

Town of North Hampton New Hampshire

North Hampton Dog Park Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

6:30 PM Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mary B. Herbert Conference Room

233 Atlantic Avenue

FINAL

1. Call to order

Pat McLean called to order the meeting of the Dog Park Committee at 6:40pm on December 13, 2017 at the Mary Herbert Room; Lower Floor of the Town Office.

2. Attendees

Pat Mclean, Anne Nettleton, Paige Libbey, Ronnie Martin, John Dover, Marlane Bernardo, Casey Dupuis, Cindy Jenkins, Philip Thayer

Not in attendance: Susan Barry, Michael Trotta, Janet Allen

3. Approval of minutes from November 29th, 2017

Minutes were reviewed; minor updates such as spelling corrections were made. Motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Casey. Seconded by John.

Marlane will continue to send Draft to Pat and also to Jan within 5 business days. Pat will forward the “draft” to all. Please review and bring corrections etc. to next meeting. Marlane will send the updated “approved/final minutes” to Pat and Jan. Jan posts both the “draft” and “final” minutes on the town website. Please go to the town website <https://www.northhampton-nh.gov/select-board/pages/north-hampton-dog-park-committee> for your final copy. Everyone needs to bring his or her own copy to each meeting.

4. Outstanding Items

4.1 Visit to potential site that is situated in the rear of the community garden.

Members had taken the opportunity to go to the location on their own. The general consensus was that the site was not optimum. Noise was the biggest draw back. Further discussions occurred and details follow below.

4.2 Rules and Liability

Members had taken the opportunity to do research on several other dog parks in the area. Many of us had copies of “rules” from other dog parks that were entered into discussion. See all of item 6

4.3 Discussion of desirable area/size of future dog park

Members deliberated other potential locations and the pros and cons of each. Further discussions occurred and details follow below. See all of item 5.

5. New Items / locations for the dog park.

5.1 The Library is considering expansion on current site. The **homestead property** is not included in the expansion. This could possibly be another potential site for the dog park. Central location, parking were two Pro's.

What about the Town Campus Project? The project would use the homestead property to create a large central campus building for police, fire and town hall. This project has been voted on several times and to date – each has failed.

Ronni felt that the neighborhood (which she lives in) would have issues as this area already has very heavy traffic. That the residence would look unfavorably on a dog park (due to traffic). There are already issues with the neighborhood being used as a “cut thru” to avoid Rt. 1 etc.

Ronni made a motion that this area is unsuitable. Paige seconded the motion. 8 members voted and were in agreement that the homestead property was unsuitable. 2 abstained. After further discussion, it was agreed that this area could be revisited in the future.

5.2 Cindy brought up the area that is behind Dearborn Park. Philip indicated that Aquarion has water rights to this property. See North Hampton Tax map 14 / lot 105 for actual map location. The area was further described as the “field behind the tree line where the well-heads are”. Dearborn is in a low-lying depression. Surrounded by a hill/incline. There is a line of trees surrounding the North and the East sides; behind the tennis courts and baseball fields. Past the tree line, further to the North, is a field. Past the tree line, further to the East, is Sage Farm Antiques.

Would Aquarion allow us to use the area? We all agreed that the biggest issue would be with dog waste. But it is worth keeping this as an option. Further research is necessary.

Who is the actual “land owner”? Can we find out who is the owner is. Philip thought that it “might be” the 2nd house on Exeter Road. Can we reach out to them? Further research is necessary.

5.3 Revisit discussion on Marston Farm area (behind community garden).

Pros: YES we can fence in that area. Other land that is held in conservation can NOT be fenced.

Cons: Access, parking, crossing the street, noise level, possible disturbance to folks that are in the community garden.

5.4 Can we get another potential area via donation? This will require asking for it – advertising – flyers – some kind of marketing where as we could research and reach out to local property owners that “might” wish to allow use or donation of land for dog park.

Cindy expressed that she felt there was a conflict with the use of other areas of the Marston Farm as a “dog park”. The Community garden is land that serves a purpose directly for agricultural use. There were 48 gardens in 2017. This spot offers serenity. Gardens have been there since 2010. And this space is really important to the garden community. **Please see additional note below.*

Jalisa made a motion that the Marston Farms area (near the community gardens) was not acceptable. Paige seconded the motion.

John brought up the point that we might be disqualifying sites too soon in the process.

Although the Marston site and the homestead site were not optimal, we should hold them for further review. Lets not make premature votes for or against something. No one location is going to be “perfect”. **There will have to be some concessions.** We need to leave our opinions and options open.

We all agreed to continue the search for other potential sites and can revisit the others.

***Note:** Upon review of the minutes (at the January 11 meeting) Pat informed us that Cindy was not able to attend tonight’s meeting but had feedback she would like to share. Cindy emailed information to Pat that she wished to be included/updated. Pat had not brought the email printout with her to the Jan. 11th meeting. Pat later forwarded Cindy’s December 27th email to Marlane. It has been directly copied and pasted below:

Regarding the Minutes, I have made a few inputs to the minutes to reflect the scope of the discussion that occurred regarding the Marston Farm/Community Garden site as a potential dog park site.

