

March 30, 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, Darren Stewart, Mike Crowley, Sandy Grimes, Robin Hennessey, Gloria Gorby, Don Kluberanz, Howard Park, Lynn Young, Bill Bomster and Robert Maurice. Absent were Jeff Callahan, David Quirk, David Rathbun and Paul Grassel. Also present were members of the public and the press.

CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

16 APR -6 PM 1:32

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT

(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. Park, seconded by Mr. Maranell and voted unanimously to approve the March 16, 2016 STEP Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

(4) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Jeff Callahan regarding his recommendations for the final analysis.
- Mr. Simmons took in a four page overview of the STEP area.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Malayna Bomster stating that the property should be returned back to its original state no dogs allowed unless leashed with an open gate.

(5) Discussion of Report:

a. Presentation

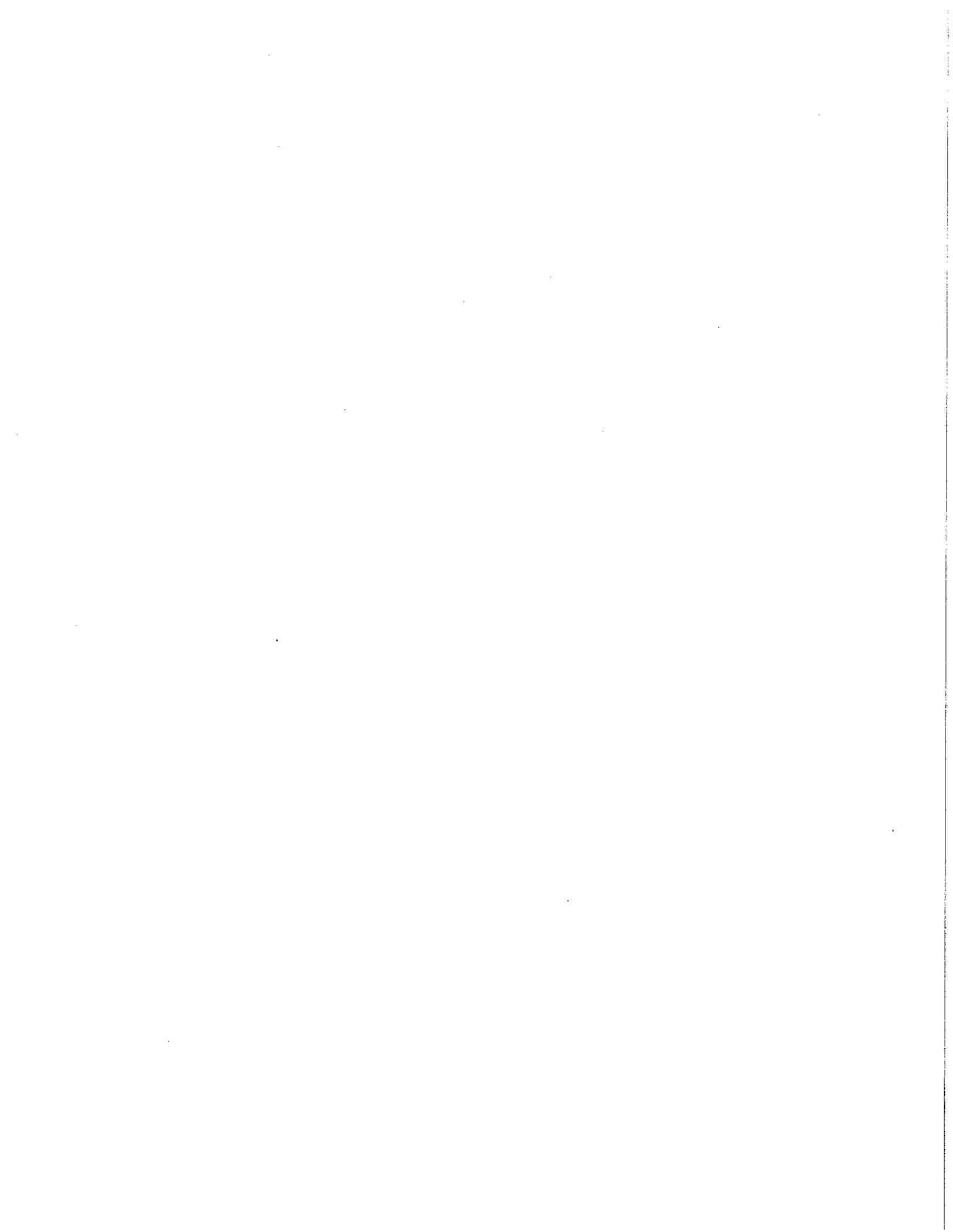
Jason Vincent, Director of Planning presented the final Stonington Dog Park Analysis, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

b. Motion to Adopt

A motion was made by Mr. Crowley, seconded by Ms. Young and voted unanimously to adopt the report to take it up for discussion.

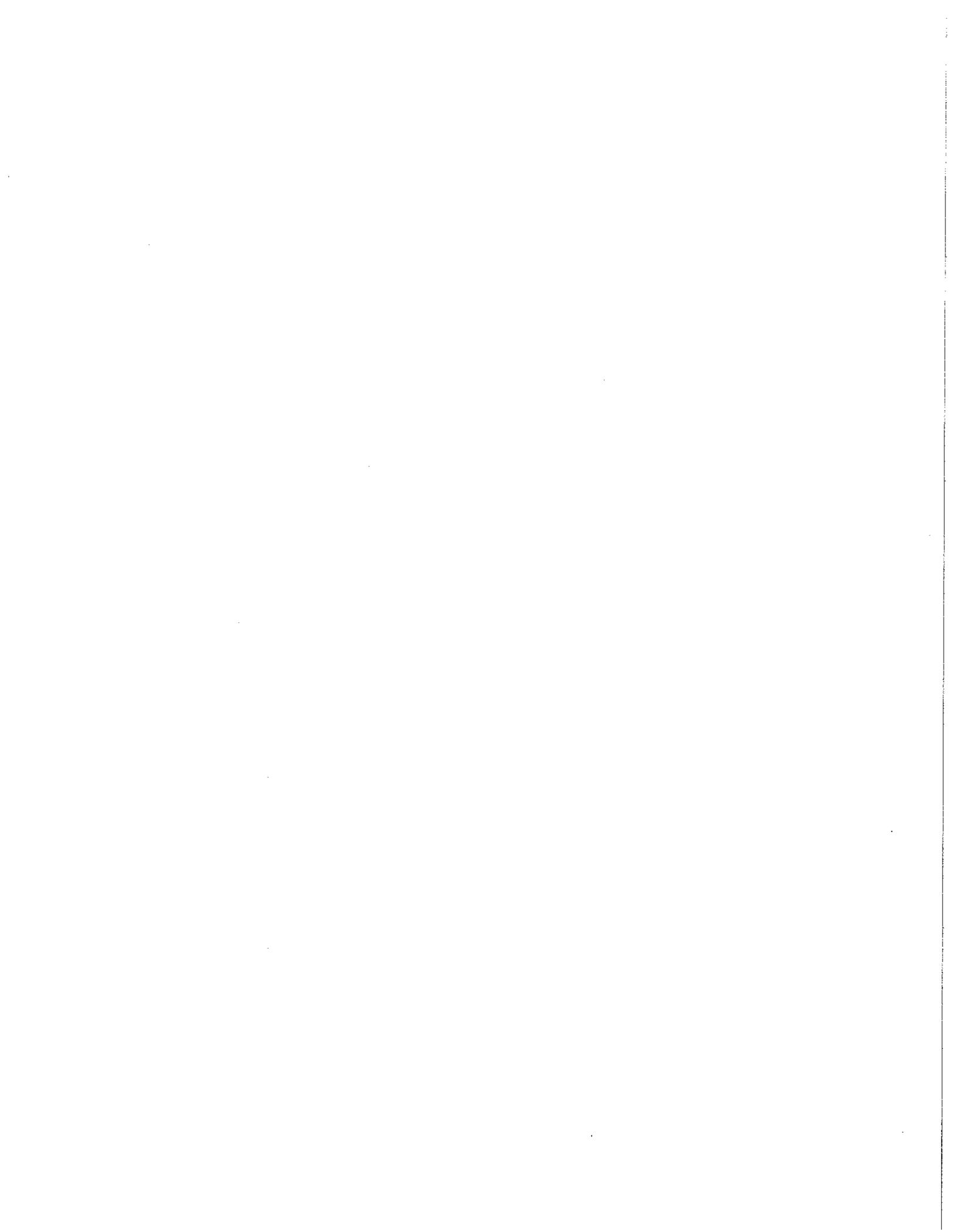
c. Amendments

- Mr. Simmons read the following Callahan Amendment: At the request of the Warden of the Borough of Stonington, I will entertain a motion to add language to the Management Section of the Rules and Rule Enforcement on page 22 of the report which stated that Dog owners or custodians of dogs are responsible for the prompt collection and proper disposal of any feces discharged by their dogs. A motion was made by Mr. Maranell and seconded by Mr. Park to add the amendment. Discussion: Mr. Park stated that the Highway Department already placed baskets down there. Mr. Grimes stated that it has always been that way. He stated that it is one of the 4 rules made by the Waterfront Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor of adding the amendment.
- A motion was made by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Maranell and voted unanimously to allow the Planning Staff of the Town of Stonington to make editorial changes and corrections to the final draft that conforms the grammar and spelling but not the substance of the report.
- Mr. Simmons read the following Grimes Amendment: At the request of the Chairman of the Waterfront Commission, I will entertain a motion to delete



Section 1.c. on page 4 of the report. A motion was made by Mr. Maranell and seconded by Mr. Park to delete that section. Discussion: Mr. Grimes stated that the Waterfront Commission and the Recreation Commission could come into a conflict. Mr. Maranell stated that the Committee should stay silent on what commission would be the oversight authority and let the Board of Selectmen dealt with it. The vote was unanimous in favor of deleting that section.

- Mr. Simmons read the following Stewart Amendment: At the request of the Chief of Police, I will entertain a motion to add the Human Services Site 4 to Section 2.c. on page 4 of the report. A motion was made by Chief Stewart and seconded by Ms. Young to add that parcel to the report. Discussion: Chief Stewart stated that his rationale for wanting to add that parcel is that is the same size as the STEP parcel and there would be no conflict between the Waterfront Commission and the Recreation Commission. Mr. Maranell stated that he was initially opposed to it but if they look at it and it works he would be in support of it. Mr. Crowley stated that as a rec guy he is not in support of having it there. He stated that it should remain as open space for future school buildings. The vote was 9-2 in favor of adding the Human Services Site 4 to Section 2.c. on page 4 of the report.
- Mr. Maranell asked to change the age of the dog owners from 18 to 12. A motion was made by Mr. Maranell and seconded by Mr. Park to change the age from 18 to 12. Mrs. Gorby stated that she would like the age to be 15. She stated it is a more responsible age. The vote was 10-1 in favor of changing the age from 18 to 12.
- Mr. Maranell stated that for safety reasons no whole dogs or dogs in heat should be allowed in the park. A motion was made by Mr. Park, seconded by Mrs. Young and voted unanimously to add this language to the analysis.
- Mr. Maranell stated that he doesn't believe that children 48 inches or smaller or babies or babies in strollers in unleashed areas. A motion was made by Mr. Maranell, seconded by Mrs. Young and voted unanimously to add this language to the analysis.
- A motion was made by Mr. Maranell, seconded by Ms. Young and voted unanimously to strike the following language on page 22 under Management: The Stonington Recreation Commission will make decisions regarding enforcement and application of penalties.
- A motion was made by Mr. Maranell, seconded by Mr. Park and voted unanimously to add the Old Mystic site to be added to Section 2.c. on page 4 of the report.
- A motion was made by Mr. Park and seconded by Mr. Bomster to move the final passage of the Analysis to the Board of Selectmen. Discussion: Mrs. Young stated that by not having a second site it's not going to satisfy the plaintiffs. She stated that they are making the situation worse by not having a second site. Mr. Simmons stated that by sending the Analysis to the Board of Selectmen it is not the end of the process just the end of this process. Mr. Grimes as if the Selectmen would consider putting a line across the 140 foot line. He stated that it



would still provide a buffer from the properties. Mr. Maranell stated that it is a process and they should let the staff look at where the fence should be.

