

# DOG PARK SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

January 12, 2017

The Dog Park Subcommittee of the Stratford Parks & