

*Dartmouth – Dog Advisory Work Group  
Tuesday – October 28, 2014 – Minutes*

I. Call to order

President Rick O. called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with the following members present: Rick R., Bev, Diane, Dr. Kate, LeeAnn, Jo-Anne, and guests Jennifer Ashley and Ben.

II. Reports

The treasurer reported on the finances, and the minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup> were accepted.

III. Old business

A. Family Farm Day Event

The day of the event, we took in \$2357.80, and had expenses of \$995.32, taxes paid in the amount of \$81.25 and started with \$50.00 in seed money. After these expenses, our total income from the Family Farm Day event was \$1,231.23, which was more than we made at all of the restaurant fund raisers combined. Social media, with all the various dog organizations and businesses sharing the event, helped to make it a success. WBSM's Phil Paleologos spoke highly of the event and of a dog park on Monday's program. Rick thanked the board members for their efforts, with special thanks to Sandy for hosting and Diane and Jo-Anne for organizing the event. Diane indicated that for future events, the tasks need to be shared, and suggested an 8 to 10 person committee be formed. Each person would be responsible for a different task: Site preparation and break down, publicity and media, volunteers, vendors, signage and program, donations and sponsors, major vendors (food, port-a-john, music, adoptions, micro-chipping), and games and special activities. She also brought the thank you cards for board members to write, and indicated that the thank you notes Jo-Anne and she delivered were well received. One attendee commented that a petting zoo would have added to the event, however, we might have Board of Health issues if we had animals. Overall, the event was a success.

B. Website

Since Facebook doesn't reach everyone, we really need our website to go live. As Karen is not present tonight, we do not have the necessary information to investigate the website domain. It was suggested that everyone have access to the website and be able to post information. However, Rick R. suggested we have just one administrator and a backup for the website since it needs to be updated frequently. Ideas board members have could filter through that individual, but ultimately everything on the site should be board approved. Said approval could be done at board meetings or via e-mail.

C. Park Board meeting

The Park Board approved the Dog Park Design Proposal as presented. There was some discussion about rice stone versus stone dust, but everyone seemed to prefer the rice stone. Security and vandalism is a concern since the park is remote. The

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suggestion was made to construct the shed with concrete blocks rather than wood. In addition, a call button will be placed on the shed. A question was raised about bathroom facilities, and the board was informed that dog park visitors would have to use the bathroom in the center of the park. In the park's original design, a second bathroom had been placed at the handicapped picnic area, but it was cut to save costs. Perhaps the second bathroom could be added at a future date. DDAWG members present learned that two test pits have already been dug. Due to the elevation changes, some type of drain pipe (French or similar) would be used around the perimeter of the park. Presenting the proposal to the Conservation Committee is the next step, and then tree cutting and clearing can occur this winter. If all goes well, an opening in early June is anticipated.

#### D. Mass. State Tax Certificate

We have received word that our Mass. State Tax Exemption Certificate will be received in about two weeks.

### IV. New business

#### A. January Meeting with the Park Board

DDAWG members will meet with some members of the Park Board, starting in January. The Park Board will have jurisdiction of the park, and the meeting will help to determine our role. As it stands, the Park Board will collect fees for the park, but we will do the orientation for members. Three members of DDAWG will join Tim and Deborah to plan our next steps.

#### B. Anchor Animal Hospital – Dr. Kate

Dr. Kate would like a DDAWG member to work with her Practice Manager, Diane Franklin. Her practice has a community service goal, and she would like to donate \$1.00 from the sales of every bag of Science Diet Dog Treats sole to the dog park. In addition, she presented the board with a generous donation of \$500. Rick O. thanked Dr. Kate and indicated Jo-Anne would contact her Practice Manager.

#### C. Future Fundraisers

We had discussed a possible event at the Running Brook Winery on Old Fall River Road. This event could be planned for the spring. Jenn suggested that if the Running Brook site fell through, she knows someone at the Westport Winery. Dr. Kate mentioned the event Brian Harrington, from Odie's Place, a No-Kill shelter, held recently. It was a wine and painting event (Drink and Dabble) held at the VFW in Dartmouth. Attendees sent a picture of their dog, which an artist then sketched on a canvas for you. The night of the event, various artists assisted you with your painting. The ticket costs were \$40. Brian has had several successful fundraisers, and believes all the area dog organizations should coordinate and host a big event. Jo-Anne noted that Karen has emailed Matt Fraser, a psychic medium, about holding an event for us. He works with Forever Paws and is an animal advocate. Rick R. would like to contact the Zeiterion Theatre about using their facility to host an event. We would bring in an entertainer and then sell tickets. The entertainer could be a magician, comedian, or music group. Sponsors would be sought, and we would need to do posters and radio spots to promote the event. Melinda from SouthCoast Humane Society, like Brian, wants groups

to coordinate and host a big event. She suggested a cycling race that could start and finish at Dartmouth Parks and Trails. Jenn has participated in cycling events and indicated DDAWG would be responsible for cycling shirts for those who register early. The fees to ride are usually \$125, but if you register early, it is \$90. Some racers raise their entry fees with sponsors and donate more than the entry fee so more money goes to the dog park. At the finish area, there are usually vendors and food. A road race is another option. MSCPA recently held a Run with your Dog 5K that was successful. Jenn indicated you would need more of a police presence for a cycling event, than a 5K race. Both a road race and bike race are major events and would probably be best organized by multiple groups.

#### D. Other

Jenn from J.C.Wagmore would like to donate a percentage of her profit from the sales of one of her products. Diane explained to the board how much our dog enjoys the all natural treats Jenn makes, and even shared the dried apple ones with the board. Jenn's treats are available at Lee's Market, Alderbrook Farm, and several other local spots. She will soon be available in Acushnet and Barrington as well.

#### V. Next meeting

A discussion was held as to whether we should change our November meeting, since it is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The board members present were available, and it was noted that the cards we have handed out all indicate meetings as the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. We will meet on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the town hall as planned.

#### VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Gallant