

Doylestown Dog Park Advisory Board Meeting Notes March 5, 2018 at 5:00 pm.,
Conference Room in the Trailers

Attending: Kathy Brown, Deb McComas, Donna Cawthorne, Katelynn Steck (by phone), David Cochran, Warren Grant, Karen Sweeney, Caroline Brinker, Barbara Lyons (by phone).

Guest: Katrina Brillman, resident of Buckingham Township.

Meeting Notes of February 5, 2018 were approved on a motion by Deb, seconded by David, and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: The Board acknowledged the thank you note of positive comments received on 2/23/18 from Kimberly Demy.

Member Inquiries and Incident Reports: N/A

Projects/Events:

Bicentennial Project: Karen will put the Dogs of Doylestown photo solicitation flyer on the website. She will email the number of photos received to date to the Board members on 3/6/18.

Updates:

Orientations: Kathy, Deb and Katelynn will meet to update the current Orientation presentation. Susie Danzis will eliminate some slides from the current version. Karen will provide some new slides for possible inclusion.

Dog Park Improvements/Fence Modification: The Board discussed drainage and turf problems in the three fields. By moving a fence to equalize the size of the fields, large dogs would be able to use all three fields, allowing equal rotation of fields, so that turf in the resting field could recover more effectively. Kathy met with Butch, Chris and Greg from the Parks and Recreation Department who pointed out locations of power and water lines that would restrict where fence footings could be relocated and recommended the best placement of the fence. Kathy is meeting with a fence contractor on 3/6/18. Warren suggested adding a 10' wide dog run along the back of the two existing large fields to compensate for decreasing the size of one large field in order to enlarge the small dog area.

The Board also discussed dealing with standing water in the fields. Butch, Chris and Greg explained the best practices to take care of the excess water in the large dog area. Regrading the large dog area from the stone to the big tree with dirt from the backfill pile would help prevent standing water, and installing a French drain from the fence line between the rotation area and the large dog area would direct excess water away from the swale and out of the fenced-in area. Karen stated that a Conservation District easement would be needed to alter drainage, but no permit is needed to regrade using the backfill pile. Sinclair Salisbury, Director of Code Enforcement, informed Karen that no permit is needed to equalize the small dog and large dog areas by moving the fence. Kathy stated that the winter water supply will be removed

due to water collecting under the faucet and freezing. Karen also stated that this is causing heaving of the gate posts.

On a motion by Deb, seconded by David and approved unanimously, the Board voted to obtain estimates to move the fence to create three equal fields, address wet areas with a French drain to direct water to move through the large dog area and exit outside the fenced-in area and regrade using existing backfill. A separate estimate will be obtained to make a 10' wide dog run along the back fence of the two large fields.

Dog Park Closures & Maintenance: Karen stated that the revised handbook must emphasize that there will be periodic closures to allow for spring and fall maintenance and weekly mowing. She stated that mowing usually takes place on Thursdays, weather permitting. She stated that the lock combinations will be changed because too many unauthorised people know them. Only township personnel and the Board will have the new combinations.

Dog Park Handbook Review / Incident Reporting / Tip Line: Kathy asked all members to review the Handbook before the next meeting and make changes as needed. Karen and Barbara will provide revisions of the Township related issues for the next meeting.

Donna pointed out that David, Warren and she met to review the Rules and Regulations section and will provide a revised version for the group to review. Kathy pointed out that the next meeting will be focused on the Handbook and all revisions. Barbara will ask Margaret to email the most current version of the handbook dated November 2016 to Board members on 3/6/18.

The Board discussed the general reluctance of dog park members to use the Incident Report, resulting in many incidents or concerns going unreported. A tip line could encourage people to report dog park incidents or concerns, which could be used in addition to filing an Incident Report. Karen stated that the township uses standard Parks and Recreation software, and tip lines are usually for police or legal departments. She will look into establishing a tip line for all of the township parks which could be used for people to report concerns. It would not take the place of filing an Incident Report for an actual incident.

Other Business:

Signs: Karen stated that signs will be posted pointing out that entry is never permitted into areas of the dog park for which your dog is the wrong weight category.

Video for Website / Orientation: Kathy stated that the Telecommunications Advisory Board is requesting content for the township website. She suggested doing a video of the dog park. Kathy will invite their Chairman to our next meeting to discuss their parameters. They could also help us do a video to use for dog park orientations.

Orientations:

Saturday, March 3, cancelled due to the weather.

Wednesday, April 4 at 5:00 pm: Kathy, Deb and Warren to attend.

Friday, May 4 at 5:00 pm: Kathy, Deb and David to attend.

Adjournment: On a motion by Deb, seconded by Warren and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

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