

CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK
16 MAY 17 PM 3:01
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT

AMENDED

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.

(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. Said letter is attached as Exhibit "A".

(5) Discussion of Report:

a. Presentation

Jason Vincent, Director of Planning presented the final Stonington Dog Park Analysis.

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 unleased 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.

Final Passage

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. The vote in favor of approving the analysis and sending it to the Board of Selectmen was unanimous.

(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

03/30/2016

I am Malayna Bomster. I lived in North Stonington for 30 years. My husband Bill Bomster and I work out of our 4 High Street building and have been there for 13 years. Our property abuts the sewer property separated only by a three foot high chain link fence. This fence is not a barrier. I can see everything. We are closest to the entrance gate. My windows are on this side making it is impossible for me to open the curtains or windows. The constant car door noise, clanging of the gate latch, talking, barking and carrying on out in front of my windows has become unbearable.

When people enter the sewer property with their dogs they are unleashed immediately and left to urinate and or defecate in front of my windows while dog owners are busy fussing with plastic bag dispenser or not paying any attention to what their dogs are doing, then they loiter directly in front of Angela and Dory's house for lengthy periods of time.

The neighborhood has had to put up and shut up. This is all about the entitlement of dog owners who use this area as their own fenced in backyard designed by the town. The Waterfont Commission made a mistake by empowering themselves to allow this to evolve without proper zoning and by not enforcing the leash law. This area is too small, too close to residents and business. There is lack of human compassion and no one should have to put up with this outside their home or business. This should be about the growth and productivity of people who live, work and pay taxes here, not about Fluffy having a good time.

The money spent on fences, plastic bags and town labor should have been spent on to public restrooms at the sewer plant. The sewer plant will have to expand at some time considering its age. This property should be returned back to its original state no dogs allowed unless leashed with an open gate. During this time of decisions this property should be closed until a decision has been made.

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malayna Bomster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.