

## Townsend Dog Park Feasibility Committee Meeting     August 21, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Sara Grant, Chair.

Attending: Sara Grant, Chair; Julie Byers, Vice Chair; Laura Doell, Secretary; Janelle Hart, Cheryl Voutour  
Alternates: Nicki Reed

General Public: Mary Szurley   Karen Clement   Jim Araujo

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes from July were not sent out due to a misunderstanding. We will vote on those and tonight's minutes at the next meeting.

2. Read response regarding questions on Open Meeting Law and attending events

*(Questions copied from email sent by Sara Grant to Kathy Spofford)*

- 1. Can the Committee meet anywhere as long as it is open to the public. Ideally, we would like to meet at the Townsend Public Library.*
- 2. Can Committee members attend Dog Park events like the Holiday Fair, Truckapooloza, Earth Day, etc?*
- 3. Can Committee members continue to maintain the Townsend Dog Park Facebook page as well as our old mailing list in GMAIL?*
- 4. Can Committee members also assist in the organizing of the Friends of Townsend Dog Park and assist with the setup of a non profit?*
- 5. Do we have a Liaison from the Town that the Committee can get advice from?*

Sara read the following email from Kathy Spofford aloud:

*Hi Sara:*

- 1. Can the Committee meet anywhere as long as it is open to the public. Ideally, we would like to meet at the Townsend Public Library. Yes, you can but remember you must post meetings at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (weekends and holidays are excluded).*
- 2. Can Committee members attend Dog Park events like the Holiday Fair, Truckapooloza, Earth Day, etc? Yes you can attend but you may not discuss Dog Park business.*

*For the rest of the questions, I defer to the chair of the Board of Selectmen.*

- 3. Can Committee members continue to maintain the Townsend Dog Park Facebook page as well as our old mailing list in GMAIL?*
- 4. Can Committee members also assist in the organizing of the Friends of Townsend Dog Park and assist with the setup of a non profit?*
- 5. Do we have a Liaison from the Town that the Committee can get advice from?*

*Thanks,  
Kathy*

*Kathleen M. Spofford, CMMC  
Town Clerk  
Town of Townsend*

Some questions were answered. Discussion showed some questions still remaining.  
All agreed that as many of this committee's members as possible should attend the Open Meeting Law session at the library on the 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 -8PM.

There was discussion about the possibility that some Committee members may wish to step down in the future if their main interest lies in maintaining the momentum of the interest group/Facebook page.

3. Nashoba Valley Voice article – Sara feels it shows the momentum.

Sara told the reporter that we were a new, officially appointed committee, and gave him the names of committee members. She told him that our job as a committee is to help the Board of Selectmen make an informed decision about a dog park for Townsend. The reporter also reached out to Jim Kreidler. All agreed that the reporter did a good job.

Discussion included the Superintendent of School's letter about dog waste on school fields. It was pointed out that this is evidence of the need for a dog park.

4. Interest Group Activities – Interest Group (Friends of Townsend Dogs) plans

Fitchburg event – not this year. Laura to let Sam Squalia know. We are still unsure about our role vs the interest group.

5. New Alternate: Sue Dejaniak has resigned as Alternate due to a schedule conflict. Jim Araujo volunteered. Cheryl made a motion to select Jim Araujo as Alternate; Laura seconded. All voted in favor.

6. Planning/Zoning/Land Use

Julie has joined the Properties Committee. Julie Tidman was supposed to generate a list of town-owned properties which do not belong to the Water Dept or Conservation Commission. Still pending.

Laura mentioned asking about the area between the Library and Squannacook.

The Committee decided to direct Laura to write a letter to the Chair of the Properties Committee, Laurie Shiffrin, asking for a mutual meeting date for our two committees.

Property Committee members are: Laura Shiffrin, Vicky Tidman, Kevin Smith, Darlene Sedano and Julie Byers.

7. Website

Bassam has been very busy getting the town's new server up and running. Laura has met with him about a page on the town website and a town email. TBD at a future date.

8. New Business:

- **ACTION ITEM** - Review Concord Feasibility Study by next meeting. Julie distributed a copy to everyone. The Concord Feas. Study gives us a sample format. Laura said that our conclusions; recommendations; findings may be different from theirs. It is a format to generate ideas and give us a starting point.
- FYI Truckapalooza is Sept 21; Haunted Trail Oct 12 and Holiday Fair Saturday Dec. 7

9. Next meeting will be Wed Sept 4 7PM, Meeting Room 2 at the library