

Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee Minutes  
May 10, 2018  
Assessor's Office

Attendees:

Susanne Jarnryd  
Tom McKean  
Deborah Richardson  
Don Shobry  
Kate Stout  
Jeff Young  
Anne Umphrey  
Bob Schulman  
Guest: Chester

The meeting was called to order at 5:35. The minutes from the meeting of May 1 were approved with the correction of a misspelling.

We then addressed ways to publicize the public hearing on May 22. Committee members were assigned locations to place posters announcing the public hearing. Susanne put a notice in on Yahoo!. Erin Stevens put an announcement of the meeting on the official Concord website and it was announced at the Select Board hearing. Kate sent in a letter to the Editor of Concord Journal and put an announcement on the Egg Rock web site. Kate also received feedback from the online posting that is attached below and will be read at the Public Hearing. We also received verbal feedback from someone at the Beede Center who said she would use a small dog park if it was in East Concord but Emerson Park is just fine for her. She felt there was space for exercise, water for people and dogs, and the people were very respectful and willing to clean up.

Erin asked Anne why we were not televising the meeting and said the town was unable to provide a sound system unless we televise it. She was not sure that they could provide a crawl line on CCTV telling viewers about the public hearing. Andrew will supply identification tags for the committee members unless we televise the meeting. The Town will supply an easel but the committee has to provide its own pads and pens for capturing public comments. Anne said she would get pads. Erin said the Town does not have money to buy space in the Concord Journal, and was not sure she could submit a notice to the newspaper. Anne will call the new editor to see if a notice can be included. Six members of the committee voted that they did not see a need for televising the hearing. Bob abstained because he is indifferent to the issue.

Susanne will provide identification tags for the committee members and will bring copies of the AKC guidelines for dog parks and the backgrounder. Jeff will bring a survey form.

At the hearing, Anne will introduce committee members, summarize what the committee has done to date, cover what we want to hear from public at the meeting, and then go over next steps:

- Development of a draft report this summer,

- Presentation of the draft report to Select Board,
- Making the draft report available to the town for comment,
- A final public hearing in the fall, and
- Completion of the final report by year end.

Kate will capture notes on a flip chart. Don will capture names and addresses and also will capture notes. Jeff thinks he can bring a sound system. If we have a microphone, we will position it centrally at the front of the room and have people line up. We can be flexible with a small group, but need to be more formal with a large group and also impose a two minute time limit on comments. We will target an hour for public comments. We will also tell attendees they can submit written comments to the Town Manager or email them to [publicinfo@concordma.gov](mailto:publicinfo@concordma.gov).

The committee's next regular meeting is June 5 at 7:00 PM at the Select Board Room. We will announce that at the end of the public hearing.

We will use the bills from Concord Power and Light to notify the public of the data and time for the final public hearing this fall.

We will also continue our homework on dog parks in the area. Bob will reach out to the head of the Acton Dog Park. Tom asked if there are other dog committees in this area. A quick Google search showed that Carlisle has a Dog Control Committee and Acton, Amherst, Auburn, Bedford, Billarica, Brewster, Chelmsford, Fairhaven, Medford, Millbury, Uxbridge, and Wareham all have Dog Park Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37.

Jessica Harvey, Southfield/Riverdale

I have a conflict that night...my two cents is that the Natural Resources is taking away a wonderful location, enjoyed by many with and without dogs. It seems that a dog park is great for city dwellers but, not for residents of Concord...we should be able to use all town land without restriction...isn't this why we pay taxes? Dog walkers, of course, need to be respectful of others who may not like dogs and pick up dog waste. From what I gather from all the hearings and voting is that those are the two big issues with the towns people. Natural Resources has acted singularly and should not be allowed to do so. They had hearings but, wouldn't allow people to speak or they talked over them or bullied them. This is not a board that I am proud of...things need to change with them and dog walkers should not be railroaded into using a small section of land to walk their dogs.

Good luck to you all...I do not believe in having a dog park for the above reasons.

Jessica Harvey  
102 Pilgrim Road

