

Dog Park Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
DATE: Tuesday, March 30, 2021
6:00PM, Chelmsford Dog Park, 52 Richardson Rd., Chelmsford, MA

MINUTES

Approved May 12, 2021

Supporting documents, except for working documents, for these minutes can be found on the Town of Chelmsford Website. This meeting was hand recorded by the Recording Secretary.

Members Present: Erik Merrill-Chairman, Elizabeth Bukala-Vice Chairman, Vivian Merrill-Clerk, Danielle Corsino, Arthur Corsino

Others Present: Lauren Coffey, Paul Lamadeleine, Lisa Grasso, Carly Reim, Randy Barth, Jarryd Palmer, several others. Several attendees left early.

Chairman Merrill called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

NEW BUSINESS

-Minutes Approval: January 13, 2021

Motion: by Mrs. Corsino to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Bukala. **Motion carries, unanimous, 5-0.**

-Discussion and Review of FCDP list of Park maintenance projects

Paul Lamadeleine & Lauren Coffey provided a comprehensive list of contemplated work and projects related to maintaining the overall park.

Committee members had no concerns with the list, and agreed the list was well done. Mr. Lamadeleine requested the email addresses of all Committee members, so that he could add everyone to the Google Documents application, and the list could be monitored and updated from there.

Work to remove the dead trees from the front section of the park by Richardson Rd. as well as the swale maintenance, can be requested of the DPW. FCDP attendees were cautioned that the North Chelmsford Water District and the Town are working towards addressing a PFAS concern in this area, and not to use any chemical fertilizers on the grass. The DPW has been asked to install a monitoring well in the park for this purpose. Mrs. Merrill will continue to monitor the situation via Select Board meetings.

The plexiglass piece that was previously removed from the kiosk in the All-Dog side will not be replaced, as it was a custom made piece, and is not available from standard suppliers. The parking lot chains will need to be replaced, as they are broken in several sections. The front section near the main sign will need a planting plan. The "Exit" sign for the parking lot will need attention, as it is not secure, and spins easily. Mr. Merrill suggested stenciling entrance and exit into the ground, or requesting a larger exit arrow style sign.

Walkway reconstruction will become a major project. The preferred treatment is either paving or blocks. Jarryd Palmer advised he had connections to Biagiotti Paving Company, and he could ask them for advice and recommendations, as well as an estimate.

Carly Reim asked whether an additional sign could be installed advising people to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. The Committee agreed such a sign could be installed under the sign which gives the address to the park in case of an emergency.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Status Report: Fence & Installation work related to Gazebo Project.

A gazebo has been installed in the park. Over time, the wooden footings will need to be replaced. There was some damage noted, as the piece was a display model, and had been in storage for 4 years prior. One of the railings will need to be adjusted, as it is loose. FCDP will install Dig Defense fencing around the perimeter of the gazebo, to help prevent dogs from digging under the gazebo. The Committee agreed to allow FCDP to remove a section of the railing across from the entrance into the gazebo so dogs do not become trapped in the gazebo. Ms. Coffey suggested screening in the cupola to avoid wasps creating a nest there. A surround made of landscaping timbers and bark mulch could be added to mitigate the tripping hazard caused by the footings sticking out. Ms. Coffey did not believe the FCDP would want or be able to do this project. She was advised that any community group could apply to complete this project. An existing light switch will be removed from the gazebo, as there is no plans to install electricity in this location.

The fence removal and replacement work appears to be done very well.

Some latches to the exits and entrances throughout the park may need adjustment, as the gates do not swing closed automatically.

Due to the difficulty in keeping people out of the park while it was closed so this project could be completed, Chairman Merrill requested that a complete new set of combination locks be

purchased, and each section of the park would be closed, in addition to the parking lot. The parking lot chains were damaged several times from people driving through them.

Motion: by Mr. Corsino that DPAC will reimburse the Friends of the Chelmsford Dog Park to purchase a new set of combination gate locks, up to \$250.00. Seconded by Ms. Bukala. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

-Signage for Emergency Access-completed

It was noted that the gates in question have remained closed since the signs were installed.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Coffey asked if the large Rules sign in the front of the park could be moved into the foyer area, as people may take more time to read the sign once they have entered the first gate. The Committee authorized FCDP to move the sign, and they can monitor to see if this helps people be aware of the rules.

Ms. Corsino asked the FCDP to tighten the green bench in the Small Dog area, as it has become loose.

Aaron Grinster, Billerica, felt the grass planting plan the FCDP has put in place will not be successful, as the top soil is not sufficient to allow the grass to grow deep roots. Also, dog urine and wear and tear from dogs running will destroy any grass anyway. Mr. Lamadeleine referred Mr. Grinster to speak with Mark Mello about adding more top soil and re-seeding efforts.

Mr. Lamadeleine requested to be added to an e-mail to the Town plumber to schedule when the water will be turned on in the park.

Will Wagner of the Chelmsford Dog Association will be sent an email asking about the status of the proposed Memorial Wall.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled during the week of April 12, date to be determined.

ADJOURN

Motion: by Ms. Bukala to adjourn the meeting at 7:11PM. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Vivian Merrill, Clerk

Supporting Documents:

-Draft Minutes

-List of Dog Park maintenance tasks and projects