

PARK COMMITTEE
DOG PARK SUBCOMMITTEE
TOWN OF HOLLAND
November 1, 2018 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chair Kathy Warzynski, Michelle Byom (7:06 p.m.), Dick Jakes, Barb Larsen
OTHERS:	Clerk Marilyn Pedretti

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Warzynski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Notices were properly posted.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Warzynski welcomed the members to the subcommittee. She explained the mission and referenced the guidelines as outlined in the Town of Holland Governing Ordinance.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: none given.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

- A. Siting of park: Warzynski reviewed the list of Town parks and she noted most are either not big enough or already have equipment. She outlined the two-acre area to the southwest of the cell tower. Larsen reported her research on two area dog parks:
(1) City of Onalaska which is about two acres, fenced with doggie bags, \$12 annual permit fee, and open sunrise to sunset.
(2) City of La Crosse which is about 5 acres, drinking fountain, doggie bags, free to the public and open 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
It was the consensus that the Town does not have access to the suggested 30-40 acres but it could be an option if someone wanted to donate for such. Jakes suggested there could be interest in a private site since it could be a profitable endeavor. Warzynski proposed concentrating at this time on the two-acre area outlined.
- B. Liability issues: Legal information received from the Town attorney was reviewed. Jakes expressed his concern the Town would have “the biggest pockets” and asked whether the Town insurance would cover any liability. Clerk Pedretti will check. Jakes also suggested researching avenues to lease the land to a private individual to create a dog park to take the liability away from the Town. Byom and Larsen noted both the trail at 7 Bridges and the Holmen Bike Trail have owners walking their dogs and that they would be liable.
- C. Fencing, benches, receptacles and other features: Warzynski explained the theory of having a two-gate system to prevent inadvertently releasing any dogs from the park. She suggested a few benches, receptacles and a picnic bench would be sufficient equipment. Larsen will research fence heights.
- D. Permits and/or fees: Warzynski noted the two cities have regular hours for pet owners to apply for permits while the Town has limited hours. Byom reported the Reedsberg park was on an honor system. Larsen suggested fees could be mailed. Discussion followed concerning policing the park. Larsen will research the cost to maintain such parks.
- E. Survey current dog owners: Warzynski reported the Town currently has 791 dog licenses and approximately 1560 households. Discussion followed on whether to survey, and if so, whether to survey just current dog owners or all town residents. It was the consensus

to provide a survey in the annual newsletter and members were asked to provide survey questions to Warzynski to incorporate into an article/survey by November 15th. The deadline for survey return will be January 7th.

- F. Other items: Jakes cautioned that the Town should not compete with entrepreneurs. Byom asked about lighting and Warzynski explained the Town's "Night Sky" Ordinance. Clerk Pedretti will check with the Wisconsin Towns Association for other input concerning dog parks.

FUTURE AGENDA

Liability and insurance, information from the survey, permits/fees, costs to set-up and maintain a park.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jakes/Larsen to adjourn. **MOTION** carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Pedretti, Town Clerk