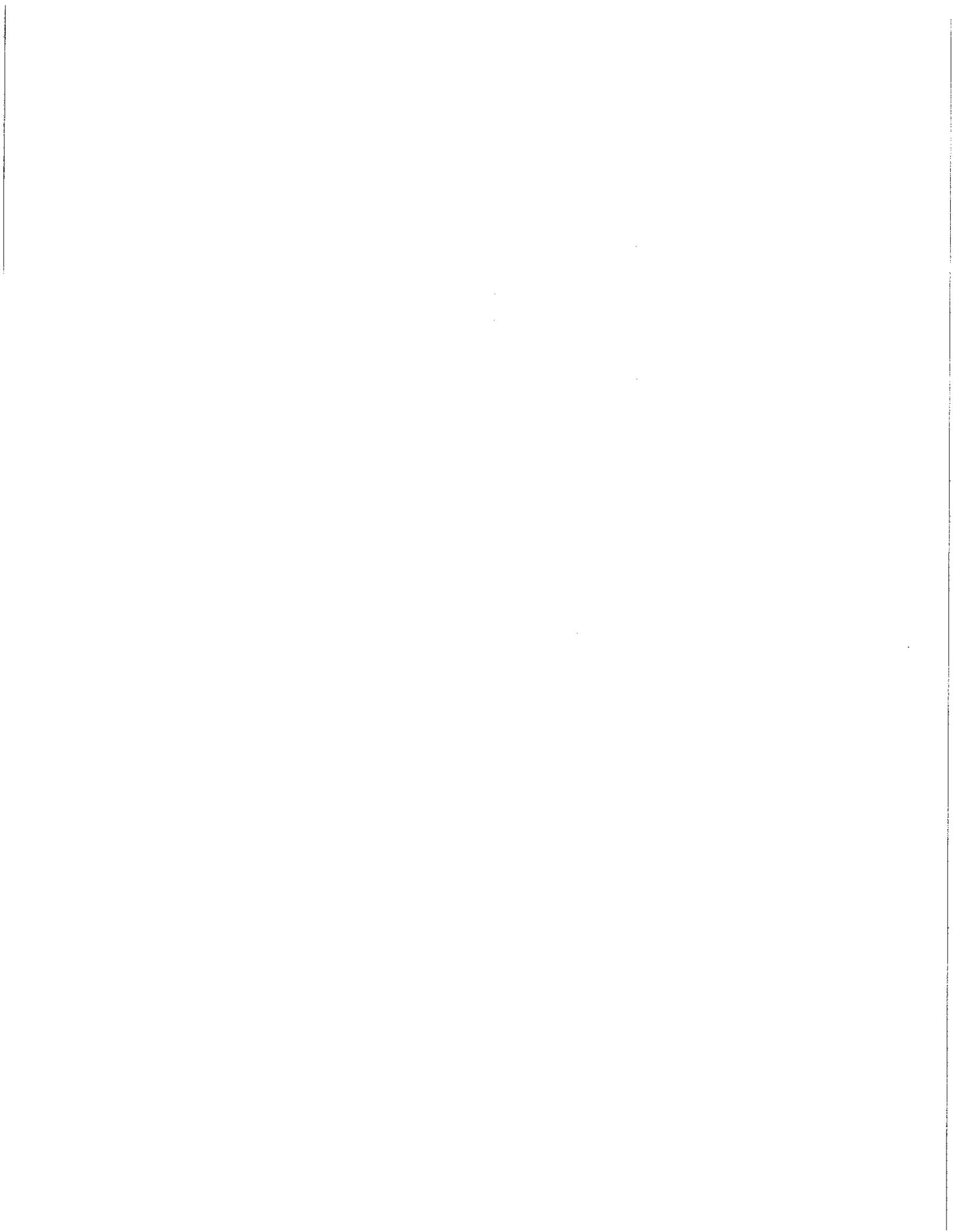
(6) Comments from the Public

None

(7) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary





**OFF LEASH
AREA**

**STONINGTON
DOG PARK ANALYSIS**

TOWN OF STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT
DRAFT MARCH 24, 2016

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REPORT PREPARED FOR
Stonington STEP Ad Hoc Committee

PREPARED BY
Stonington Department of Planning
DRAFT 3.24.2016

BACKGROUND

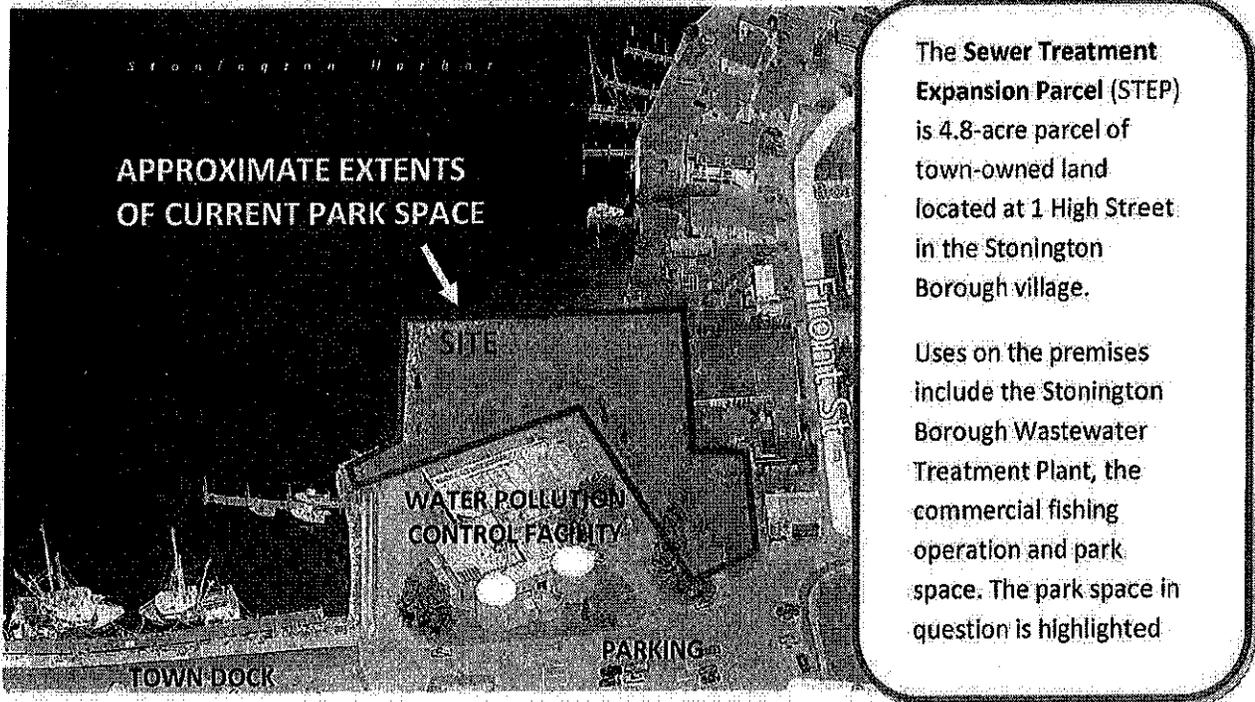
In 2015, the Town of Stonington received notice that intent to submit a lawsuit was filed in response to concerns regarding the use of property at 1 High Street, a property located in the Stonington Borough neighborhood of the Town. The lawsuit alleges that the Town is operating an "illegal dog park," at these premises. They contend that the Town is required to secure approvals from the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission to conduct such use.

In the past, Stonington's Waterfront Commission has been the lead agency responsible for the management of this parcel. In September of 2015, they created a series of rules to manage the space:

- Dogs should be leashed upon entering and exiting the park.
- Residents should clean up after their dogs and keep the park clean.
- Park patrons should be courteous to everyone in and around the park.
- Park patrons should park in designated areas only.

Numerous newspaper articles refer to the space as an "unofficial dog park," which may be true. It technically is a park for which there have been no rules established concerning roaming dogs. It is not uncommon for property owners to indicate whether leashed dogs are authorized or not. In this case, it is silent.

1 High Street, Stonington



Purpose

This report intends to provide background information to the Committee, to present various options and enable them to make an informed decision.

What is a Park?

An area of land, usually in a largely natural state, for the enjoyment of the public, having facilities for rest and recreation, often owned, set apart, and managed by a city, state, or nation.
dictionary.reference.com/browse/park

What is a Dog Park?

Parks tend to be public spaces intended for human enjoyment. They often have rules and regulations, which are established to curtail misuse of the public space. Many rules prevent dogs, particularly off-leash dogs, from using the park because of concerns about liability, and pet waste (most often cited reason). In communities across the U.S., people have requested formal places for their pets to recreate, off-leash. Dog Parks are parks that specifically allow dogs to use the space off-leash.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) describes it as "a public park, typically fenced, where people and their dogs can play together." akc.org/pdfs/GLEGO1.pdf

Why do Dog Park's exist?

Changes in consumer preferences and needs. Dogs have become an integral part of American households:

- In 2014, \$58 billion was spent in the U.S. on pets, compared to \$17 billion 20 years earlier (\$27 million adjusted for inflation).¹
- There are an estimated 73 million dogs in the U.S., and more U.S. households with dogs (43 million) than children (38 million)²
- 52% of all U.S. households have a dog or cat.³

1 Americianpetproducts.org

2 usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-12-07/dog-parks/51715340/1

3 petfoodindustry.com/articles/5049-baby-boomers-step-aside-millennials-now-own-more-pets

Dogs Parks in Eastern Connecticut

The following dog parks are located in eastern Connecticut:

- **Estelle Cohn Memorial (Pawsitive) Dog Park**, Asylum Street, Norwich
City-owned park; managed by City of Norwich Department of Public Works
- **Central Bark**, Copp Property, 821 Gold Star Highway (Route 184), Groton
Town-owned park; managed by Groton Parks and Recreation
- **Mitchell D. Phalaiah Dog Park**, Killingly EST 2013
Town-owned park
- **Stenger Farm Park**, Clark Lane, Waterford
Town-owned park
- **Colchester Dog Park**, 89 Old Amston Road, Colchester
Colchester Dog Park Committee (Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission) and Colchester Parks and Recreation Department
- **Putnam Lions Memorial Dog Park**, 8 Kennedy Drive, Putnam
Town-owned park; Managed by the town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department

Land Use Observations

The Stonington Borough Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has jurisdiction over land use activities conducted within the Borough, and on this site. The Stonington Department of Planning does not provide technical assistance to the Borough PZC. However, there are some elements in their regulations and the past history of this site that are relevant for consideration:

- The Borough's Zoning Regulations (BZR) have the WPCF site classified as an RL "Reserved Land" Zone, whose purpose is to "provide [public] agencies with the flexibility which they require in order to serve the public welfare..." Public access to the waterfront fits within the purview of public welfare, and it is specifically listed as allowed under BZR 6.4.2.1 Permitted Principal Uses, Public Parks and Playgrounds.
- It is our understanding that the WPCF site, and public access / park components, were developed as part of the construction of the Borough WPCF, which was completed in 1975, per the Wastewater Facilities Study. This established the use of this area (public use / park / reserve land) prior to the adoption of zoning in the Borough (Zoning adopted 8/1/1976), and should make the activity exempt, provided the use does not change. A site plan review (per BZR 6.4.4) would not be required because the use was a pre-existing conforming use (parks are listed as a "permitted use").
- The regulation of the use of permitted public access points, e.g., parks, is established by the local governing body / agency that has ownership of the property (in this case the Town of Stonington).
- A use that is intensified does not make it a new use; rather it makes it "more" of an existing use.

Property Oversight

There are several municipal agencies that have some level of jurisdiction over this property. Upon further review, it appears that the Board of Selectmen have jurisdiction. An initial assessment indicated that the Waterfront Commission has jurisdiction. Apparently, their jurisdiction has to be assigned on a site-by-site basis by the Selectmen or legislative body (town meeting).

Per Section 2 of the Stonington Act regarding Waterfront Commission, adopted in June of 1968, the Waterfront Commission has administrative responsibility for waterfront areas designated by the Selectmen or the legislative body.

The Water Pollution Control Authority clearly has jurisdiction over the water pollution control facility and its immediate environs, which are enclosed within a fenced in area.

The Board of Selectmen are responsible for town properties, in general, except when they transfer that responsibility to another agency in accordance with the Town Charter and Ordinances.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee forwards the following recommendations to the Stonington Board of Selectmen:

1. **Modify the Existing Facility at 1 High Street**
 - a. Create additional regulations (see page 22) and install signs at the STEP Park.
 - b. Reduce the footprint of the off-leash area to provide a separation from adjacent residential properties. The off-leash area should also have screening. Fencing and vegetation should be considered, provided the solution does not unreasonably restrict views of Stonington Harbor and, if necessary, can receive permits from the Stonington Borough Planning and Zoning Commission.
 - c. Assign the Stonington Recreation Commission as the oversight authority of this park space, with the Waterfront Commission retaining the shoreline access and management.
2. **Work to create an additional, larger dog park facility within the community, perhaps at one of the three following sites:**
 - a. West Vine Street School – coordination with the Board of Education is required.
 - b. Old Mystic Elementary School – Coordination with the Board of Education is required. TO BE EVALUATED AT NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Do Nothing	Modify Existing Facility	Establish New Facility
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As part of this process, the Committee conducted an alternatives analysis. Each option has elements that are favorable (pro) and negative (con) as to why they should be the chosen solution. The following pages evaluate the various options for this topic.

