

Town of Montville Dog Park Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, March 24, 2015
2:30 p.m. – Fair Oaks Community Center – Library

1. Call to order:

2:36pm

2. Roll Call:

Chris Lawton, Patty Williamson, Joe Berardy, Pete Bushway

3. Adjustments to the agenda:

Joe requested we discuss ideas he would like to present.

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

None

5. Old Business:

None

6. New Business:

a. Relocating or redesigning dog park

Joe suggested that we consider relocating the dog park to the site of the old basketball court - behind the tennis courts.

After a brief discussion, Chris stated that we cannot change the location without discussing it with the P&R Commission and the Town Council. Approval of the dog park proposal specified a location. A major change would need to receive approval from the same two bodies.

Joe then addressed his thought of changing the pedestrian entry location and remove any access from Rt 163.

The committee agreed to consider an alternate entry point for park guests, but could not act on the idea without first visiting and evaluating the site. The entry points from the road cannot be removed without the approval of Public Works and the Town Police Department. They requested those access points and were part of the approved proposal.

Joe then questioned the safety of pedestrians along the roadway and wanted to know how we were addressing it.

Chris reminded Joe that part of the proposal included a walking path that would surround the outside perimeter of the park. The path would be parallel to the road but would be a safe distance from it. Some people already walk the road with dogs. If any visitors did not want to walk on the path, they did not have to.

Joe objected and resigned from the committee at 14:52pm

b. Fundraiser ideas:

Chris will schedule a dog wash at the Camp Oakdale Pavilion once the weather warms and the snow melts.

Patty has already been approaching several people and businesses for support. Several

supporters have agreed to make donations. Patty will collect the donations once we have the process to deposit money worked out with Terri Hart.

Patty requested if she could receive a letter from Terry that would state that she has permission to fundraise. Chris will ask if Terri can write something.

Patty asked if the committee had any official letterhead to use while requesting donations. Chris and Patty will develop a letterhead and form letter for donations.

Questions arose if donations were tax-deductible. Chris stated that after he spoke with Terry, it would be best if we answer any donor's questions by stating, it would be best to recommend that donors speak with their tax advisor about the possibility of a donation being tax-deductible.

c. "Fund me" type account:

Chris questioned if we should consider opening up a "fund me" type account. The committee agreed we should look into it. Chris will ask Terri Hart if we can receive funding in this manner.

d. Grant opportunities:

Chris spoke about several grant opportunities that have not yet started for the year, Pet Smart, Petco, Purina, and Nutro. These four have held grant opportunities for several years, but this year's cycle has not yet started. We will keep watching for them.

Chris also mentioned about the Walmart and Stop and Shop grant programs. He will assist Patty in applying for them

e. Community Outreach/ volunteers:

Patty and Chris talked about some of the conversations they have had with residents and businesses. Most feedback has been positive.

6. Set next meeting date and time

TBA

7. Adjournment

3:31pm