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By Karen Wilber/Assistant Town Clerk at 3:32 pm, Jun 28, 2023

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Zoom Webinar
January 10, 2023**

In attendance:

Board Members: Gary Maggiolino, Mark Awdycki, Tracey Cammarano, and Faith Stevens.

Others: Allie Lane; Recreation Director, Scott Charpentier; DPW Director, Laurie Connors; Planning Director.

Weston and Sampson Representatives: Johnathan Law, and Jeanette Cantu.

6:15pm: Chair's Introduction to Remote Meeting

Gary Maggiolino states that this meeting will be conducted remotely consistent with Chapter 22 extending certain COVID measures adopted during the State of Emergency on July 16, 2022 that encourages members of the Parks and Recreation Commission to meet remotely and that this meeting will include public comment.

6:20pm: Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2022 Meeting

Mark Awdycki motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on September 6, 2022, Tracey Cammarano seconded that motion. The vote was unanimous with all members voting “aye”.

6:21pm: Presentation by Weston and Sampson on Proposed Dog Park on Boundary Street.

Chair Maggiolino introduces Johnathan Law and Jeanette Cantu of Weston and Sampson to the meeting. Mr. Law gave a brief overview that this project has been ongoing since September 2022, and that 4 sites were originally proposed. The following presentation is based off the chosen site of Boundary Street from feedback and discussions from public input as well as Town Representatives. Ms. Cantu presents the current design based off follow-up comments from previous meetings.

6:27pm Open to Public Comment.

Chair Maggiolino invites the public to comment. Sara Ulysses-Sable asks about the moveable pieces in the agility props and whether they may need replacing or future maintenance. Mr. Law comments that pieces are permanent and not removable.

Carter Brandon expresses concern on the impact that the clearing of the dog park will have on the current wildlife habitats. Mr. Charpentier mentions the protected wetlands that exist next to the proposed dog park is still intact and that there is no plan to add conservation restrictions to the parcel of land purchased by the town. Mr. Brandon also asked whether sidewalks would become available to walk a dog to the park. Mr. Charpentier explained that the section of Boundary Street in question is owned by the city of Marlborough.

Leigh Welch asks about the material of the ground covering and whether there is a material that is vet recommended. Mr. Law mentions all the material options are safe for dogs and has not received any complaints from park users. Ms. Welch also asks if the park is generally flat or if there is fluctuation in the grade. Mr. Law explains that the area that is cleared will be flat to be ADA compliant but that the larger wooded area will mostly stay at the current grade. Ms. Welch asks whether the Stanton Grant requires the land to be cleared, Ms. Connors explains that is not the case and was not a requirement in previous dog parks she had worked on.

Nick (last name not provided) is in favor of the design and asks about the parking lot regarding the availability of the overflow parking lot. Mr. Charpentier mentions that the overflow parking lot will be constructed the same as the regular parking lot but will have a gravel surface versus the asphalt surface. It will not be gated off. Nick asks about the snow removal of the dog park and whether lights will be implemented for the winter months when the sun sets earlier. Mr. Charpentier explains that DPW will remove snow from the parking lot, but snow will not be removed from inside the park and that the park will be used at people's own discretion. Mr. Charpentier also goes on to explain that the dog park will be dawn to dusk to follow all of the other public recreation areas in town.

Brenda Convery expresses concern over the distance from the proposed dog park to residential property, in property at 184 Boundary Street in particular. Mr. Charpentier explains that the residential property closest to the dog park is 110 ft from the fence of the park, and it was agreed upon at the Community Preservation Committee meeting that visual barrier slats will be installed in the chain link fence on the side closest to the duplex. Ms. Connors clarifies that Ms. Convery's duplex does not abut the dog park- her duplex is a minimum of 500 ft from the proposed dog park location and that the plan was to build the dog park as far away from residential properties as possible.

Cindy Burns asks how the taxpayers will be affected if the Stanton Foundation Grant is not approved. Ms. Connors explains that if the Stanton Grant is not approved that the dog park design would be reassessed to decrease cost and that the project would be put on pause and presented again at a future Town Meeting. Cindy also asked about the quality of the water and testing of the well water. Mr. Charpentier mentions that the well will be built and compliant with private drinking water standards, therefore no further testing should be needed and expressed that this drinking water well is meant for dog bowls only.

7:17pm - Meeting adjourned.

Chair Maggiolino thanks both Johnathan and Jeanette from Weston and Sampson for their presentation and participation in tonight's meeting.

Chair Maggiolino asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tracey Cammarano motions to adjourn and seconded by Faith Stevens. The vote was unanimous with all members voting "aye".

Respectfully submitted,
Maegan Jordan
Recreation Assistant