



**Dog Park Committee
Final meeting minutes
for Thursday, January 10, 2019
10:30 AM
Room 9, Town Hall
472 Main Street, Acton, MA**

ATTENDEES:

- Tom Tidman, Natural Resources Director
- Bettina Abe, Natural Resources Assistant
- Acton Dog Park Committee members:
 - Clare Siska, Chair
 - Karen Martin
 - Mike Perry
 - Fred Kinch
- Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director.
- Selby, Land Use and Economic Development Director
- Joe Will, citizen

Mtg called to order at 10:33

GREAT HILL:

- Tom Tidman advised on possible parking options at Great Hill
 - based on existing non-compliant parking for playground, we could petition for an extension of non-compliance to fit 20 spaces, nose-in, on the right side of the long driveway. Requires filing a notice of intent with the Conservation Commission.
 - Public benefit rationale
 - Snow storage and storm water concerns would have to be addressed
 - Land Stewardship would need to weigh in;
- Opposition:
 - Land Stewards oppose use of Great Hill for dog park
 - Many who currently use it as a dog park oppose fencing
 - Nylander Way residents unhappy with impact of dogs on their neighborhood
 - Attendees reviewed an email from John Wattlington, land steward for Great Hill, citing his objection to the use of Great Hill for a dog park and his rationale. His email also pointed out a property at the end of Wood Lane that might be a suitable site.
- Little Great Hill:
 - Unused, somewhat isolated

- Likely opposition from Nylander Way
- Challenges of somewhat steep and wet access from parking lot; difficulty getting water to the site. Would make Stanton funding difficult
- Without a formal vote, the committee agreed that Great Hill is looking much less feasible as a site.

MAIN STREET PROPERTIES:

- If the Acton Housing Authority proposal is adopted by the Main Street Committee, the AHA proposal has potential to share with a dog park. Selby suggested the Committee continue working that option.
- The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Main Street Committee that they accept the AHA proposal with the possibility of using the two southernmost parcels for a dog park in conjunction with AHA.

WOOD LANE:

- GIS: F4-45, 86 Wood Lane
- At dead end of Wood Lane, adjacent to Arboretum lands and trail into arboretum; about 5 abutters
- Features:
 - high and dry meadow, mowed annually
 - slope with trees off to one side
 - about 2 acres
 - adjacent trail system
 - easement to Concord Road
 - overgrown road(?) on right edge of property (used to lead to Minot Ave?) may be suitable for parking when cleared
 - Zoned Conservation and Recreation
 - Abutters will be concerned about noise
 - Will increase traffic on generally quiet Wood Lane
- ADPC members were encouraged to tour the property on their own time

OTHER:

- Idea: Given the challenges, should we reconsider our approach? What about multiple, smaller “pocket parks” for dogs?

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30.