



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- 🐾 Fred Kinch
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Mike Perry

Absent:

- 🐾 Luisa Callahan

Members of the Public:

- 🐾 Cathy Fochtman
- 🐾 Jeff Bergart

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. New Business

1. Recreation Dept. Master Plan / CPA application update.

- Since ARPA funds have been allocated in FY2022 for a Master Plan for 348 – 364 Main Street (heretofore referred to as “The Main Street Campus”), the Recreation Department will not be submitting a CPA application for the same.
- However, it will be a while before those funds are made available for use due to other Town priorities.
- Jeff B suggests a meeting of the interested parties, but Dean’s advice to Jeff is to sit back and wait until a few more things shake out, e.g., the Main Street sewer discussion is ongoing.
- Discussion took place over the need for an overarching project manager for the Main Street campus.

2. Septic & Sewer Updates

- \$1.5M ARPA funds in reserve but not allocated for any fiscal year and remain in competition with other projects. It is yet unclear how funds move from reserve status to a specific fiscal year.
- Main Street Sewer Feasibility study to be presented at November 1 Select Board meeting.

- Hancock's designers have changed the septic field orientation, reduced the height, and made the slope continue gradually down from the 352 parcel. The front slope is now much reduced and gentler. Any fill in the front would have no wetland implications. A steep slope still remains off the back of the septic field.
- Clarified that the reserve septic field is simply noted on paper for the future, should the primary leach field fail over the long term. No pipe will run into it; no construction will take place. Basically anything can be done on that site for the foreseeable future.
- Chair Tom G met with Tom Tidman, Brian from Hancock and two Conservation Commissioners to discuss adding fill around the septic mound; Tom Tidman will continue to socialize the concept to the Conservation Commission since it is likely to cross into the wetland buffers and is planning a site walk with Conservation Commissioners on 10/29. Argument is that the buffers have already been breached with fill and invasives. There is potential to reclaim and return what currently exists in the wetland buffers to a more natural state. Cost of fill for these areas is yet to be estimated; AHA has set aside \$25K for remediation of the dog park site.
- It was noted and appreciated that the AHA is supporting the dog park with allocated billable Hancock hours to resolving the slope and size of the dog park.
- Next Steps:
 - i. Tom G will reach out to Kelley Cronin to obtain a copy of the new plans.
 - ii. AHA to appear before the Conservation Commission on November 3 to seek approval of their plans.

3. Stanton Design Grant & Next Steps

- We are getting closer but need resolution of the septic design and updates on sewers before we can move forward.
- We will consider presenting two designs to Stanton: one each for septic and sewer.
- Tom G is keeping Dennis Dale looped in and Dennis continues contributing input and brainstorming options and design ideas.

4. Dog Park Tours

- Karen M visited Danehy Dog Park in Cambridge; no big takeaways.
 - i. Seating was all on one side and distributed.
 - ii. Groups congregate at different times of day.
 - iii. Parking is multi-use; she had a hard time parking
- Karen will update and organize our space in DRIVE: "ADPC Other Dog Parks"

5. Update from AHA Meeting:

- At the most recent AHA meeting, Kelley Cronin explained that the AHA will apply for funding in January 2022 with the septic plan if the sewer project is not yet approved. Notification expected in or by April 2022. Typically funding is not approved the same year. If the sewer project is approved later, the AHA can change course so long as it does not increase their costs and construction has not yet started. Should the AHA receive funding in 2022, construction could start as early as Summer, 2022.

6. Communications Update:

- Promotional communications have focused on the Howl-o-ween events; the next push will be updates on design + pushing the Pet Portraits fundraiser.

7. Friends of ACDP and Financial Report:

- Howl-o-Ween event was a great community outreach event on a beautiful fall day.
 - i. 20+ dogs attended in costumes; many more humans!
 - ii. Took in \$110 in online registrations + walk-ins; \$51 in donations; \$6 from DogWise kids and \$TBD in balloon sales.
 - iii. New England Golden Retriever group attended and will donate raffle proceeds. Happy to help us in the future
- Recreation Department reported “point of sales” income from July – October as \$1,477.

8. Other:

- Outreach to the IDW neighbors was discussed. Agreed that there is too much in the air at this time and that future outreach should be inclusive of all concerned with the Main Street Campus rather than exclusively from the Dog Park Committee, e.g., Master Plan leadership, ADPC, Senior Park advocates and representatives of the AHA. Some sort of preliminary design or draft master plan should be prepared or in process before the next outreach.

II. Regular Business

1. Review previous meeting minutes:
 - The 10/5/2021 and 10/13/21 meeting minutes were approved unanimously

III. Old Business

1. None.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next ADPC meetings: Dates TBD; working out conflicts with Dean.

V. Citizens' Concerns:

1. No citizens' concerns were raised at this meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska