

**Town of Montville Dog Park Committee
Special Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, May 16, 2017
6:00 p.m. – Montville Community Center (aka Fair Oaks) room 103**

1. Call to order

6:03pm

2. Roll Call

Chris Lawton, Sarah Duval, Meggan Lynch, Chris Lynch, Peter Bushway, Melissa Clark, Matt Beaupre, were present.

3. Adjustments to the agenda

Added item 6g Norwich Bulletin Article

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

None

5. Old Business

a. Dog Park Names

We reviewed the name suggestions that were posted on our Facebook post. The committee was not ready to select a name. The item was tabled until next meeting.

b. Scout Projects

Raymundo attended the meeting to update the committee for both his project and his sisters. Both are working towards their goal.

Ray received approval to make 2 benches and 3 picnic tables, while Sarah received approval to make the kiosk and was granted an extension to the last week in August to complete her project.

c. Commission meeting and Liaison

Chris Lawton reported that he did attend the P&R commission meeting in April and also spoke with Matt Beaupre who will be our new liaison.

6. New Business

a. Account Balance

balance is unchanged since last reported at \$14,138.30

b. Site update

Work has been moving along slower than expected due to many more rocks than expected. Site is mostly cleared of tree and brush, but some rocks still remain. The work is on hold this week due to the rain which creates muddy conditions that makes it hard to work.

c. Updated Budget

Meggan presented an updated budget. It looked good and left room for added expenses. As the

committee discussed the budget, it was suggested that we add a few other line items, including showing some of the materials are already on site.

d. Grants/Contests

Chris Lawton mentioned that we cannot run the Top Dog contest as we did last year. After he spoke with the Town Clerk, she told him that she already promised the #1 tag to someone else.

Sarah has been working on the Pet Smart grant. She needed some more information to complete the application. The deadline is June 30, 2017. Chris Lawton said he would ask the mayor to complete the land support templet which is part of the application.

e. Park rules

In anticipation of our park opening, it was suggested that we start working to finalize some of the dog park rules. Chris Lawton will forward to the committee the rules from other dog parks. He will also ask for an inquiry though Finance Director Hart if there will be any rules that will be required from the insurance company.

f. Transition once established

As our committee was tasked with creating a park, which is nearly fulfilled, we discussed the need to transition park oversight once the park is open. After discussing the pros and cons of the different types of oversight, it was agreed that the P&R commission should assume control and should promote a "Friends of" park group to assist in planning events and other needs. We will continue the discussion once we get closer to completion.

g. Norwich Bulletin Article

Mary, the new reporter from the Bulletin who covers Montville, contacted me ask asked to meet me later that same day to do a report on the progress of the park. Mary and a photographer met with me at the Park location and conducted an interview and took some pictures. The article was published the following day. It was a great article.

7. Comments

Melissa asked if we intended to host another Craft Fair. After a brief discussion we agreed we should focus on the work to open the park and skip the fundraiser this season.

Matt added that he posed our question to Town Councilor liaison Tanner if there is a need to update the town ordinance to allow for dogs to be of leash while within the dog park. It was discuss with Matt that we were not looking to change the ban on park fields, but the "leash law" as it pertains to open space.

Chris Lawton mentioned that he has not had contact with the scout who is planning to complete the trail/path work, but that the scout's mother commented he is working on a proposal. Chris also thanked everyone for all the effort put forth to get us to where we are at.

8. Set next meeting date and time

June 27, 2017 at 6pm

9. Adjournment

7:22pm