Do Nothing

Modify Existing Facility

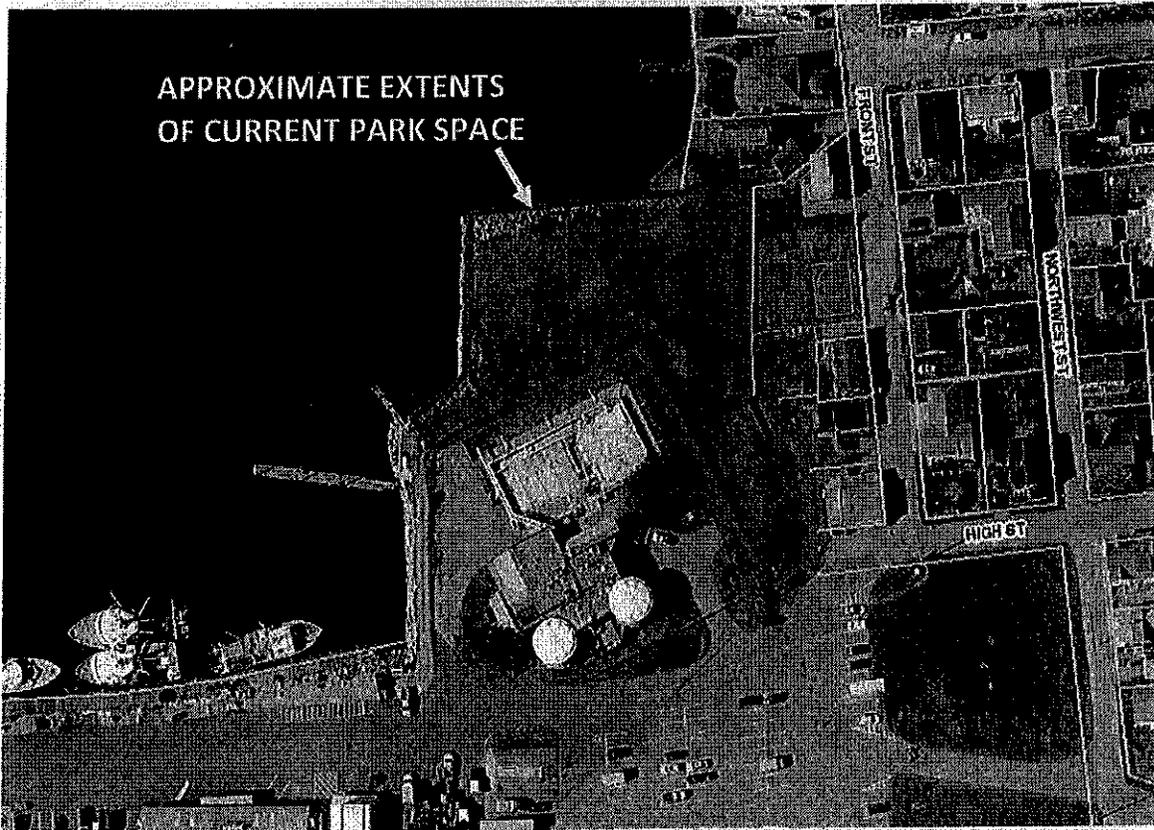
Establish New Facility

A "Do Nothing" / Status Quo option exists in every alternatives assessment. In this case, the Town already owns the STEP property and has provided permission for it to be used as a public park. The "Do Nothing" scenario would result in the continuation of the status quo with no changes to the facility layout, location or rules of operation.

Do Nothing

Modify Existing Facility

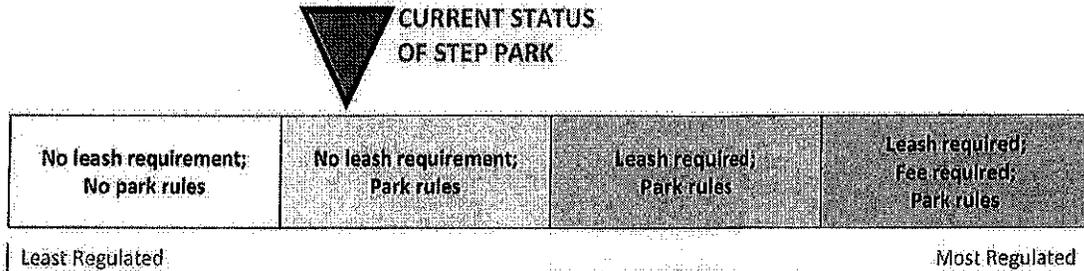
Establish New Facility



Modifications range from new regulations to changing the size of the off leash park space.

1.0 Modify regulations

The Town could institute more stringent regulations for this facility. The current level of regulation is depicted below. Parks are not required to be regulated. Potential regulations are provided on page 22 of this report.



Additionally, the town could charge a fee for use of the space. The Green Dog Program in Brookline, Massachusetts could be a model for this approach: brooklinema.gov/752/Green-Dog-Program

USER FEES

Green Dog Program, Brookline, Massachusetts

As described on the program website: "The Green Dog Program is an innovative approach to meeting our dogs' and dog owners' desire to have time off-leash, while sharing the spaces with other park users in our urban community. Brookline has 14 off-leash areas scattered across the town, with specific off-leash hours established by the town's Park and Recreation Commission."

Dog owners register their dogs and pay an additional fee to join this optional recreation program. The fee is \$50 for resident dogs and \$100 for non-resident dogs. Commercial dog walkers pay a higher rate. Guest passes can be secured for two days or one week, as well.

While the Park and Recreation Commission oversee the facility, the town's Police Department and Animal Control officers handle violations of the park rules. The town's website also does a nice job of explaining why additional fees are required:

Why do I need to pay a fee to participate?

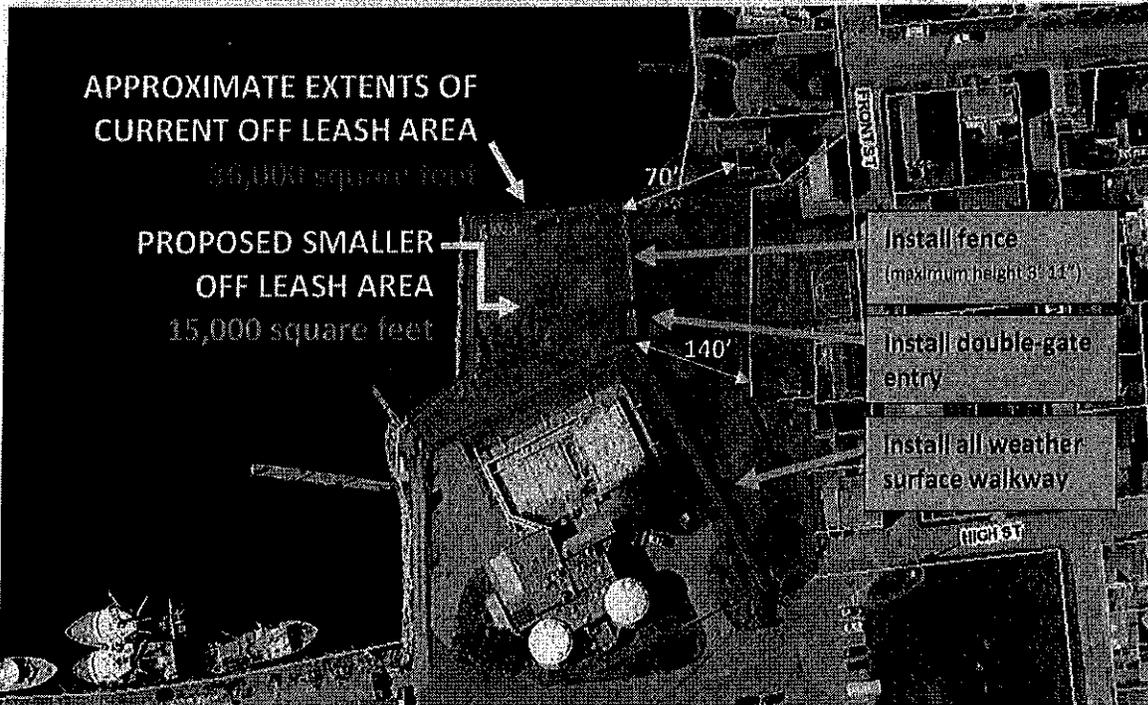
The Green Dog Program is an optional recreation program and a service to the community. Fees are charged similar to other recreation programs, and are used by the town to cover costs incurred by the program, including:

