

Fairhaven Dog Park Search Committee

October 3, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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TOWN CLERK

2018 NOV 15 P 1:20

PRESENT - Maryann Kane-Chair, Nancy Shanik, Geneva Woodruff, Howe Allen-Clerk
NOT PRESENT Vanessa Gralton-Vice Chair

GUESTS - Laurie Traudt, Donna Baldwin, Robert Espindola

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

1. Call to order
2. Motion to change meeting time from 630pm to 6pm.
 1. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes
 1. Maryann Krane suggested we do not need to approve meetings from first meeting as it was just an organizational meeting and no real discussions were held.

4. Public Meeting

Maryann Krane welcomed guests Laurie Traudt, former chair of the Dog Park Committee and guest Donna Baldwin as well as Selectman Robert Espindola.

MK - asked guests to give background, suggestions, challenges and retrospective on the former Dog Park Committee's experience.

NS - Further asked what could have been done differently.

LT - Added that Donna Baldwin was former Clerk for the dog park committee. She also indicated that the minutes from their previous meetings was available on the Town of Fairhaven website. She indicated that the former committee did a great deal of fundraising and that many local businesses had been supportive.

GW - Acknowledged that the former committee started out with grassroots fundraising.

BE - Added that there is a gift account set up with the town as a depository for all the money raised through their efforts. Expending of that money must be approved by the select board and follows a formal process. Other accounts can be set up as "Friends of the Dog Park", and that account does not have the oversight of the selectboard. BE thought the balance of that account was between \$1000-\$1500.

LT - Indicated that all fundraising that had been done was done with the express knowledge and approval of the Selectboard and the DPW.

GW - What happened that prevented a dog park from being established.

LT - There were stumbling blocks and politics.

DB - indicated she was discouraged by the location suggested by the DPW (Long Road)

MK - How was this site previously recommended?

LT - added that handicapped access was an issue for this site.

NS - Asked if there were other sites suggested.

DB - either they were too small or not ADA accessible as required to get State or Federal monies.

BE - Recommended we get Gloria McPherson involved as she is the Director of Economic Development and the town Planner. He also suggested that when the new Building commission is hired, that person should be involved in the committee's work as well. Bob also left his mobile number of 774-263-1046 should he need to be reached. Bob then had to leave meeting to attend another meeting.

LT - Laurie then began to speak about the process. She indicated that the town and BPW required information regarding what materials would be used. They also asked for a plan of layout. The former committee drew up a proposed layout for the dog park on Long Road. The dimensions were 300 by 134 feet. The committee did not get any quotes to have the plan built. The did draw up a plan for maintenance that would be done by the Friends of the Fairhaven Dog Park or FOFDP.

She further recommended that all members should take the ethics test that the town clerk

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Eileen Downey .

LT - Indicated that once Long Road was made known to be a prospective site, abutters were notified and general consensus was favorable.

HA - asked if parking would be along Long Road.

LT - indicated that she thought so.

GW - Can we build upon what has been done already?

LT - Wetlands and conservation okay'd the location on Long Road.

Suggested we get the new Animal Control Agent involved in the committee as well.

GW - Does the town want to do it? She congratulated the previous committee on the hard work they had done, but added that unless the town really is committed to it, it may not be successful.

LT - Reiterated the Ethics test and suggested we add to the already established email group and offered to add us as admins to the FaceBook page that also had already been in existence.

ML - Bringing more people into awareness would help to promote the need for the dog park and the benefits of same. She also congratulated the former members.

LT and DB left meeting, leaving behind all the work they had assembled over the course of their involvement which was impressive. They have a banner, small cans for coin donations, and of course other items that are all stored in plastic box in Howe Allen's basement now.

Discussion then lead to the mission statement which MK had prepared. GW handed out binders which contained information about dog park grants, types of dog parks, issues and concerns, etc.

MK - asked that we take the home, read it, edit it, add to it, and expand upon it. This is just the first step.

GW - Research indicates that a dog park will cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 and that the only real way to get substantial monies to make this a reality is to go to the Stanton Foundation, which is a foundation set up only to establish dog parks in the state. Stanton will give \$10,000-\$25,000 to design the site and up to \$225,000 for construction. There are six current openings in the state for this grant. However, the Stanton Foundation will only work with municipal or government agencies, not community people.

GT - spoke to the people associated with other Stanton Foundation parks such as Ayre, Falmouth and New Bedford. She further stated that we need to assist the town in creating a dog park, but it is the town that needs to go for the grant.

NS - We need to give suggestions to the town even if we cannot be the actual requestors of the grant.

GW - feels we have two roles. The first is to recommend site, help with fundraising and then disband so that the Stanton Foundation doesn't feel we are the community drivers and that the town is committed to the success and further maintenance of a dog park.

NS - Stanton sounds like a good idea, but are there other ways to get it done?

GW - If the town is not interested in following through with the Stanton grant, then she would resign as there is no money for this type of park in the town budget.

MK - Indicated that we need to put the mission statement discussion on hold and when we reconvene, we can further discuss it.

5. Action Items

1. Go through binder and come back to next meeting with questions.
2. Put together a presentation at our next meeting to present to town.
3. Give Mark Rees his own binder which Geneva prepared.
4. Review mission statement and makes suggestions, edits, etc.

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6. Next Meeting - November 5, 2018
added after meeting closed, that meeting will need to be at 5pm instead of 6pm as
Selectboard could not meet at 6pm.
7. Motion to conclude meeting, seconded and all agreed.

Howe Allen - Clerk