

Acton Dog Park Committee

Meeting Minutes

Acton Town Hall, Room 46

27 February 2018

Committee Members Present:

- Clare Siska, Chair
- Cathy Fochtman
- Tom Gillispie
- Betsy Kristal
- Mike Perry
- Rodney Smith
- Joan Gardner

Members of the Public:

- Joe Will

Call to Order

- Ms. Siska called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Citizens' Concerns

- None given

Review and accept prior meeting minutes

- The minutes of the 2/13/18 meeting was read, amended, and accepted.

Clare Siska's Statement

- Attached is Clare's statement regarding any conflict of interest concerns. Page 3

Clerk Role

- Has been a rotation process. Any need for change? Betsy had considered the position but is no longer interested. Karen likes the rotations. The consensus determined that a schedule would be made for future meetings.

FaceBook Administrator role

- Rodney brought up the Open Meeting question. Business should not be conducted in this media, just information.
- Blog type of approach, informing those who wish to find out what is going on may want to view from Fb, and the publicity would be helpful.
- Clare, Cathy, and Karen would be administrators.
- FAQ's regarding the park.

Member Reports highlights

- For all, any suggestions for agenda items need to be to Clare or placed on Google Drive by Wednesday prior to the next meeting.
- Clare has given everyone Google drive, set the Fb administrators in place, contacted the Farmer's Market, Town Clerk regarding the officers, MayDog, and Kelly McPherson with invitations to our meetings.
- Tom is working on CPA funding, and setting a calendar. He also wanted to know about the possibility of reworking the handouts that we have. Rodney added the idea of informing readers about the socialization of dogs at a dog park in the handouts.

- Betsy will work on new flyers, as well as a Banner for the Memorial Day Parade. Cathy will work with her on this.
- Cathy brought up the Memorial Day Parade. Generally either from the High School to the Concord Road cemetery, or from Gates to the West Acton cemetery.

Land Requirements (in a perfect world)

- 2 to 3 acres minimum, plus parking, (20 to 30 spaces?)
- Flat with some variation
- Buffer from residential
- Water for the dog's play and drinking.
- Parking
- Clare pointed out that some sites may bring concerns and disagreements.

New Business

- Tom brought some information on the Stanton Foundation. They give 10 grants for design. Three are already given out. Do we apply now? According to the BOS, we are a town entity.
- Joe Will came up with another site. Acton Auto Auction. (Adesa?)

Dog Story

- Eddie entertains again.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Perry

Statement to ADPC re: Conflict of Interest

2/27/2018

A question has been raised, and persists, about whether there is a conflict of interest by my serving as committee Chair, or of serving on the committee at all, since I am the owner of a dog-sitting business. On the advice of counsel, I'm entering the following statement on this subject into this meeting's record.

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My sole interest in serving on this committee, in whatever capacity, is to build a dog park in Acton, no more, and no less. While the Volunteer Coordinating Committee and I discussed this question and they found no cause for conflict, I originally recused myself from serving in a leadership role, because I wanted to avoid the *appearance* of a conflict of interest.

But as the committee's work progressed, it became clear to me that I could add value in more of a leadership role and, as Mike shared with me his concerns about completing his term, I further researched the conflict of interest laws, consulted with Joan Gardner, our Selectmen liaison, and determined that I could legitimately fill that role. My qualifications are documented in my volunteer application, which are a matter of public record.

My role as Chair, and the process that resulted in my assuming that role, has been reviewed and cleared by Steve Ledoux, Town Manager, and the Board of Selectmen has been notified. Finally, in accordance with Massachusetts laws, I have filed a DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST with the Town Clerk, who will distribute appropriately.

Should anyone question any specific action or actions on my part that you believe are in violation of Conflict of Interest Laws, you are entitled to file a complaint with the State Ethics Commission.