"Cindy expressed that she felt there was a conflict with the use of other areas of the Marston Farm as a “dog park”. The Marston Farm is land that serves the greatest purpose in agricultural use. It is prime farm land and the current open space can be used for expansion of gardens or for crops or fruit trees or grazing livestock in the future." "There were 48 gardens in 2017. This spot offers serenity" with its present use. "Gardens have been there since 2010" and "this space is really important to the garden community." Parking is also an issue. "Jalisa made a motion that the Marston Farms area (near the community gardens) was not acceptable. Paige seconded the motion.

John brought up the point that we might be disqualifying sites too soon in the process. Although the Marston site and the homestead site were not optimal, we should hold them for further review. Lets not make premature votes for or against something. No one location is going to be “perfect”. There will have to be some concessions. We need to leave our opinions and options open.

We all agreed to continue the search for other potential sites and can revisit the others.”

Pat, my recommendation would be to rule out the Marston Farm site as a location for a dog park in North Hampton. I am pretty sure most people would agree the two uses are not compatable. I doubt that I can make the next meeting, so I am sending these inputs for you to share with the committee.

5.5 Cindy wanted to know about the little league field area.

Philip indicated the Knowles family donated this area. It is specifically to be used as a youth athletic field.

5.6 Cindy had provided a document to Pat on “Site Selection”. https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1017&context=mes_capstones

5.7 Philip provided a doc to Pat.

Another study. This one from the University of Michigan on how to create a dog park. There is a lot of information. Link follows:

<http://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1090&context=nerr>

5.8 Jalisa has a marketing background.

Jalisa and Casey have offered to help with “asking for a location” – which might include flyers or advertisements of some kind. Other outreach might be via social media, newspapers etc. Basically we would be putting the word out to the town residents to see if there is space that someone might allow us to use or donate.

6. Rules and liability

6.1 Several of us researched & found many rules were duplicated. We decided to focus on a short list of basic rules and prohibitions to start. Exact wording will come later as these would need to have legal review moving forward.

Casey took notes on the dry board as we brain stormed.

Dog park rules:

- 1) Personal risk, no town liability
 - a) Child liability – children must be accompanied by an adult
 - b) TBD – minimum age to be inside and minimum age to handle
- 2) Dog handlers are legally and financially responsible for any damages
- 3) If a dog displays/exhibits aggressive behavior they must immediately be removed.
- 4) Any dog-human bites must be reported to the North Hampton Police.
- 5) Handlers must pick up and dispose of any and all waste.
- 6) Dogs only

7) Must have current vaccinations and North Hampton town dog license.

8) Must provide proof of clear fecal sample (i.e. At the time of registration for membership???)

Failure to obey these rules will result in a fine and/or expulsion.

a) Exact method of membership and enforcement of policies is To Be Determined.

Prohibited:

Sick dogs

a) Dogs that are actively being treated for parasites or other communicable diseases.

Aggressive dogs

Choke collars

a) These types of collars can result in entanglements of dogs while playing.

Food (No Human or Pet food, treats, toys, bones etc)

Smoking / Alcohol / Drugs

Glass Containers

Dogs in estrus (heat)

6.2 Are we addressing issues of: Safety, supervision, control, cleanliness, health and dog behavior?

This is being covered in the creation of rules and prohibitions. Philip pointed out we need a (min. age to enter the park (TBD) min age to handle (TBD).

What is our method / who do we report non-compliance or other issue to?

The North Hampton “Dog Officer” – is our Police Department. If there is a reported stray for example, it will be brought to Coastal Canine on Route 1.

6.3 Doggy daycare gets visited by the board of health

Dog parks do not fall under those rules

Links that were discussed and shared for informational purposes

http://www.architectmagazine.com/design/6-tips-for-designing-a-dog-park_c
<http://www.doodycalls.com/blog/ten-tips-for-planning-and-building-a-dog-park-in-your-community/https://www.citylab.com/life/2017/04/how-to-design-the-best-dog-park/522870/https://www.playcore.com/programs/unleashed>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-art-of-suggested-donation-amounts-1481511960>

<http://www.jgacounsel.com/archives/4754>

<https://nonprofitquarterly.org/2016/12/13/whats-right-way-set-suggested-donation-amounts-nonprofit-fundraising/> < this link is backed up by a study done by Chicago's Booth School of Business which is also linked on this website.

<https://www.frontstream.com/why-giving-levels-actually-increase-average-donation-amounts-and-how-to-use-them-to-successfully-fundraise/>

<https://secure.viewer.zmags.com/publication/540060a7#/540060a7/2>

Day and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday January 11, 2017 @ 6:30pm

Mary Hubert Room / Lower Level Town Hall Offices.

Items for follow-up:

- a) Review and approval of minutes
- b) Continue discussion on rules and liability
- c) Marketing and or looking for space
- d) NH licensing fee's / state funds / What does the town keep / what goes to the state
- e) Demographics of who might use the park
- f) How many dogs in town / 900 was mentioned
- g) Do we need a focus group for certain items? To research other locations and demographics?

Please share idea's thought questions if you can't be here. Send to Pat

Ronni motioned for Adjournment at 8:0pm; Seconded by John

Minutes submitted by: Marlane Bernardo

Minutes approved by: