

DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019 6:30PM

POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM, 2 OLDE NORTH ROAD CHELMSFORD, MA

MEETING MINUTES

Approved October 2, 2019

Called to order: 6:32 pm

Committee members present: Beth, Vivian, Erik, Danielle, Sarah

1) Open Session

Mark Mello 82 Brick Kiln Rd. Chelmsford

- Addresses landscaping, questions regarding timing of projects. Erik M. explains that purchases for planned park improvements are made dependent on the schedule of the grant funder (Stanton Foundation). Once projects are approved by the grant, purchases can be made by the DPAC. Erik also explains the following to Mark;

- Drainage issue- we are working on getting final plans from the town.
- Whole park ground cover- 6" loam that was placed during construction was about 90% clay, which is not a good material for drainage.
- Soil studies have been completed by Jim at the town Tree Committee, for further assessment.
- This seems it will be a consistent problem that may need to be addressed every year at the park.

Paul Lamadeleine- 185 Wellman Ave. No. Chelmsford

-Reports the "Pee circle" was dug up due to stagnant water and the hazards from standing water. Paul states he has been requesting for over a year to have circle fixed.

-Asks what is the best way to contact DPAC?- Erik responds that the DPAC should be reached by email.

-Asks what the proper documentation for incidents at park should be (dog bites, health concerns, issues at the park etc.) DPAC responded that any dog bite should be reported to the Chelmsford ACO, any incidents should be reported to the police (posting on Facebook is not an official report), and general questions/concerns can be sent via email to the DPAC.

Jenny Huynh -331 Brook Village Rd. Nashua, NH-

-Jenny expresses concern over canine illness contracted at the park due to stagnant waters. Reports her own dog has gotten very ill from bacteria contracted at the parks standing water. Jenny reports she has veterinary records and receipts.

-Erik Responds that if there is an infectious disease being spread at the park or being contracted from the park, the board of health can and will investigate, test the water, etc.

Carley Reim- 9 Montcastle Dr. Chelmsford-

-Asks what qualifies as park improvements vs maintenance. Erik explains we can submit our project requests to the Stanton Foundation and they decide what qualifies as park improvements or maintenances, and what gets approved or denied. Maintenance should include what needs to be present to for day to day upkeep, fixing issues, drainage, anything to do to keep the park running.

Jim Marten 7 Crockett Dr. Chelmsford

-Addresses concerns of what types of plantings would be best to plant at the park based on recent soil samples.

-Suggests shade tree plantings should be 1-2” thickness. Plantings should be fairly tall, fast growing, storm resistant trees. Suggests Princeton Elms (two of which are at St. Mary’s church on the Fletcher street side).

-If looking to put bark mulch around the base of tree, suggests a 10ft x10ft area, also remarks that Bamboo makes a good wind screen. Presents a shade tree layout/map. Will need to get a hold of irrigation map. Irrigation done by Green Lawn. Perhaps tap into irrigation system to aide in growth of trees. Mark Mello suggests a drip irrigation. Reports that roots should not interfere with irrigation systems nor the fencing with current plans.

- Will Wagner, President of CDA addresses question of ground cover, why not use wood chips? Explains that wood chips hold urine, have to be raked and replaced every year, would be more costly for 2 acres. Hill of wood chips is already quite costly.

Lauren Coffee 30 Monadnock Drive Westford- Head of Dog Park Task Force in Westford

-Offers a thank you to the members of the DPAC and all who worked hard to make the park happen.

Randi Lamadeleine 185 Wellman Ave. No. Chelmsford

- Addresses drainage concerns, questions how to go about the project. DPAC explains that plans for a new drainage system have to be approved by the town and water dept.,

permits may need to be pulled etc. Currently have estimates to address the drainage project. \$2600 already raised.

2) Minutes Approval

Motion to approve minutes from the DPAC meetings on 5/2/18, 9/5/18, 10/30/18, 12/12/18, 3/27/19

Presented by Vivian, seconded by Beth, vote is unanimous.

3) Review 2019 draft Stanton Annual Report

- Requesting funds in the final year of the grant for the following projects:

- Drainage and drip irrigation
- Total of 9 benches (4 in agility area, 2 in the small dog area, 3 in the all dog area?)
- Two flag poles and cement installation
- Memorial wall
- Possible terracing of small dog slope

-Carley mentions it would nice to have a dog wash station and rain barrel. Discussion on the need to tap into sewer system, would need to adhere to federal storm drain regulations. The water feed would be from the town not the irrigation. Ground water may not be clean enough./ Consideration- the feasibility/ ground water may not clean enough.

-Carley also mentions she is looking into Carley- Dog Mountain Leavitt a&P foundation grant.

4) Old Business

-Tabled due to lengthy open session.

5) Adjournment

-Motion to adjourn by Vivian at 9:15pm