- Park ranger services
- Assistance and oversight in the parks
- Program administration and tags
- Web updates, informational materials and signage
- Communication and outreach with participants
- Monitoring of park conditions
- Evaluation of program usage
- Program improvements

2.0 Modify the size of the off leash park space

A second opportunity within the "Modify the Existing Facility" option is to reduce the size of the off-leash area. Depicted below in orange, this would create a separation between the off leash dog area and adjacent residences that ranges from 70 feet to 140 feet. The resulting park would be about 15,000 square feet.

CONCEPTUAL PARK DESIGN



SMALL PARK

Washington Square Park Dog Run, New York City

Washington Square Park has both a small dog and large dog play area (run) as part of the 9.75-acre facility. The dog run occupies about 1/4-acre (21,000 square feet) of the site.

nycgovparks.org/parks/washington-square-park/facilities/dogareas

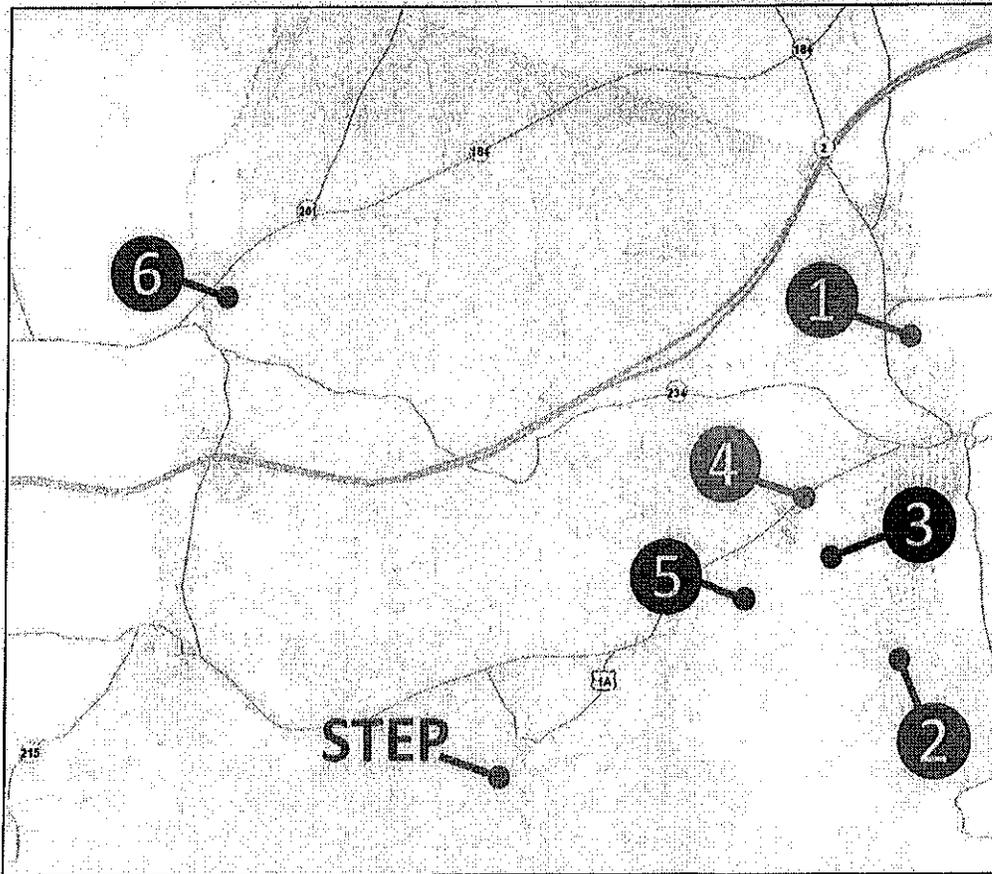
STEP Site Assessment

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	1 High Street
CURRENT USE	Town dock, wastewater treatment facility and park
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	High-density residential and harbor
SOUTH	Wastewater treatment facility and commercial dock
EAST	Harbor
WEST	High-density housing
ACCESS	Site is accessed via High Street, a town-owned road; Pedestrian accessible site
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	0 feet
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	4.8 acres
EXISTING PARK SIZE	0.83 acres (36,340 +/- square feet)
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	Stonington Harbor is adjacent to the property
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat
VEGETATION	Grass with some ornamental trees
WALKSCORE.COM®	46; Car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Grass / lawn
PATHS / SIDEWALKS	None
PARKING	Parking is adjacent to the park
FENCING	Site is fenced; Gated access could be improved
LIGHTING	Indirect light from the wastewater treatment plant and parking lot
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	Wastewater treatment facility and commercial dock occupy site
WATER	Available; Not present at the park
MAINTENANCE	None
SHADE	Limited
DOG ACTIVITIES	Dogs allowed; Off-leash park
AESTHETICS	Site is visible from adjacent residential properties
COMMENTS	Concern expressed by neighbors

Do Nothing	Modify Existing Facility	Establish New Facility
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The Establish a New Facility option provides several choices. The Town of Stonington owns 86 parcels of land ranging in size from several hundred square feet to several hundred acres. Of this total, 10 sites appear to have some level of feasibility after initial review. This list was further refined to five potential sites. These sites, presented in no particular order, are as follows:

SITE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1	West Vine Street School	17 West Vine Street
2	Pawcatuck Wastewater Treatment Plant	34 Mary Hall Road
3	Spellman Drive Recreation Area	Spellman Drive
4	Human Services	South Broad Street
5	Dog Pound / Transfer Station	Greenhaven Road
6	Old Mystic Middle School	49 North Stonington Road
STEP	Stonington Borough STEP	1 High Street



Site 1 **West Vine Street School**
17 West Vine Street

SITE OVERVIEW



SITE ASSESSMENT

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	17 West Vine Street
CURRENT USE	Elementary school and informal open space
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	Open Space (50 acres)
SOUTH	Medium-density housing
EAST	Medium-density housing
WEST	Medium-density housing
ACCESS	Site is accessed via West Vine Street, a town-owned road. West Vine Street can be accessed by CT Route 2
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	200'; Ability to provide wooded separation
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	44.5 acres
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SIZE	2-8 acres
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	Inland wetlands are located on the property and will need to be evaluated prior to a commitment to develop this site
TOPOGRAPHY	There are some steep slopes on the property and access to this area may not be universal
VEGETATION	Site is presently a wooded lot with trails and utility access lines.
WALKSCORE.COM®	19; car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Forest cover
PATHS//SIDEWALKS	Paths follow utility lines; site once had cross country trails
PARKING	No parking area
FENCING	None
LIGHTING	None
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	School occupies a portion of the 44 acre site
WATER	None
MAINTENANCE	None
SHADE	Wooded site; tree canopy could be retained
DOG ACTIVITIES	None
AESTHETICS	Site is not very visible which would lessen aesthetic concerns
COMMENTS	Potential site; School conflict?

