

Fairhaven Dog Park Search Committee
November 5, 2018
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT - Nancy Shanik, Geneva Woodruff, Howe Allen-Clerk
NOT PRESENT Vanessa Gralton-Vice Chair, Maryann Kane-Chair,
GUESTS - None

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TOWN CLERK

2018 DEC -6 A 10:27

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

1. Call to order
 1. Maryann and Vanessa unable to attend due to medical reasons.
2. Approve minutes from 10/3/18.
Motion submitted by Nancy and seconded by Geneva and all voted to approve.
3. Discussion of Stanton Grant foundation.

GW presented Stanton Grant foundation background information and requirements for the grant. Town must form an appropriate committee and then agree to the terms of the foundation. They give 3 grants, first is the planning grant. Town doesn't design the dog park, a landscape architect actually designs. The one that she referenced is in Providence and Boston and they have designed as many as 10 of the 22 of the parks that Stanton has paid for. Stanton pays for up to 90% of the design and construction of dog parks they give grants to. The foundation requires that the town commit to 10% of the overall park costs. HA asked if the 10% that the Stanton asks the town to commit to is for the design process as well or just the construction.

GW The town must commit to the 10% of the total. Some towns have also used CPA money and other funds to come up with the 10%. Stanton is not interested in naming a grant for a particular group or person. They are not interested in trusts that may offer to fund dog park creation. Stanton is clearly knowledgeable and they know what a successful dog park should look like. Stanton lays it out clearly.

Park must have access to water and electricity and the town is responsible for that.

HA asked if it must be visible to the street.

GW said no, but there can be no hidden spaces so that dogs must be seen at all times while in the park. The last commitment the town needs to make is the maintenance of the park.

NS She believed that the foundation encourages local communities to have committees to help with the maintenance of the dog park. Resources should still be available from the town though.

GW all this is laid out quite clearly. If town is interested in getting a grant, we should give the town a notebook. I has the name of the landscape architect that designed 10 of the parks. I have also talked with other people from other parks.

NS commended Geneva on the work she put into assembling the book and gathering the info on the grant process. It is well organized and easy to read. Very good idea to give the binder to the town. It is hard to imagine that we as a community could come up with a better alternative than the grant. She had two questions, but they were answered in the binder. One was that the town did not need to fund the entire project. She pointed that ther dog park at Ronan Park in Boston was financed by Stanton but an article credits community involvement as part of the driving force behind its creation and success.

GW Yes, the support is important, but that the support is more in the form of supporting the local government in their efforts through meeting attendance where discussion regarding sites and such are discussed. We can do a lot by supporting the town's efforts. The town still needs to apply for the grant themselves.

NS Agreed.

HA mentioned that there was a BMX park established on Bernese and he did not feel it was funded with a grant, but more with local money and effort. Of course the cost of a dog

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park far exceeds the cost to establish the BMX park and that the requirements of the foundation also increase the cost of its construction.

GW also indicated that even if the town gives that land, they still need to commit to the 10% of the total cost in order to get the Stanton Grant. It is also important for the town to choose a site and provide access to water and electricity.

NS the one in Dartmouth doesn't have water or electricity so you have to bring you own water. Cannot be used after dark. Clear difference between what Stanton would require and what Dartmouth currently has.

GW Stanton likes to develop parks similarly to the way parks are developed for people.

Good layout, location and a plan for maintenance. Their guidelines are strict.

HA what do we do now moving forward?

GW We should review the charge which includes review the work that the previous committee did and review the possible parcels and then give them information on what the grant process is.

NS What is our next step? Who do we need to talk to at the town? Seems to me we need to can we meet during normal business hours.

HA would it help to get on the meeting schedule for the select board?

GW I don't feel we are ready to do that yet. We should meet with the town administrator.

There are six grants available.

HA is it possible to get all this together for this year?

GW Not likely, but we should apply as soon as possible.

GW said that there are over 1980 dog licenses in town. There are probably another 500 that don't have licenses.

HA wondered if we could get a copy of the list and as it would be a good source of donations. Also, access to park through licenses would be good.

4. Discussion of Sites

HA we looked for sites of around 1 acres, a bit more or less. We were given a list by the Accessors office.

The group discussed the attached sites. The things that were discussed were concerns of the abutters, proximity to recreational areas. Use the handout for reference

Green Street - Good location, concerns about abutters, proximity to other recreational facilities.

Roger's School - Good walking location, some recreation, shade and water and electricity. But the possible use of the Roger's for a condo community may create problems as well as the number of abutters and the Nursing home.

North Street Anthony School yard - Not utilized, parking is more of an issue and it is residential and there is not much shade. Water and lighting are available. Was a former Elementary School.

Livesey Park - Already a recreational park. One corner in the northeast part of the parcel is shaded and has benches, not used for any other purpose. Water and electricity and parking are all readily available. Downside would be too much activity already going on.

Long Road - Already proposed and debated about. Might be the site of the least resistance, but downside is it is remote, parking and access to it for people with disabilities.

Eagle Scout Project area off Bike Trail extension - WAS submitted for consideration by Bob Espindola. Would need to get approval of conservation commission. There is parking and road access. Passive recreation might be allowed by conservation commission.

5. Action items

HA we should establish an action item to make the town aware of the Stanton Foundation requirements.

NS They must be aware that there are two items: Financial and resource commitment.

They need to assign someone to work with the foundation to get the process started. If the

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town is not committed to doing the work necessary to get the grant, then we need to determine if it is feasible as a committee to even continue.

HA We can put together a formal statement to gauge the town's level of commitment.

GW if the town is not willing to commit then she is not interested in being a part of the committee.

HA I agree with Geneva that if the town is not willing to go for the grant, I don't see how we could ever raise enough money to make this a reality.

GW The previous dog park committee worked tirelessly and was only able to raise \$1500.

NS very hard to imagine that going for the Stanton Grant is not the most feasible alternative. We need to make them aware of it and strongly suggest they need to do this.

But we cannot be the heavy lifters, the town must do that.

GW even if someone were to give \$200,000 tomorrow, we don't have a long-term commitment from the town yet and therefore it would most likely not be successful.

HA We need to be also be aware that other departments may have some involvement such as the BPW.

GW All the various departments are going to be involved anyway.

NS We should recommend that the town apply for the grant. Howe can as acting Chair convey this to Maryann.

HA I will have the conversation with the chair and make the recommendation we meet with Mark.

NS If we don't have a commitment or position from the town, we don't really have any reason to meet again until we know their position. Our goal is to expedite this and get a response. However, we can keep meeting scheduled and cancel if necessary.

6. Next Meeting - December 5, 2018 at 5pm at Town Hall.

7. Motion to conclude meeting, seconded and all agreed.

Howe Allen - Clerk