

Town of North Hampton New Hampshire

North Hampton Dog Park Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

6:30 PM Thursday, February 8th, 2018

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 6:36pm. Casey Dupuis seconded.

Attendees: Pat Mclean, Paige Libbey, John Dover, Marlane Bernardo, Casey Dupuis, Valerie Gamache, Ronni Martin

Not Present: Anne Nettleton, Cindy Jenkins, Philip Thayer, Jalisa Bush, Meredith Vallee, Colin Smith, Michael Trotta, Amanda Jonovski, and Willow Foley.

Approval of minutes from January 25, 2018

Minutes were reviewed; Motion to approve the minutes as is was made by Ronni. Seconded by John.

Agenda / Outstanding items

- 4.1 Continue discussion of rules and liability
- 4.2 Discussion of Select Board Charge
- 4.3 Discussion of NH Licensing Fees / what portion goes to state vs. town
- 4.4 Demographics of who might use the park
- 4.5 Need for focus groups for certain items
- 4.6 Number of dogs in North Hampton

5. The group looked up and found that the North Hampton Select Board meetings take place every other Monday. The group unanimously decided for the next Dog Park Committee meeting to take place on March 8th 2018 at 6:30pm. Pat will look into getting on the agenda for a Select Board meeting to address the Charge following our next meeting.

5.1 Outstanding Charge:

- a) Installation and Maintenance of Waste Containers (trash cans)

Pat volunteered to speak with North Hampton Parks and Recreation about trash collection in public parks.

Pat spoke to John Hubbard at the DPW regarding trash pick up

Plan for charge: Request for town Select Board to give us the same privilege and treat the dog park the same as Dearborn Park for a given period of time (2 years). If any problems arise- we will search elsewhere for accommodations of trash removal. By the end of this period of time we will have established a budget and will be able to plan accordingly.

b) Costs, Installation and Maintenance of Animal Waste Baggie Dispensers

Willow had volunteered at the last meeting to research costs and report back what the Salisbury Dog Park does regarding this.

5.2 John Dover spoke to Russ Wilson – Recreation Manager of Portsmouth and AD for Portsmouth High School. The following is what he reported back to us:

- Russ stated that there have been no legal issues regarding the Portsmouth Dog Park for the past 10-15 years that it has been established.
 - o Valerie will investigate any legal implications that have occurred from other dog parks in the past – potentially record a quote or two that supports our town’s limited liability
- Russ stated that pickup of waste is done once a week by the Portsmouth Municipal Group and said there was little to no cost of this.
- Surface of Portsmouth Dog Park:
 - o The Portsmouth dog park has a small grass area that is not mowed, weed-whacked or shoveled
 - o Surface is sand, estimated to be replaced annually
- The Portsmouth Dog Park Double gates are held together by bungee cords in winter to prevent gates from warping and staying closed.
- The Portsmouth Dog Park has a fence around the exterior of park which had cost ~\$10/sq. ft. (ten years ago)
- The Portsmouth Dog Park has no lighting units installed, however it is illuminated at night from near basketball court lights
- The Portsmouth Dog Park does not supply dog waste bags/trash bags, however dog park users have self-installed a “mailbox” holder system for park users to voluntarily supply extras – “take a bag leave a bag” system
- The Portsmouth Dog Park had a water system installed a few years ago – it is annually turned off for the winter usually in October
- The town of Portsmouth has municipal pickup for trash, North Hampton however has to pay for trash pickup monthly (~\$40)

5.3 Ronni makes a motion to investigate Hobbs Road Sanderson Family athletic field as well as Throwback Brewery to request land. John seconds the motion. Unanimously approved

5.4 Continued discussion of rules and liability

Pat stated that the liabilities for the town are inherent in park rules.

NORTH HAMPTON DOG PARK RULES:

- Use park at your own risk: dog handlers are legally responsible and liable for the behavior of their dog(s) at all times
- Dog handlers must be at least 16 years of age
- Children under 12 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult
- Dogs that exhibit aggressive behavior / behave aggressively must immediately be removed
- Handlers must pick up and dispose of any and all waste
- Dogs must be properly licensed, vaccinated, and wearing tags
- Dog handlers must be within the dog park and supervising their dog(s) at all times with a leash readily available

- Limit of 3 dogs per handler

Hours of Operation: Park will be open from dusk to dawn

PROHIBITED

- Dogs in heat
- Animals other than dogs
- Aggressive dogs
- Sick dogs
- Puppies under 4 months old
- Choke collars
- Food (human or canine)
- Smoking, drugs, alcohol or weapons
- Glass containers

Violation of the park rules may result be prohibited from returning to or using the park.

Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by dogs they have brought into the park.

For any issues, please contact:

- Emergency: 911
- North Hampton Police Department: 964-8621

Casey makes a motion to accept the rules as stated above. Paige seconds this. The group voted and unanimously agreed on the rules as stated.

5.5 Pat will electronically distribute a draft of the charge to all committee members before the next meeting. All committee members will be responsible to review and report back any suggested changes or edits.

6. New Items / Action Items

- a) Review status of the Select Board Charges**
- b) New Hampshire Licensing fee**
- c) Need for focus groups for certain items**
- d) Number of dogs in North Hampton**
- e) Attendance**

Day and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday; March 8, 2018 @ 6:30pm

Mary Hubert Room / Lower Level Town Hall Offices.

Ronni made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Valerie Seconded.

Minutes submitted by: Casey Dupuis

Minutes approved by: