

Town of Montville Dog Park Committee
Special Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, January 24, 2017
6:00 p.m. – Montville Community Center (aka Fair Oaks)

1. Call to order

6:05pm

2. Roll Call

Chris Lawton, Meggan Lynch, Chris Lynch, Ryan Hartman, Sarah Duval

3. Adjustments to the agenda

none

4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda with a three-minute limit

none

5. Old Business

Chris Lawton noted that the Verified Raffle Statement as been submitted to the CT State Dept of Consumer Protection. A minor correction that was needed. The correction was made and the forms were accepted. The Raffle is concluded.

6. New Business

a. Fence donation requests

Sarah spoke about her letter to Montville Hardware inquiring if they would be interested in donating fencing supplies to support the dog park. At this time she has received no reply. She will attempt to stop in person to follow up.

Chris Lawton Spoke about All-Time. He has been in contact with the owner and stopped in on several occasions. All-Time offered a \$250 donation. Before accepting the donation, Chris asked for an estimate with the best price they could offer us. He is waiting for the estimate.

At Home Depot, Chris Lawton spoke with one of the department managers. Chris asked about applying for a corporate sponsorship for a community project. The manager stated she would forward it to the correct department but it normally takes 4-6 months for an answer.

Luther Fence, located in Groton, was asked to submit an estimate as well.

Further requests will be made by Chris to The Fence Man & Son, Lowes. Meggan will contact Agaway.

b. Grants, ect

Sarah reports that no answers were received from the previous grant request through Petsmart.

She recently found a possible program through Beneful (Purina) and she will research it further to see if we are eligible to apply.

c. current account balance

As of January 23, 2017, our account balance deposited with the Finance Department is \$13,728.36

d. Newspaper article

Chris Lawton started discussion about the recent Norwich Bulletin article published on December 26 noting the article did not state accurate facts and that Ryan stated that he believed his quotes were taken out of context. Chris stated his disappointment in how the article was written.

Chris went on to explain that he tried to contact the reporter and the editor, but received no reply. Chris relayed that Peter Bushway had tried as well, but also received no reply.

Chris continued that he wrote to Councilor Tanner and also spoke at the recent Parks and Rec commission meeting.

It was relayed to both the Town Council and the P&R Commission that the Dog Park committee continues to work on establishing a park. It was also expressed that all funds are deposited with the Town Finance Dept through the Parks and Rec Dept. All funds the committee has raised are accounted for and deposited with the town Finance.

Chris Lynch spoke about his frustration about his name being mentioned. He finished that he was "over it" and was ready to move on. He suggested that if any reporter or other inquiries were asking about personal issues that involved individual members, that the questions should be directed to the person in question.

Chris Lawton then offered that we are ready to move on and put this behind us.

Ryan asked if he could get a chance to defend himself from the emails he received attacking him. He explained that he felt he gave the correct statement to the commission since the email that was dated December 8th read that there was nothing to report.

Ryan did not agree that his statements reflected negatively on the park. He also stated that he also tried to contact the reporter but also did not get any return call.

Chris Lynch asked if Ryan had experience dealing with the media. Ryan said he had.

After a short while Sarah questioned if we could move on since nothing productive was coming from the conversation.

7. Comments

Meggan offered an envelope of donations from the Dime Bank employees who participated in their "Blue Jeans Day". Donation total received was \$250.

Chris Lawton then suggested that he would inquire about requesting a new liaison to the commission. He then asked Ryan how he felt about stepping down as liaison since he was now the P&R commission chair.

Ryan replied that he already spoke with Councilor Tanner, and that he would assign a new liaison once he received a budget from the committee.

Both Chris and Meggan questioned the rational of writing a new budget before we know what our donations are. Ryan replied that he wanted a line item budget that he could pass to a new liaison before he would step down.

Meggan suggested that even if it would be obsolete after we receive donated materials, if Ryan wants a line item budget in order for him to resign, then we should just do it. Chris and Sarah agreed.

8. Set next meeting date and time

March 14, 2017 at 6pm

9. Adjournment

6:58