

February 17, 2016

The STEP Ad Hoc Committee held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington High School at 6:00 p.m. Present was First Selectman Rob Simmons, Don Maranell, Gloria Gorby, Darren Stewart, Mike Crowley, Sandy Grimes, Robin Hennessey, Don Kluberanz, Howard Park, Lynn Young, Dave Rathbun, Paul Grassel, Robert Maurice and Jeff Callahan. Also present were members of the public and the press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Crowley and voted unanimously to approve the February 3, 2016 STEP Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

(4) Comments from the Public

- Ms. Leigh Cremin stated that she is a homeowner in Pawcatuck. She stated that she submitted her comments in writing previously which she believes is in the packet which is available only to the committee apparently and not to the public. She asked that the committee confirm that a copy of her letter is in the packet.
- Mr. John Giulietti stated that he wonders if there are copies of the minutes that were just approved.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from David Pellegrini expressing his support of the current use of the area adjacent to the Sewer Treatment Facility in Stonington Borough.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Souza stating that if the sewer treatment expansion parcel is designated as an "official" dog park, those who use it will need to abide by rules.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. and Mrs. Sean Cremin asking that there not be any changes to the layout or use of the area adjacent to the Stonington Sewage Waste Treatment Facility known as The Stonington Borough Dog Park.

(6) Resignations

- Mr. Simmons acknowledged Karen Roy's resignation.
- Mr. Simmons acknowledged Dorotea Abele and Angela Gora's resignations.

(7) Discussion and Questions

- Ms. Young presented the Committee with her findings after her visit to the Waterford Dog Park a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Attachment "A". Mr. Crowley asked how long the park has been there. Ms. Young stated that the park has been there since 1979 but the dog park has been there since 2008. Mr. Kluberanz asked if there is running water. Ms. Young stated no. Mr. Simmons stated that he noticed that there is a double-gated entrance for both areas and asked why. Ms. Young stated that it was to climatize the dogs and for minimal aggression. Mr. Simmons asked how close the park is to residential homes. Ms. Young stated that you could see it.
- Mr. Maranell and Mr. Kluberanz presented the Committee with their findings after their visit to the Norwich Pawsitive Dog Park a copy of which is attached to these minutes as

Attachment "B". Mr. Rathbun asked who funds the park. Mr. Kluberdanz stated that \$10,000.00 was donated. Mr. Maranell stated that running water was a nice touch.

- Mr. Simmons presented the Committee with his and Mr. Maranell's findings after their visit to the Groton Dog Park a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Attachment "C". Mr. Kluberdanz asked if the park was open to everyone or just Groton residents. Mr. Simmons stated that it was open to all people. Mr. Parks stated that it seems like it is policed a little bit more from the outside than just people who visit it. Mr. Simmons stated that Groton Parks and Rec are in charge of it.
- Mr. Grimes presented the Committee with his and Mr. Crowley's findings after their visit to the brand new Westerly Dog Park that is set to open this Spring. A copy of which is attached to these minutes as Attachment "D". Mr. Grimes stated that the park is 2 ½ acres and is divided into 3 areas. He stated that it has the same kind of double gates as the other parks. Mr. Grimes stated that the rules have not been established yet. Mr. Crowley stated that there is a sidewalk around the whole fenced in area. He stated that Stand Up For Animals funded it. Mr. Callahan stated that the common factors are all of these parks have separate areas, double fences and rules.
- Ms. Glenna Doyle stated that the reason for the double gates is hopefully people don't let someone else's dog out and only 1 dog can enter at a time. She stated that there are a lot of behavior problems because of dog parks. Ms. Doyle stated that some dog parks get degraded. She stated that there should be more structured things for people to do at dog parks. Ms. Doyle stated that she thinks that places like Wilcox Park are ideal places for a dog park. Mr. Rathbun stated that all dogs have to be on a leash there. Mr. Grimes stated that there was grass at the Borough parcel until Hurricane Sandy. He stated that the salt water came over the wall and killed the grass.

(8) Comments from the Public

Ms. Lee Cremin asked what the mission of the committee was. She asked what the expected outcome of these meetings will be. She stated that it was disconcerting that no one knows the dimension of the park. Ms. Cremin stated that some of the speaker's comments were sort of insulting. Ms. Ashley Gillice asked if the committee was working under a budget.

(9) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary