



**Dog Park Committee
Final Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
Room 121 Town Hall
472 Main St., Acton, MA**

Committee Members Roll Call:

Clare Siska, Chair
Tom Gillispie
Mike Perry
Karen Martin
Fred Kinch
Joan Gardner
Cathy Fochtman

Members of the Public

Joe Will

Clare called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting were approved, and the minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved as amended.

Land Updates and Discussion

- Clare summarized the results of the January 10th Committee meeting, where Tom Tidman, Bettina Abe and Selby attended, and the email from John Watlington, the land steward for Great Hill. The feeling was that putting a “Stanton grade” dog park at Great Hill might be difficult. Clare will contact John and ask him about other sites that he mentioned in his email and also ask him about a reduced scope dog park at Great Hill.
- The parcel at the end of Wood Lane is a possibility and we should explore this option further.
- Clare summarized the results of the Main Street Forum and Main Street Committee meeting. While there is broad support for the Acton Housing Authority proposal and the dog park as part of that project is still an option, the timeframe is 4 to 5 years before the project is completed. The sense of the Committee was we would like to have a dog park sooner than that, but that we should not rule out Main Street as an option.
- The Committee discussed having several smaller dog parks as an option, incorporating one or two of the de-facto dog parks in Acton. Two or three parks may be the most a “Friends of Acton Dog Park” group could reasonably manage.
- The Committee discussed other possible sites, and discussed going back and reviewing all previous suggestions. Plus, we should try to get the most knowledgeable Town individuals involved in helping us create a list of sites to research.

- As a next step, the Committee decided to continue this discussion at our next meeting.

Fundraising

- Cathy provided the Committee with the example of how the group supporting the Goward playground raised funds.
- All of the Committee plan to attend the Barks & Brews event at the Powdermill Animal Hospital.

Public Outreach

- Karen had done an excellent spot on Acton TV; the Committee watched the spot on YouTube (and gave Karen a round of applause), and then found the same video posted on the Town of Acton website.
- The feeling of the committee was that we should suspend publicity until we have made more progress on site selection.

New Business – none

Citizens' Concerns – none

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 7:30 PM, Room 121, Acton Town Hall

Respectfully submitted

Fred Kinch