

**Town of North Hampton New Hampshire**  
**North Hampton Dog Park Committee**  
Notice of Public Meeting  
6:30 PM Thursday, December 5, 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 6:33 PM.

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

**Not Present:** Amanda Jonovski, Ronni Martin, Philip Thayer, Jalisa Bush, Alexa Haley

**Approval of minutes from November 7, 2019:**

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.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Land update**

Pat reported that a response was sent via email to Scott Baker regarding his temporary dog park offer. Paige, Casey, Amanda and Alexa drafted and sent the response shortly after our November meeting and Scott's reply was very positive and understanding, including a picture of his dogs. The committee was glad to hear of his positive response.

Casey suggested the possibility of sending him a T Shirt or bandanas for his dogs as a thank you for his generous offer. Pat stated that she thinks our email expressed our gratitude and doesn't think this is necessary, but thinks it was a nice sentiment. The committee was in agreement.

Pat asked Paige to give an update on the two parcels of land that private owners had offered to us after the postcard mailing was sent out. The parcels are on Mill Road and Cherry Road and have still been pending wetland investigation. Paige reported that her coworker who is a New Hampshire Wetland Scientist had done a quick investigation of both properties and discovered that they are almost entirely wetlands or wetland buffer areas. While it is still possible the properties could be used for a dog park, this would make the permitting process both complicated and expensive. The committee discussed and agreed to respond to both property owners with our gratitude but to express that at this time we have decided not to pursue those parcels further.

Pat expressed further concerns she had specifically about the Cherry Road parcel being in a residential area and lack of parking.

Anne shared that she has found that often times parcels that may have been purchased years ago may have been buildable then but are no longer buildable according to current regulations. That may be the case with some of these parcels.

Although we have not found land at this time, the committee discussed the overall feeling in town that we have gained a lot of support and increased awareness with our publicity. Casey stated that we should just keep doing what we're doing. We have done everything we can as far as mailings, letters, etc. Pat is hopeful that our interactions with the Select Board as well as our relationship with Phil on the Conservation Commission will enable us to hear of any new offers of donated land that may come before the town's boards.

Pat gave a brief update on the Rail Trail land. We have not heard anything new from NHDOT or the town.

## **Community Activities**

### **Follow up – Community Oven Event**

Paige and Casey gave an update on the proceeds from the Community Oven Fundraiser. The event was not as busy as 2018 but still successful. Alexa has been managing inventory as well as accounting and calculated gross and net profit from the event as well as gross and net profit YTD in a comprehensive spreadsheet. Paige shared that we are now profitable YTD and have recouped the funds spent to purchase fundraising T Shirts. The Committee was excited to hear this.

Pat stated the importance of including both gross and net profits in our calculations.

Pat stated that she feels the Community Oven is not only a great event for fundraising, but a great event for raising public awareness and interacting with the community.

### **Christmas Parade (Saturday 12/7)**

Paige shared that the Christmas parade is this Saturday 12/7 and begins at 1pm. The parade is approximately 1.3 miles and begins at the North Hampton town line, down Route 1 and ends at Winnacunnet Road. Our staging area is at Middleton Building Supply in Hampton (864 Lafayette Road, west side). Our staging time is 11:30am-12:15pm. The committee agreed to arrive at noon as we don't have a float or vehicle to prepare. There will be parking at Middleton Building Supply. The road closes at 12:15 so everyone needs to be there prior to that time. We will need to arrange rides back from the end of the parade to our vehicles when it is over or park down by CVS so that we can drive back to our cars.

The committee discussed who will carry our banner. Those of us bringing dogs will not be able to carry the banner. John is not bringing Jupiter so he can carry it. Casey said that Alexa offered to carry it since she will not be bringing her dogs. Michael is not sure yet if he can come but if he does he will not be bringing his dog so he can also help. Paige said that people can take turns. Casey's mom is coming with the 4 dogs and the stroller. Paige is trying to get her mom and sister to come as well. Wally and Kathleen Kilgore are coming with their 2 dogs.

