



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Nick Boivin

Members of the Public:

- 🐾 Jeff Bergart
- 🐾 Cathy Fochtman
- 🐾 Steve Trimble
- 🐾 Joe Will

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. Old Business

1. Comments from Oct 26, 2022 Public Forum

- Committee discussed and approved draft summary of Public Forum. The summary was approved with no additional comments from the Committee
- Tom plans to ask Dennis Dale to review the summary approved by the Committee.

2. Continue Design Work

- Next step is for Denis Dale to consider minor changes to the Design Plan in response to Public Comments.
- Committee needs to provide recommendations for ground cover. Committee to review options for ground cover and make recommendations for design. Grass is difficult to maintain. Stephen noted the Dennis should provide recommendations for the Committee. Cathy has experience with playground ground cover. Drainage is a critical consideration in selecting ground cover. Mulch as a possible ground cover, depending on where it is

sourced (e.g., ASTN certified mulch used for playgrounds), requires replenishment. Grass is prone to mud and erosion in rainy or snow melt conditions, and can be destroyed by compaction during use in spring. Committee also considering pea stone and rice stone ground cover. Review Stanton Foundation dog park ground cover website. Eliminate stone dust, dirt, sand, artificial grass and natural grass as possible ground cover. Possibly wood chips or mulch. Stephen asked Committee to consider seeking input from Stanton Foundation through the Town, possibly by sending questions regarding ground cover.

- Possible different ground cover at different parts of the dog park. For example, if we include a gate separating the “bottle neck” portion of dog park, and a grass ground surface in this portion of the park. Clare noted importance of staying focused on the mission and purpose of the original dog park design.
- Revisit budget after design changes. Tom reports that Dale suggested the Committee reviewing the probable costs in the budget. Decide on features that are “locked down” in the design and any new features since original design, and ask for updated budget. Committee to decide on final list of features and ask Dale to prepare final budget proposal.
- Tom reported that Dean identified portions of dog park site not adequately surveyed (e.g., stone wall and trees). Could Town engineering help with the gaps in the survey needed to complete the Design? Tom to ask Dean for input on how best to proceed. Jeff noted the remaining survey work may be confined to the perimeter of the site, and that the elevation measurement appears to have been completed.
- Clare suggested the Committee look for possible additional capital improvement grants after dog park is built (perhaps up to 10% of original funding).
- Action items:
 - Tom, Karen, Nick and Clare to visit dog parks in Ayer, Natick, Maynard and Arlington (respectively) to elicit feedback from users, especially after rain, and report back to Committee.
 - Tom will provide spreadsheet of dog park design features for Committee to review. Committee to review between meetings and bring comments to next meeting.
 - Tom to ask Dean or Select Board for input on how best to proceed regarding completion of survey of dog park site.

3. Conservation Commission Plans

- Tom to add dog park to agenda of Conservation Commission meetings in 2023

4. Other Committee updates

- Tom summarized his recent update to Select Board regarding dog park. Stephen updated Committee on recent discussions related to coordinating dog park design with related site plans.
- Karen reviewed the Open Space Report, identifying 1 sentence about the dog park. She would like the Committee to communicate more detailed information about the dog park to be added to this document.
- Jeff asked Stephen about including information about dog park in the Rec Department report, and asked Tom about providing an update on the dog park in the Town Report.

II. Regular Business

1. Review of 2022 Committee meeting Minutes

- The committee reviewed status of 2022 Minutes from prior meetings, and discussed status of each meeting Minutes. Clare Siska shared a list of prior meetings in 2022, committee discussed status of each Minutes and recorded Action Items for review and adoption of prior meeting Minutes. Tom will confirm all 2022 meeting Minutes were approved, and send to Committee any Minutes that still require review and approval. Committee to vote to approve any Minutes that were not previously approved. Nick and Tom to review prior meeting Minutes before next meeting, to confirm all requisite Committee approvals have been obtained.
- Committee Approved meeting Minutes for:
 - April 27, 2022 (3-0-1 vote: Tom = Yes, Karen = Yes, Clare = Yes, Nick = Abstain)
 - May 11, 2022 (3-0-1 vote: Tom = Yes, Karen = Yes, Clare = Yes, Nick = Abstain)
 - May 25, 2022 (3-0-1 vote: Tom = Yes, Karen = Yes, Clare = Yes, Nick = Abstain)
 - June 29, 2022 site visit meeting (3-0-1 vote: Tom = Yes, Karen = Yes, Clare = Yes, Nick = Abstain)
 - October 26, 2022 (3-0-1 vote: Tom = Yes, Karen = Yes, Clare = Yes, Nick = Abstain)

III. Old Business

1. Tom will contact Town Clerk to request update of the ADPC email list with current committee members.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next ADPC meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2022 at 7 PM – virtual meeting.

V. Citizens' Concerns:

1. No citizen came forward with concerns at this meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Boivin