

Town of North Hampton New Hampshire
North Hampton Dog Park Committee
Notice of Public Meeting
6:30 PM Thursday, September 12, 2019
Mary B. Herbert Conference Room; 233 Atlantic Avenue

DRAFT

Call to order

Pat McLean called to order the meeting of the Dog Park Committee at 6:35 pm

Attendees: Pat Mclean, Casey Dupuis, Paige Libbey, Amanda Jonovski, Michael Trotta, Anne Nettleton, Meredith Vallee, John Dover

Absent: Ronni Martin, Philip Thayer, Jalisa Bush, Alexa Haley

Approval of minutes from 8/22/19:

Minutes were reviewed. No changes were to be made. Motion to approve the minutes; made by John. Seconded by Anne. The committee unanimously agreed to approve.

NEW BUSINESS

Anne shared the most recent issue of Seacoast Bark magazine where she saw that we were featured. There was an article about a golden retriever and a picture was featured of the owner with the dog in our kissing booth from the SPCA Paws Walk in May. We did not submit this so the committee was thrilled to see we were featured. Casey and Paige submitted an article last week for publication in the October Seacoast Bark issue. It is similar to the library newsletter draft sent to the committee but a shortened version. The editor will also likely be making edits to it prior to publication.

Ronni was unable to make this meeting, but wanted to share one point with the committee based on review of the last meeting's minutes. She suggested that the committee should think about potential dangers of the T Shirt dog toy idea (for the Scarecrow Festival). She has concerns about dogs ripping and digesting the toys, similar to dogs who have issues with eating socks. Upon further discussion by the committee, we agree that this could be a concern. However, we agreed that this is a concern with any dog toy and that most people know whether or not their dogs will have this issue. We feel that if someone knows their dog may do this, they could either not make a toy, or make a toy to be donated instead of taking it home. Casey stated that although her dogs are small, they have never had issues with these toys. Amanda suggested making a sign stating the potential dangers of these toys and stating that dogs should be supervised while playing with the toys. The committee was in agreement with this idea.

AGENDA ITEMS

Land update

Pat gave the committee an update on rail trail land after communication with Phil. She shared that there is a Rail trail meeting with NHDOT on Tuesday 9/24 at 6:30 pm at the Old Depot. She stated that she, Paige

and Phil plan to attend and that any other committee members who wish to attend may do so. She stated that she will allow Phil to represent our committee at the rail trail meeting regarding potential use of the land for the dog park. She asked Paige to print plan copies for the meeting. Paige asked where the Old Depot is. Pat stated she believed it was the old train station building off Atlantic Ave, but will double check with Phil and send the committee an email regarding the location. Pat stated that the Select board seemed very interested in the option of using the rail trail land at last meeting she attended, but she has not heard back from them since then. John and Anne asked for clarification on if the state is purchasing the piece of land next to rail trail as well. Phil had told us previously that this land would be part of the state's purchase of the rail trail. The committee discussed what would happen with the land if it was to be used for a dog park. It is unknown whether the town would purchase the land from the state or if the state would continue to own the land.

Phil also reviewed the potential parcels that we received inquiries on after the mailing. Phil planned on looking at both parcels in person this week. Based on initial review of maps, Phil believed that the Mill Road parcel is wet but that the Cherry Road parcel had potential. Pat had her husband check the tax cards to find out who owns the recycle center on Cherry Road which abuts the parcel we are interested in and stated that the town owns it. Pat stated that this location may be difficult since its residential.

Fundraising/ Events

The committee discussed plans for several events that are upcoming.

Doggie Day in the Maze – 9/21 Saturday 10am-2pm (9am setup) at Scamman Farm in Stratham

Pat explained how the event works and how she believed it was a successful event last year. We met many people and received a lot of interest. She suggested setting up groups of at least 2 throughout the day. She stated that she will help set up since she has the tent and chairs. The committee agreed to set up shifts as follows:

Setup (9:15am) – 11:45am - Pat and Paige.

11:45am – cleanup (2:00pm) - Meredith, Casey and John. Meredith may need to leave at 1:30.

Any other members who were not in attendance of the meeting but wish to participate are welcome to join at any time they are available. Paige is also available to come back and help cleanup.

NHBA Scarecrow Festival – 10/19 Saturday 9am-1pm at North Hampton School

The committee discussed the vendor reception vs. the festival itself. Paige stated that the NHBA member she has been communicating with said the reception is for sponsors only, not vendors, but they may have tickets available at a later date and will get back to us. So as of now, we will not be attending the reception on Friday 10/18. Paige will follow up with NHBA member about having dogs at the school. If dogs are allowed, the committee agreed we will do an activity incorporating the dogs, maybe a dog costume contest. This will be discussed further at our next meeting when we have more information. The committee also agreed to decide on shifts at our next meeting when the event is closer.

The committee then discussed an activity to have at the table. The committee decided to do the dog toy

activity with the disclaimer on a sign as discussed earlier in the meeting. We will discuss the activity further at our next meeting and Casey will bring an example. If dogs end up being allowed at the school, we will still do the dog costume contest or other activity in addition to the dog toy activity. We will need T shirts for the dog toy activity. Casey volunteered to hold onto T Shirts donated by committee members. Everyone should bring old Tshirts they wish to donate to the next meeting. Casey stated that it does not matter if T Shirts have graphics.

Paige asked the NHBA member and we are allowed to sell t shirts at the event so we will be doing that as well.

