

Dog Park Advisory Board Meeting Notes: March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely via Zoom due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus.

Attending: Kathy Brown, Deb McComas, Donna Cawthorne, Kristin McCoach, David Cochran, Karen Sweeney, Caroline Brinker, Nancy Santacecilia

Guests: N/A

Meeting Notes of February 1, 2021 were accepted and approved on a motion by David, seconded by Deb and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: An email received 2/23/21 from dog park member Roberta O'Malley regarding aggressive dogs was discussed. Karen stated that the township has responded and has a follow-up call in to her. The Board discussed the issue of aggressive dogs, lack of owner supervision of their dogs and members that do not submit incident reports, which interferes with the township's commitment to safety at the dog park. The Board decided to emphasize this issue more strongly during Orientations and to also highlight it in an upcoming newsletter.

Member Inquiries: N/A

Incident Reports: N/A

Projects / Events: N/A

Business Items:

Virtual Training / New PPT / Website – Orientation: Kathy reported that she is working on a Virtual Orientation and has sent the current Orientation slides to Susie Danzis for review, commenting that this is a good time to decide which slides to keep or revise. There is a slide about dealing with aggressive dogs that can be emphasized more strongly during orientations and gives the opportunity to explain to new members the importance of submitting Incident Reports to protect the safety of others at the dog park.

Donna commented that members often forget what they learned during Orientation and suggested that during yearly membership renewal, members could view the Virtual Orientation as a review. It was also suggested that individual slides could be included in newsletters as a reminder and review about a certain point. Kathy and Susie will finalize the slides and work with Kristin to practice for the Virtual Orientation for the next meeting.

Survey – Results and Follow-up: There were 120 responses by dog park members to the survey created by Katelynn Steck in November 2020. The Board discussed communicating more frequently with the members and decided to send a quarterly newsletter with positive content to the membership. Additionally, it was decided to send more frequent “Bark Bytes”, which would be quick emails of hints and tidbits as well as more serious content about dog park membership. This could also include slides from Orientation to review individual points about dog park usage. David stated that some subjects, such as aggressive dogs, require serious coverage with the members. Nancy offered to do a first draft and submit it to Kathy for finalization.

The Board discussed suggestions made in the survey and broke them down into short term and long term improvements. Kathy stated that she will send an email to the Board outlining five main suggestions from the survey, and asking each Board member to prioritize them and add a sixth suggestion for the next meeting.

Kristin asked about township funding for improvements. Karen responded that township funding covers dog park maintenance, but that the Board can do fundraising for improvement projects. The Board will submit its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Special Events: Kristin sent an email to three dog rescue organizations seeking their interest in holding dog rescue Meet and Greet events at the dog park. She will report their responses at the next meeting.

Orientations:

Saturday, March 6 at 9:15 a.m.: This is scheduled as an in-person orientation in the Doylestown Township Community Meeting Room. Kathy, Kristin, Warren and David are available to attend.

Thursday, April 1 at 6:45 p.m.: In-person Orientation: Kathy and Donna are available to attend.

Adjournment: On a motion by David, seconded by Kristin and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.