Site 2 Pawcatuck Wastewater Treatment Plant
34 Mary Hall Road

SITE OVERVIEW



SITE ASSESSMENT

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	34 Mary Hall Road
CURRENT USE	Wastewater Treatment Plant; Recreation field; Informal open space
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	Town-owned land used as open space (not formally designated)
SOUTH	Medium-density residential
EAST	Low density residential
WEST	Wastewater treatment plant and open space (Stonington Green)
ACCESS	Driveway on Mary Hall Road
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	160'
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	11.4 acres
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SIZE	1-3 acres
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	Inland wetlands along the southwestern edge of the property
TOPOGRAPHY	Relatively flat
VEGETATION	Grass / lawn
WALKSCORE.COM®	4; car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Grass is readily convertible into dog park space
PATHS / SIDEWALKS	None
PARKING	1-2 spaces
FENCING	Fencing along the WPCF edge can be used for the park
LIGHTING	None
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	None
WATER	In proximity to the site
MAINTENANCE	None
SHADE	Some shade along the eastern edge of the park area
DOG ACTIVITIES	None present
AESTHETICS	Site is not very visible which would lessen aesthetic concerns
COMMENTS	Site has been dismissed by the committee

Site 3 **Spellman Drive Recreation Area**
176 South Broad Street

SITE OVERVIEW



SITE ASSESSMENT

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	176 South Broad Street
CURRENT USE	Informal open space
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	Recreation area, wetlands and open space
SOUTH	Railroad corridor and low-density housing
EAST	Recreation area, wetlands and open space
WEST	Recreation area, wetlands and open space
ACCESS	Site is accessed via U.S. Route 1, a state-owned road.
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	400+ feet
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	143 acres
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SIZE	1-19 acres
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	Inland wetland and Natural Diversity Database resources
TOPOGRAPHY	Varied topography
VEGETATION	Wooded area
WALKSCORE.COM®	21; car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Wooded area
PATHS / SIDEWALKS	Informal paths have been created
PARKING	Parking is located in close proximity
FENCING	None (there may be fencing along the railroad corridor)
LIGHTING	None
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	Recreation facilities nearby
WATER	None
MAINTENANCE	None
SHADE	Wooded area; Tree canopy can be preserved
DOG ACTIVITIES	Informal use
AESTHETICS	Site is not very visible which would lessen aesthetic concerns
COMMENTS	Site has been dismissed by the Committee

Site 4 **Human Services**
176 South Broad Street

SITE OVERVIEW



SITE ASSESSMENT

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	176 South Broad Street
CURRENT USE	Informal open space
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	Mixed use (commercial and high density residential)
SOUTH	Recreation area, wetlands and open space
EAST	Commercial property (Veterans of Foreign Wars hall)
WEST	School
ACCESS	Site is accessed via U.S. Route 1, a state-owned road.
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	400+ feet
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	143 acres
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SIZE	0.5 acres
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	Inland wetlands
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat
VEGETATION	Grass / lawn
WALKSCORE.COM®	21; car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Site drains to wetland
PATHS / SIDEWALKS	None
PARKING	Parking is adjacent to this area
FENCING	None
LIGHTING	Some lighting is present
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	Human Services building is adjacent
WATER	Yes
MAINTENANCE	Yes
SHADE	None
DOG ACTIVITIES	None
AESTHETICS	Site is visible from U.S. Route 1
COMMENTS	Site has been dismissed by the committee

Site 5 **Dog Pound / Transfer Station**
151 Greenhaven Road

SITE OVERVIEW



SITE ASSESSMENT

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	151 Greenhaven Road
CURRENT USE	Dog Pound / Transfer Station; Capped landfill
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	Open Space
SOUTH	Low-density housing
EAST	Low-density housing / undeveloped land
WEST	Open space
ACCESS	Site is accessed via Greenhaven Road. Greenhaven Road is accessed via U.S. Route 1
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	500+ feet
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	31 acres
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SIZE	1-8 acres
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	Wetlands, landfill issues
TOPOGRAPHY	Hilly terrain
VEGETATION	
WALKSCORE.COM®	0; car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Grass / lawn
PATHS / SIDEWALKS	Yes
PARKING	Parking is present on the site
FENCING	No; may not be able to install fencing
LIGHTING	No
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	Dog Pound
WATER	Yes
MAINTENANCE	Yes
SHADE	No
DOG ACTIVITIES	None
AESTHETICS	Site is not very visible which would lessen aesthetic concerns
COMMENTS	Site has been dismissed by the committee

Site 6 **Old Mystic Elementary School**
49 North Stonington Road

SITE OVERVIEW



SITE ASSESSMENT

	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	49 North Stonington Road
CURRENT USE	Board of Education offices and informal open space
ADJACENT USES	
NORTH	Commercial land, open space and Connecticut Route 184
SOUTH	Medium-density housing
EAST	Medium-density housing
WEST	Undeveloped land (private, undeveloped)
ACCESS	Site is accessed via North Stonington Road, a town-owned road. North Stonington Road can be accessed by CT Route 27
RESIDENTIAL PROXIMITY	130'; Ability to provide wooded separation and berm
SITE FEATURES	
PARCEL SIZE	5.7 acres
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SIZE	1-1.5 acres
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	18; Car-dependent
TOPOGRAPHY	Site is relatively flat, with steep slopes along the western edge.
VEGETATION	Mix of wooded and lawn / grass areas
WALKSCORE.COM®	19; car-dependent
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
SURFACE	Forest cover; Lawn/grass cover
PATHS / SIDEWALKS	None
PARKING	Existing parking area could be utilized
FENCING	None
LIGHTING	Yes
RESTROOMS	None
OTHER STRUCTURES	Former school (now office use) occupies a portion of the site
WATER	None
MAINTENANCE	None
SHADE	Wooded site; tree canopy could be retained
DOG ACTIVITIES	None
AESTHETICS	Site is visible from North Stonington Road
COMMENTS	Potential site; BOE office conflict?

