

DOG PARK STUDY MEETING
October 25, 2011

The Dog Park Study Committee meeting was held at the Cable Access Center, 281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Dottie Grover, Cynthia LaBrecque, Deanna Mele, Dan McLeod, Linda Bates, Cindy Eaton (7:30 PM), Budget Committee Liaison John Curran (7:10 PM) Planning Board Liaison Scott Benson . Committee member John Beaulieu. Invited guests: Ben LaBrecque representing Londonderry Conservation Comm., and Anita Snow, Londonderry resident.

CALL TO ORDER

D. Grover opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Reports were then presented.

Ben LaBrecque, representing and employed by the Londonderry Conservation Commission.

Mr. LaBrecque, an invited guest, reported a letter or some communication having been received by Mr. Lievens of the commission, inquiring as to what conservation areas could be used for a dog park. Mr. LaBrecque advised the Commission is not in a position to parcel out conservation lands for purposes other than conservation.

Mr. LaBrecque mentioned that Sanborn Road had been mentioned to him as a possible dog park site. He mentioned that the dog park in Madison, WI where he had lived was built on a garbage dump. The Committee advised the Sanborn site was highly contaminated.

Mr. LaBrecque's final comments were that commentary from the public seemed to be concerns about a tax impact to Londonderry residents.

ACCEPT MINUTES

The minutes were accepted after changes were made. Cynthia LaBrecque made the motion to accept minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Dan McLeod. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Communications/PR

Motion Made by Scott Benson and seconded by Dan McLeod to appoint Cynthia LaBrecque as Communication Director of the Londonderry Dog Park Study Committee. The vote was unanimous.

This allows C LaBrecque to be THE point person for verbalizing and/or writing the message and activities of the committee.

Cynthia pointed out that we have a Facebook page, which is free. There is also an online survey linked in two places and there is a separate email address: londonderry[dogpark@yahoo.com](mailto:londonderrydogpark@yahoo.com).

Cynthia and Margo worked on the town website, and the survey shows:

68%	of respondents	1 dog
20%	of respondents	2 dogs
%	of respondents	3 or more dogs

Respondents shared ideas and many expressed dislike and why of the Derry dog park.

As to a user fee for said dog park:

62%	NO
30%	up to \$10 per dog okay
6%	up to \$20 per dog okay

Many comments here were unpleasant and largely of the nature of the populace not wanting their taxes impacted.

Dan suggested a message on Facebook indicating we are searching for fundraising ideas to fund the dog park.

Linda mentioned that her veterinarian in Londonderry and staff there were supportive of the Committee's efforts. She also mentioned that neighbors in her area all were supportive.

As for the presentation to the Town in the future, the presentation depends on:

- types and amount of funding
- multiple surveys and the results thereof
- the goal is to fund said park without tax money

Brochures

Dottie brought up taking up Mr. Boles' on his offer of assistance, and perhaps getting pamphlets ready for spring dog registration time. Said pamphlets could be available when residents register their dog(s). The pamphlet would explain the committee's mission and our message.

"So You Want to Build a Dog Park"

Linda Bates borrowed this book from the Leach Library on an inter-library loan. There is much good reference material as the committee proceeds. The book was due Oct 22nd and was returned to the library. It can be requested by anyone else if they have a library card. Some efforts are being made by committee persons to find a copy of the book second hand/cheaper.

Funding

John Beaulieu (absent) and Dan McLeod talked over the last month and made mention of'

- Addition of \$5 to dog registration fee on a voluntary basis
- Sell a brick with donor's name or dog's name for contribution
- Sell a bench, to be engraved with donor's info
- Donations can also be in the form of time and/or talent as in, for example, boy scouts putting up fencing or making agility equipment.

Dottie suggested researching **NH Charitable Trust** which does furnish funds for nonprofit groups. There might be a benefactor out there who would love to fund a dog park.

Possible Locations for Dog Park

Deanna Mele (in conjunction with John Beaulieu (absent)) researched and presented her thoughts for 6 good locations for the Londonderry Dog Park. She made available maps with accompanying written summaries of areas to be considered (see attached). The research and maps were outstanding! Kudos!

NEW ASSIGNMENTS

Agility Equipment

Cindy Eaton volunteered to research this area of interest.

Legal/Liability issues

John Curran volunteered to research this area of interest.

Additional Information

- Committee needs to have ready talking points to address negativity issues that will arise, for example, residents opposed to a dog park
- We will know more about cost once the land area to be used is decided.
- Will get in touch with other dog park communities and tap into their research and ideas.
- See if more books/articles available to advise on forming a dog park.

Submit Report to Town Council

Dottie reported that Council calendar had not changed the report date from Nov 1st 2011 to December of 2012. Dottie needs permission to speak on the committee's behalf should the need arise re: November 1st. John Curran made a motion that D. Grover has the committee's permission to speak on our behalf if committee is called to account 11/1/11. Cynthia LaBrecque seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimous.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 7 p.m. Access Center.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On a motion made by Scott Benson and seconded by John Curran, meeting adjourned 8:47 p.m.
Motion passed.