## **Social Media Update**

Pat stated that Alexa had mentioned social media responsibilities amongst the sub committee. Paige and Casey said that the sub committee can work out responsibilities between them in order to reduce duplicate efforts and save everyone time.

## **Library in the future (tabled from last meeting)**

Paige stated that Susan Grant from the library had reached out again and is planning a lecture for May 2020 that she has invited us to be involved in. The lecture is given by speaker Bob Cottrell about the New Hampshire State Dog and its history, description from their website as follows:

### ***“Harnessing History: On the trail of New Hampshire's State Dog, the Chinook.***

*This program looks at how dog sledding developed in New Hampshire and how the Chinook played a major role in this story. Explaining how man and his relationship with dogs won out over machines on several famous polar expeditions, Bob Cottrell covers the history of Arthur Walden and his Chinooks, the State Dog of New Hampshire*

### ***Bob Cottrell***

*Bob Cottrell holds an MA from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture in Delaware. The founding director of the Remick Country Doctor Museum in Tamworth, he is now the Curator of the Henney History Room at the Conway Public Library, a Board member at the Conway Historical Society, and President ex-officio of the Tamworth Historical Society. He serves as an independent history and museum consultant.”*

The committee discussed the Chinook dog and Anne stated that her neighbor has one. She said that if we were to be involved, she could potentially ask him to come to the event with his dog. The committee loved the idea. The committee was in agreement to partner with the library on this. Paige will respond to Susan to let her know and find out a date so that Anne can talk to her neighbor, if Susan will allow his dog in the library.

Paige stated that Susan said we can do additional events too if we would like prior to the May event. The committee discussed hosting the Tick Talk again. Pat feels this is important information that should be shared again. If we can get Martha Wassell and Dr. Kelleher (previous speakers) to help again that would be great. The committee discussed the time of year we should do this. Last year (July) it was too late into the summer. The committee agreed on an April time frame, when ticks start to become prevalent.

Paige shared that North Hampton Community Media (NHCM) has recently begun hosting a series called “Town Hall Talks” at the Town Hall, a lecture series that she believes is aired on Channel 22. They also do Podcasts. The Tick Talk would be a good topic for this. The committee agreed we should look into it. Pat feels if we are partnering with the library the event should be hosted at the library instead of the Town Hall. The committee was in agreement. Maybe the event can be hosted at the library but recorded by NHCM for a podcast so that community members can listen after the fact. Paige will contact NHCM to discuss this possibility.

The committee brainstormed additional ideas for library partnerships/ community involvement in general. The police and Fire Department have also been supportive.

Ideas brainstormed by the committee to be further discussed at a later date are as follows:

- Service dogs in schools
  - Pat has experience with this
- A reading aloud to dogs program at the library for children
  - Paige and Casey found info in this previously, see below
  - [http://www.therapyanimals.org/Read\\_Team\\_Steps.html](http://www.therapyanimals.org/Read_Team_Steps.html)
  - <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/4-ways-reading-aloud-to-animals-can-help-build-your-childs.html>
- Police Dogs
  - The committee doesn't believe North Hampton has any but maybe we could partner with a neighboring town that does.
  - Paige stated that the North Hampton PD and North Hampton Business Association do a social media promotion called "Covert Cruiser" where a toy police cruiser is "parked" at a different business each week and Facebook users have to guess which business based on a zoomed in photo posted each day. We could partner with them to have the Covert Cruiser "park" at a miniature figurine dog park (Casey has one) to increase our social media presence and involvement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Library Newsletter**

The submittal deadline is January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for the winter newsletter which goes out in February. We will draft something for review at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M.; made by John. Seconded by Casey.

The committee unanimously agreed to adjourn.

**The Next Meeting Will Take Place on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 6:30pm.**