RULES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT

As a starting point, here are some of the rules and regulations for consideration:

SAFETY

- There should be adequate fences that dogs cannot dig under or jump over
- There should be adequate parking so that dog owners can drive to the dog park and park their cars in the parking area, as opposed to walking large numbers of dogs on nearby streets, and taking up precious parking spaces required by the residents
- There should be at least two gates, so that a dog rushing through the first cannot get past the second
- Every owner must possess a leash upon the person of the owner (for taking the dog to and from the car or the park)
- Dogs to remain on leash at all times, coming to and from dog run
- Every dog must be current on its vaccinations
- All dogs must wear a collar, but no choke or spike collars are allowed

COMMUNICATIONS

- Visible signs should establish rules
- Users should be advised that they will be using the park at their own risk (e.g., the risk of being bitten, being knocked down, tripping)
- There is a prominently posted address for complaints, which will be reviewed in a timely manner

MANAGEMENT

- Limited to two (2) dogs per person
- Dog owners must be at least 18 years of age
- Every dog must display its license or registration tag (illegal dogs are denied privileges in the park)
- No dog shall be left unattended by its owner
- No dogs allowed that previously have bitten or injured a person or another animal
- All violations will be investigated and penalties imposed when needed
- The Stonington Recreation Commission will make decisions regarding enforcement and application of penalties
- Establish a fund for tax-deductible donations to be received and allocated to the park

OTHER IDEAS

The Committee review several ideas and did not express an interest in pursuing them further. These include:

- Requiring dog owners to have their drivers license on them when using the park
- Requiring a user fee
- Requiring professional dog walkers to register to use the park

INVENTORY OF TOWN SITES

ADDRESS	ACTIVITY	INITIAL POTENTIAL SITE	CANDIDATE SITE
17 W VINE ST	WEST VINE STREET SCHOOL	Y	Y
W ARCH ST		Y	N
34 MARY HALL RD	SEWER TREATMENT PLT – PAW	Y	Y
CONNECTICUT AVE		Y	N
176 S BROAD ST	HIGH SCHOOL	Y	Y
166 S BROAD ST	HUMAN SERVICES BLDG	Y	Y
151 GREENHAVEN RD	DOG POUND	Y	Y
N STONINGTON RD		Y	N
S BROAD ST		Y	N
MEADOW RD		Y	N
49 N STONINGTON RD	OLD MYSTIC ELEMENTARY SCH	Y	Y
W ARCH ST		N	
131 W BROAD ST	WEST BROAD ST SCHOOL	N	
W BROAD ST		N	
MECHANIC ST		N	
MECHANIC ST		N	
27 CHASE ST	PAW NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	N	
150 MECHANIC ST		N	
PROSPECT ST		N	
MECHANIC ST		N	
MECHANIC ST		N	
RIVER RD		N	
54 TRUMBULL ST P		N	
RIVER RD		N	
RIVER RD	PUMP STATION	N	
RIVERSIDE DR		N	
RIVERSIDE DR		N	
SCHILLER AVE		N	
BRUCKER PTWY		N	
ELIZABETH AVE		N	
PAWCATUCK AVE		N	
FOOTE ST		N	
FOOTE ST		N	
PAWCATUCK AVE		N	
40 FIELD ST	PAW JR. HIGH SCHOOL	N	

ADDRESS	ACTIVITY	INITIAL POTENTIAL SITE	CANDIDATE SITE
BURDICK LA		N	
W VINE ST		N	
WHITE ROCK RD		N	
ELM RIDGE RD		N	
PEQUOT CT		N	
S BROAD ST		N	
S BROAD ST		N	
S BROAD ST	SEWER	N	
PAWCATUCK AVE		N	
EXTRUSION DR		N	
EXTRUSION DR		N	
173 S BROAD ST		N	
HIGH RIDGE DR		N	
2 HIGH RIDGE DR		N	
1 HIGH RIDGE DR		N	
152 ELM ST		N	
FARMHOLME RD		N	
289 N WATER ST	PUMP STATION	N	
ALPHA AVE		N	
MATHEWS ST		N	
STONINGTON RD		N	
FLANDERS RD		N	
35 DEANS MILL RD	DEANS MILL SCHOOL	N	
23 BITTERSWEET WAY		N	
3 ROSE LA		N	
ROSE LA		N	
LINDBERG RD	PUMP STATION	N	
JERRY BROWNE RD		N	
BACK ACRES WAY		N	
JERRY BROWNE RD		N	
PEQUOTSEPOS RD		N	
204 MISTUXET AVE	MYSTIC JR HIGH SCHOOL	N	
59 HEWITT RD		N	
SMAIL ST		N	
26 HEWITT RD	PUMPING STATION	N	
CLARA DR		N	
179 WHITEHALL AVE		N	
HALEYS WAY		N	
NEW LONDON TNP		N	
ALDEN ST		N	

ADDRESS	ACTIVITY	INITIAL POTENTIAL SITE	CANDIDATE SITE
WILLOW ST		N	
BAY ST		N	
19 HOLMES ST		N	
10 BROADWAY AVE	BROADWAY HALL	N	
22 EDMONT ST	MYSTIC SEWER TREATMENT PL	N	
SHELLFISH LAND		N	
CUTTER DR		N	
MARITIME DR		N	
MARY HALL RD		N	

WHAT IS WALKSCORE.COM

Walk Score measures the walkability of any address using a patented system. For each address, Walk Score analyzes hundreds of walking routes to nearby amenities. Points are awarded based on the distance to amenities in each category. Amenities within a 5 minute walk (.25 miles) are given maximum points. A decay function is used to give points to more distant amenities, with no points given after a 30 minute walk. Walk Score also measures pedestrian friendliness by analyzing population density and road metrics such as block length and intersection density. Data sources include Google, Education.com, Open Street Map, the U.S. Census, Localeze, and places added by the Walk Score user community.

90-100	Walker's Paradise Daily errands do not require a car
70-89	Very Walkable Most errands can be accomplished on foot
50-69	Somewhat Walkable Some errands can be accomplished on foot
25-49	Car-Dependent Most errands require a car
0-24	Car-Dependent Almost all errands require a car

walkscore.com/methodology.shtml

The highest WalkScore in this assessment is the STEP property at 1 High Street in Stonington Borough. It received a 46. Sites that are walkable enable park users to access the park without relying on the use of an automobile.

Walkability offers surprising benefits to our health, the environment, our finances, and our communities.

Health: The average resident of a walkable neighborhood weighs 6-10 pounds less than someone who lives in a sprawling neighborhood.

Cities with good public transit and access to amenities promote happiness.

Environment: 82% of CO2 emissions are from burning fossil fuels. Your feet are zero-pollution transportation machines.

Finances: Cars are the second largest household expense in the U.S. One point of Walk Score is worth up to \$3,000 of property value.

Communities: Studies show that for every 10 minutes a person spends in a daily car commute, time spent in community activities falls by 10%.

