

Open Space & Recreation
May 23, 2018 Monthly Meeting
Town Hall Banquet Hall Room

Meeting called to order by Chair Stev McDonough at 6:30 pm.

Attendees: Dennis Visconti, David Goodberg, Stev McDonough, Cathy Richardson, Steve Sylvester, Cindy Hemenway, Therese DiBlasi, Jack Bracchiotti

Absent members: Maura Campbell, James Sarno

Steve Angelo, Recreation Director

Background

- 2 years ago OSR approached to look into Dog Park by various groups
- Looked at requirements & funding
- Stanton Foundation covers 90% of construction costs
- Town provides site, must be town owned & designated as dog park prior to grant application
- Goal to do this w little/no cost to taxpayers
- Min 10K sq ft – preferably 15K, access to H2O & electricity, parking, not heavily forested
- Close to center of town is preferable
- Considered over 15 sites, 8 locations to 2nd step, still some under consideration
- Worked w TA, Community Dev & Planning, Steve Angelo throughout process

Steve Angelo

- Goal – To enhance all recreation land
- Dog Park - want to utilize portion of Capen St park, w Greenway opening, timing right to discuss
- Total area is 31K SQ FT
- Would leave front of park alone
- Have TA approval to bring to board for consideration
- 1 opportunity w Stanton Foundation – must build within a year
- Can also apply for OS grants - plan to redevelop for kids & reinvigorate whole area,

Tom Younger

- One aspect of livable community includes dog parks
- Successful parks
 - walkability – can people walk there

- parking
- Visibility – from safety & maintenance standpoint
- Dogs parks also for people
- Asset to community
- Need to look at deed for any restrictions
- Stanton Foundation looks for community support
- Generally successful parks can lead to surrounding area
- Park surface will determine H2O cost

Audience Feedback

Dolly Wilson (181 Central St), Chairman of Greenway Committee

- Running survey Re: top amenities people want along Greenway
- 560 responses to online, Dog Parks = #3
- Likes idea of centrally located dog park
- Wants playground equip retained

John Simeone (27 Washington St)

- Dog owner
- Concern w area – furniture, wetlands, garbage
- Great location, but area has history of problems, need to clean up

Jennifer Moriarty

- Q 10% cost – what is that amount
 - A: OSR will spearhead fundraising for 10%. Cost is unknown at this time
- Ongoing cost – DPW will maintain, don't have answer on H2O
- Would need a faucet that auto turns off
- Q – does town need liability insurance?
 - A: Rules & Regs put resp on owners
 - Dog must be licensed to enter
 - Will form non-profit committee for fundraising
- Q: have we checked w Town Atty?
 - A: same as using playing fields
 - Park is fenced, kids w/n/b allowed
- Q: maintenance
 - Town will do basic maintenance
- Q: who determines final site?
 - A – TA has final approval on site, TA can control use of property, Town Counsel will weigh in on jurisdiction of permanent use
 - Will be internal reviews going forward, in determination process

- Not in favor, wants a different location

Deb Colameta Forest St

- Unclear of mtg purpose
 - A: 1st step – notify abutters 300 ft from property, purpose of mtg to get input on this location
- Prefers development of playground for kids above dog park

Stev M: Goal is to take care of both - replace playground equip

Jeanie Greave, Erickson St

- Nice to have more use of area
- Adding amenities to town, it's not dogs over kids
- Supports dog park, encourages town to have open mind

TA – goal would be to replicate play equipment

Kathy Luciano, Alden Ave

- Q what are other sites?
 - Stevens St recycling area – no parking
 - Senior Ctr – behind barn –
 - Another space by Greenway
 - Greenwood by zoo – controlled by DCR, not viable, can't use grant or town \$\$
 - Unused field at upper Pomeworth
- Q on parking lot used for middle school -also used for little league
- Concern for Capen St residents' w dogs barking
- Q on Whip Hill – not viable- is conservation land

Citation Ave

- Not against dog park, feels priority s/b kids

Dorothy Koram, Pomeworth St

- Q: open 24 hours? NO – closer to 8am - 8pm, rules determined at later phase
- Q: would it be fenced? No design complete yet, will be fence enclosed, double gate system
- High pressure gas vault in the area

Rebecca Pulia, High St

- Q: how was it determined this park underutilized?
- Middle Schoolers use it after school
- Concerned about taking away space frm kids
- Concern about dogs close to kids during school release

- Q: is there a committee? No - too early in process, once we finalize site & apply for grant, will create
- Q: do other towns form committees early?
- Q: what is grant cycle? Submit by end of November
- Against this location

John Loftus, Capen St

- Park not maintained currently
- Middle Schoolers use park
- Lots of graffiti – never addressed
- Not against dog park, concern w parking
- HS previously tried to build on this location
 - Dog Park does fall under recreation area

Liz Ciantri, Pomeworth St

- Wants replacement playground 1st
- NIMB
- Teachers Parking lot - need to confirm who owns land

Meeting adjourned 8:09 pm