

Dartmouth Dog Advisory Work Group RECEIVED
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Minutes

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DARTMOUTH TOWN CLERK

Attending: Rick Oliveira, Diane Camacho, John Cheverie, Joan Fournier, Jo-Anne Gallant, Sandy Gosselin, Mary Hensel, Paul LaBelle, Kate Pietsch, Lee Ann Quint, Bev Reed, Janice Rogers, Rick Rodrigues,
Guests: Matt Camara (New Bedford Standard Times), Manny Maciel (New Bedford Animal Control), Elaine Gerber (representing Jane Gonsalves), Jim Bosworth (Dartmouth Park Commission)

Meeting came to order at 7:03 PM

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Diane Camacho made a motion to accept, Joan Fournier seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Site Plan

Members would like the plan oriented to show the access road. Rick Rodrigues made motion to accept and Diane seconded. Motion approved.

3. Marketing package.

Bev Reed presented a mock up of DDAWG's information packet, so DDAWG volunteers will send a consistent message to potential donors. Some members have responded already with suggestions. Further suggestions and corrections were made. The Committee felt it important to include our mission, quotes from supporters and names of Board members. Kate said that she could obtain a more endorsements from trainers and kennels. Adding an aerial photo with outline of the park was suggested and perhaps an overlay showing sections of the park and architect's plans. Jo-Anne Gallant moved and Janice Rogers seconded approval of the marketing materials with suggested corrections and amendments. Motion carried.

4. Grant Funding

Rick O reported that DDAWG relinquished the Community Chest grant because DDAWG was not far enough along to take advantage of it for the requested purpose.

Since the CPC grant legislation has been revised to allow further development of existing parks, DDAWG will be apply in the spring round.

5. Coordinating efforts with New Bedford dog park advocates

Visitors from New Bedford described their as yet unsuccessful efforts to

locate a dog park in New Bedford. Many sites have been considered and rejected over several years. Landlords are hanging on to buildable land and other issues are contaminated soils and objections of neighbors to potential noise and congestion. Manny Naciel said Ideally there would be three or four parks across the city. There is popular support for dog park in New Bedford and citizens have turned out at meetings to speak in favor of park establishment.

Sandy Gosselin explained our petition campaign which collected over 1,000 signatures and suggested a similar campaign might demonstrate support in New Bedford.

Funding for a New Bedford Dog Park will be available if a site can be located.

Rick Oliveira asked what New Bedford dog park proponents would like from DDAWG. Rick R explained that anyone is welcome to join DDAWG and our efforts, that the concept has always been for the Dartmouth Dog Park to serve the region as well as the town, and that we intentionally formed as an independent not for profit so we could pursue our own vision working in concert with the town. DDAWG is a community organization, not a government committee. DDAWG would very much appreciate the involvement of New Bedford residents as private citizens.

Rick O explained that since the land will be on town managed property, we are working within guidelines laid down by the Dartmouth Board of Parks and Recreation. Jim Bosworth, Park Commission member, affirmed that DDAWG has the town's support. Rick O emphasized that we have borrowed ideas from many other successful dog parks and that we are happy to share any and all information with New Bedford organizers.

DDAWG's meetings are open to the public and held monthly, usually on the third Monday. All are welcome to attend.

Paul LaBell made a motion to adjourn with Jo-Anne seconding.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hensel