

Town of North Hampton New Hampshire

North Hampton Dog Park Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

6:30 PM Thursday, January 10, 2019

Meeting Room in Town Clerk's Office; 237 Atlantic Avenue

Call to Order

Pat McLean called to order the meeting of the Dog Park Committee at 6:32pm.

Attendees: Pat Mclean, Michael Trotta, John Dover, Casey Dupuis, Anne Nettleton, Ronni Martin, Amanda Jonovski, Jalisa Bush, Phillip Thayer.

Not Present: Paige Libbey, Meredith Vallee,

Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2018

Minutes were reviewed. No changes were to be made.

Motion to approve the minutes made by John. Seconded by Jalisa.

The committee unanimously agreed to approve.

AGENDA

1. Shane's Texas Pit Fundraiser
2. GoFund Me and Banking
3. Land Options
4. Media Community News and Seacoast Bark
5. Long Term Strategy for Decision Making
6. Future Fundraising Format
7. North Hampton Business Association Follow Up

8. Other items

MINUTES

1. Shane's Texas Pit Fundraiser

- a. Pat announced from Paige that \$197 raised during event, will be saved in banking account

2. Go Fund Me and Banking

- a. Difficulty having PayPal accept for the GoFundMe
 - i. Paige via email to Pat, recommends TD Bank
- b. Ronni motion to accept TD Bank as new bank
 - i. Jalisa seconded the motion
 - ii. The committee unanimously agreed to transfer the committee's ~\$1300 to TD Bank
- c. Pat wants to postpone GoFundMe conversation until Paige (who has done a lot of research and write up on the profile) is in attendance

3. Land Options

- a. Airfield contact hasn't responded yet. Pat will follow up
- b. Pat introduced the piece of land bordering old railroad trail near Joe's Meat Market
 - i. 1.3 acres
 - ii. owned by PanAm
- c. Pat, and Casey walked the land
- d. Pat discussed the benefits of the land
 - i. not a lot of trees and flat
 - ii. borders a parking lot
 - iii. selectboard has wanted to develop the land
- e. Print-outs of land with current and proposed property lines and dog park fence was shared at this time
- f. Jalisa shared a concern about potential push-back from the bordering residential property
- g. Pat laid out the plan to move forward

- i. Determine the amount of land needed
 - ii. Phil will approach PanAm contact who will determine the price
 - iii. Present to town selectboard to put on warrant for town to purchase
 - iv. Friends of the Dog Park would then pay for costs (clearing the land, fencing, signage, and gravel and any other materials for the initial build
 - v. Town will have to have abutters approve (addressing Jalisa's concern)
- h. Amanda shared concern about future rail trail development
 - i. Phil pointed out there will be a 30' opening left for the rail trail to continue and explained the state is not currently supporting the effort to build the trail. He discussed the benefits of the location next to the trail and the trails created by the boyscouts nearby. Dog owners will be able to visit the dog park and take their dog for a walk before/after.
- i. Pat stated the dog park land will also require an easement from Lamprey and Joe's Meat Market for access to the land.
- j. Amanda asked if there was water (for drinking) on the property. Pat said this could be part of a long-term plan and financed by either the town or the Friends of the Dog Park
 - i. Pat discussed her long-term vision for the Dog Park. The town will own it, the Friends of the Dog Park will fundraise for initial costs, and maintenance/ongoing costs can be decided with the town at a later time.
 - ii. Committee agreed not having water was not a make/break for the land being discussed
- k. Pat will ask Paige to email Phil with fence concept footage of Map 7, Lot 152 to determine footage needed (bridge to end of property)
- l. There were continued concerns in regards to abutters. Pat stated that they will have a chance to speak but will not make the decision.