Christmas Parade – 12/7 Saturday 1pm in downtown Hampton

Paige explained how the parade works. There is an announcement when each group gets into downtown. We need to submit what we would like our announcement to be. Groups are supposed to get creative and come up with something Christmas themed for their announcement. Paige suggested that everyone brainstorm ideas for the announcement and bring them to the next meeting. The example on the “Experience Hampton” website is as follows:

“The Elves have been busy at Joe’s Restaurant, where families come to eat. The employees of Joe’s are working with the Elves in Santa’s Mobile Workshop building toys! You might catch some passing out Christmas Candy too! Have a Merry Christmas from Joe’s Restaurant!”

Paige suggested inviting our supporters to walk with us in the parade. The committee agreed this is a good way to involve our supporters. Paige also stated that dogs are allowed in the parade so we could invite our supporters to walk their dogs with us. John suggested we can dress the dogs up in Christmas costumes. Casey suggested reindeer.

Pat stated that it would be good to get involved in a neighboring town and to have the support of the town of Hampton. Casey stated that she met Selectwoman Regina Barnes of Hampton and that she is extremely supportive of our mission and would like to help in any way possible. Casey has her contact information.

Community Oven Fundraiser - 11/11 5pm-9pm

The Committee discussed the fundraiser and raffle items leftover from last year’s fundraisers. Paige read the list of remaining raffle items. The committee feels we have plenty of items to raffle off and we don’t need to solicit more items. Amanda, Meredith and Michael have additional items to donate for more “physical” items to have on the table. Paige asked Alyssa and we are allowed to sell shirts and bandanas at the fundraiser as well.

Casey will make a list of other restaurants that do restaurant fundraisers for future events.

Amanda stated that she did not have a chance to look into banner pricing but will look into the banner before the next meeting. Michael suggested if we could get signatures on the banner prior to the Christmas parade we could carry it in the parade.

Publications

Fall Library Newsletter - Paige sent a draft of the newsletter that she and Casey wrote to the committee on

Monday for review and edits. The committee read through the draft again briefly and Meredith made one suggested change. No other members had edits. Meredith made a motion to accept the publication with that one edit and Amanda seconded. The committee was unanimous. Paige will send the revised draft to Susan Grant from the library for publication.

Casey asked if the committee wishes to continue reviewing drafts of publications like this in the future. Paige stated that she feels the social media sub-committee could act for the committee when it comes to publicity if desired. Amanda and Pat stated that if there is time to bring drafts to the committee for review, it would be good to do so. However, the committee trusts the social media sub-committee to submit publications without committee review if there is a deadline that needs to be met prior to committee meetings. Pat stated that there is a lot of diversity and different ideas from committee members and it would be good to get their opinions and ideas whenever possible.

USPS PO Box

Casey stated that she has attempted several times to set up a PO Box and the USPS online system was not working properly and gave an error message each time. She is going to go in person to the post office this week to set it up.

Selling T Shirts and Bandanas

Pat shared that she spoke to Nancy from In-Dog-Neato about selling bandanas and she agreed to do so. Alexa dropped off 10 bandanas afterward and In-Dog-Neato now has them in the window and inside the store for sale. Pat thought there should be a sign to be hung up with the bandanas in the store and asked Amanda to design one. Pat brought copies of the sign Amanda designed to show the committee. The committee thought the signs looked great.

Paige stated that she reached out to Tina from Woof Pet Supply and Katelyn from The Beauty Pawlor (groomer) about selling bandanas and they both agreed to do so, although Paige has not dropped bandanas off yet.

The committee discussed how to get money from each seller and how to keep track of inventory.

Amanda suggested that sellers pay us for the bandanas up front so that we don't have to follow up on sales and inventory. The committee discussed this in depth. We agreed that this would be the most efficient method, however it may be difficult to get the sellers to do this since they are not making any profit from our bandanas. The committee agreed that we need some system in place on managing inventory and profit from each store. Paige suggested one person manages each store.

Amanda suggested having a master list and having each store sign a form saying how many bandanas were dropped off and how much money we'd be owed for the bandanas. Casey suggested monthly check-ins/pickup of profits.

Meredith stated that her sister has a system in her office where our bandanas would have a barcode that sellers would scan and the money raised by each bandana would go directly to our account for credit card sales instead of to the seller's account. Meredith will ask her sister about it. Committee members discussed how this is similar to when you donate a dollar to a fundraiser at the grocery store and sales from scanning

of the barcode go directly to the fundraiser.

The committee discussed the complications of credit card sales. Paige stated that sellers would need to take the credit card money from our bandanas for themselves and put cash aside for us.

Amanda suggested just speaking directly with each seller on how they want to handle profits, inventory, etc. and ask if they would be willing to pay us up front. The committee agreed on this idea.

Pat will check in with Nancy from In Dog Neato tomorrow on this and also give her a sign to hang up.

Paige will check in with Woof and Beauty Pawlor about how they want to manage profit and inventory. She will ask if they would be willing pay us up front and tell them this would be our preferred method. If not, we will make a form for them to sign.

The committee discussed if 10 is a sufficient amount for each seller to have. Paige stated that since we only have 48 total, she thought 5 would be better at first to see how sales go. Pat asked if it would be okay to leave the 10 with In-Dog-Neato. The committee agreed that this is fine for now and that we can pick up another 5 if needed if they aren't selling.

Banner

This topic was tabled for the next meeting so Amanda can have a chance to research pricing.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32; made by John. Seconded by Casey.

The committee unanimously agreed to adjourn.

The Next Meeting Will Take Place on 10/10/19 @ 6:30pm and will be posted.