

Minutes of the Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee
August 7, 2018
Select Board Meeting Room

Attendees:

Susanne Jarnryd
Tom McKean
Deborah Richardson
Bob Schulman
Don Shobry
Kate Stout
Ann Umphrey
Jeff Young

The meeting was called to order at 5:35. Minutes for meeting of 7/24 were unanimously approved.

Anne noted that Kate's draft was outstanding. The committee appreciates all the effort she put into it.

We tentatively set the date of October 17 for the public hearing. Anne will check with Concord Lighting & Power to see if we can put an insert into the light bill. Kate is willing to write up the announcement that will go into the light bill.

We identified the following ways in which we will publicize the public hearing.

- An article in Action Unlimited (Anne will follow up on this),
- A notice in Events Calendar of the Concord Journal,
- A notice on the Town website,
- An announcement on Facebook,
- An announcement on Next door,
- An email to the dog owners email list, and
- An announcement on dog related web sites.

We collected the following key points for the report.

- Dog owners don't show strong interest in a dog park, and have repeatedly stated concerns that a dog park will lead to additional restrictions on dogs in town,
- Community support is a critical factor in having a successful dog park,
- We found no suitable parcels that are currently available,
- There is a need for education for dog owners and the general public,
- There is some interest in a small dog park for seniors and small dogs, and
- Creation of a dog park would impose a significant cost on taxpayers for construction and maintenance.

We then reviewed the report on a page by page basis. There were suggestions to move some of the review of potential sites to an appendix, and to clarify the basis for the cost estimate.

There was also a suggestion to include the numbers for the survey done by the Division of Natural Resources prior to the last update of the Open Space and Recreation Report in 2014. In that survey, 63 of 416 respondents selected a dog park as one of their top 3 recreational facility needs

We also need to clarify where the numbers in the draft report came from. Kate made specific assignments on verifying the origins of these numbers.

We noted that we did not delve into privately owned parcels at all because none came to the committee's attention. We also noted that the report should mention the Gerow property, 2229 Main Street, and the middle school property as potential future sites even though 2229 Main Street is not centrally located.

We should also state the need for standing dog committee.

Rather than restating the charge to the committee in an opening section of the report, we can put the complete charge in an appendix.

Bob will draft an Executive Summary and send it to Kate, and we will review it and the revised draft report at our next meeting on August 29.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.