reduced request from CPAC."  
Seconded, approved unanimously.

### Site Location Discussion and Vote

DZ: Risk must be determined in order to use the old landfill, a required DEP finding.

- Organic trash only under where we plan to site. Three parts of the old landfill: Car park, years of trash, stump dump
- Grasshopper Sparrow: To put solar panels on New Landfill, mitigation (a conservation restriction) must/will be put on the old landfill.
- With fence to be built around old landfill, dog park fence could integrate.
- Old landfill should have been fenced a long time ago.

Considering this site on the old landfill:

Positives:

- Frontage on Old Belchertown Road
- town water near
- no close neighbors, abutters
- Proximity to Rt.9
- Visible, within sight of busy road (rt. 9)
- Open site, already cleared.
- Concept of using this site has already been presented to public meeting.

Possible issues

- Requires a ballasted fence
- "No digging" will be a concern due to landfill cap (14 inches of clay). Propose a warning sign?
- Still, there are many dog parks on landfills around the country.

DZ: We must bring a detailed map to DEP and Natural Heritage Foundation with our design

JP: A good situation for overflow parking (on Old B'town Rd.)

DZ: The fence and the dog park will in aggregate improve the landfill for the Grasshopper Sparrow.

- No off-leash dogs.
- Protective fence.

EK: What is the time frame on solar and consequently the full landfill fence?

DZ: Fall 2018 possible.

JP: Proposes a preliminary notice be sent to the Gazette to

get this site possibility out to the public asap. Gazette has been asking. Our meeting minutes are already public information.

JP: "Move to vote to make this site on the Old Landfill off Old Belchertown Road our proposed site for the dog park."

- Seconded

- Approved unanimously.

## PROPOSED SITE HAS BEEN CHOSEN

### Stanton Grant Application

JP: Time to start our submission for a grant, contingent on the land working out for the site.

TD: Need a letter of assurance from town.

DZ: Believes a municipal employee must submit things to Stanton. He volunteers to submit.

JP: One person should be the committee rep for the Stanton submission.

TD: He volunteers to take point on this, work along with DZ who can submit for the town directly to Stanton.

EK: She volunteers to help with grant writing

JP: Set a date to submit? OK to submit if/when CPA approves. Need not wait for Town Meeting to start Stanton submission. Ask Stanton: "Can we submit letter pending final town approval?"

DZ: Believes it is not an overly competitive year for grants at Stanton. Will check on timeline, who can/should be point person with them. As to him being liaison with Stanton: We as a committee supply him with all materials, budgets, letters, etc., and he will be the point person.

- DZ has a scheduled a meeting with Peter Wells, Berkshire Design to see his availability, discuss possible timeline next week, Wednesdays 9pm, here at town hall. TD and JP will join.

### Friends of Amherst Dog Park Startup Activities

JP: How to get a 501C3? Need a lawyer. Will call Bill (a lawyer) to see if he will volunteer to help with that.

- We need a person to drive forward activities for the Friends of the Amherst Dog Park:

- KS and NA volunteer.

Facebook page is live. Updating it now with newest info.

JP: Fall 2018 is looking positive for beginning construction. Will recuse himself as moderator in order to speak before TM about Dog Park

### Public Comment

none

### Items not reasonably anticipated in the last 48 hours

nothing

### Schedule Future Meetings

Tuesday, 27 February, 7pm

Adjournment

Moved, seconded, approved