- m. Pat stated the deadline to submit warrant is too soon (within weeks) to present this year
 - i. The Committee agreed this piece of land is a good opportunity even though we can't get approval for this year
 - ii. Pat and Phil agreed PanAm would wait a year and that the state would likely not purchase the land in the meantime
 - n. Pat noted that there were gas lines on property but they will not be on the right of way
 - o. Pat stated she was not sure whether the land was made of one or two lots but will consult the tax map to determine.
 - p. Pat stated (quoting an email from Paige) that the land is technically a buildable house lot so price may be higher than expected
 - q. Pat stated that the piece of land near the Airfield is not as ideal as the land near the old railway but she will still pursue her contact
 - r. Pat hopes the land near the old railway will be approved by the selectboard and have the support of the recreation commission.
 - s. Phil noted that the future rail trail will be under maintenance of town
4. Media: Community News and Seacoast Bark
- a. Pat stated the deadline for Community News is next week
 - b. Casey stated the committed submitted the same write up from the Facebook page last time..
 - c. Pat made edits to the GoFundMe description. (Pat read the description aloud at this time)
 - i. Edit from Jalisa: write out email address
 - ii. Edit from Amanda: move sentence about establishing 501c3 creation to later in the write-up, just before the section about fundraising
 - d. Pat suggested submitting the dog graphic with the write up. The Committee suggested using the photo of the committee and their dogs that was taken in front of town hall.

- e. Ronni made a motion that to submit the GoFundMe write up, with discussed edits, and the photo taken in front of town hall to the Community News by Casey
 - i. The motion was seconded by Michael
 - ii. The Committee unanimously approved the motion
- f. Casey announced the Committee was featured in Seacoast Bark Magazine in the “Fund Things to Bark About” section of the Winter 2018-19 issue.

5. Long term plan discussion

- a. Amanda requested Pat to review the different ways in which the dog park could be established—for example, land could be donated, the Friends could fundraise to purchase land, the Friends could identify a piece of land for the town to purchase and then fundraise to cover set-up costs, etc. Amanda shared her concern that the committee put a lot of effort into fundraising the past few months without a long-term plan in place.
- b. Pat stated there is no currently town-owned land available for the dog park and the only options are to look for donated land—which proved to be unsuccessful the past year but is still a possibility—or identify a piece of land that can be purchased by the town and proceed with a warrant article to be followed with fundraising and/or applying for grants to build the park
- c. Jalisa stated we should still communicate through flyers and social media that we are still seeking donated land.

6. Future Fundraising Idea Proposal

- a. Amanda proposed that for future fundraisers, the committee can partner with a different local, dog-friendly business every 1 to 2 months. The business can put together and sell tickets for a raffle basket, similar to raffle baskets at the library to support the Friends of the Library. In turn, the Dog Park Committee can advertise for the business on social media during the 1-2 months. These smaller

fundraisers will help to generate town awareness and support with less effort.

- b. Amanda proposed that the Committee continue to have larger fundraisers (like the event at The Community Oven) but only 1–2 times a year allowing for more time to plan and advertise the event.
- c. The Committee agreed these were good ideas but not something to jump into right away while we waited to see what happened with the land discussed earlier in the meeting.
- d. Phil stated dog food companies and other larger companies will be willing to donate
 - i. Amanda emphasized the need for support from the town as the purchase of the land will need to be voted on by the town
- e. Jalisa noted that the smaller events, like at Smuttynose, were successful in outreach
- f. Amanda stated a need to become involved in town and local events earlier on
 - i. Pat volunteered to contact Joe about future town events and Winterfest
 - ii. Amanda volunteered to report on Friday Folder contents at the meeting and to review the town calendar for any events happening in the next year.
- g. At this time, it was reviewed that no committee work is to be done via email. Members can email Pat with information to be discussed at the next meeting.

7. North Hampton Business Association Follow-Up

- a. Amanda has reached out to the association unsuccessfully via the contact form on the association's website
- b. Pat will email an article on dog parks being good for businesses
- c. Amanda will reach out to the NHBA again with the article and ask to present at their next meeting as part of the dog park committee's mission education/outreach

8. Other Items

- a. Amanda resigned from the social media sub-committee due to the time commitment and a lack of availability. She fully approves of the work the remaining members, Paige, Jalisa, and Casey, have been doing to support the Facebook page.
- b. Future Outreach
 - i. Anne mentioned a group attending Community Oven had suggested reaching out to a local family to support the dog park effort.
 - ii. Pat will reach out at a later time once a piece of land has been secured

Motion to Adjourn at 7:46 PM made by Casey, seconded by John.

The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 PM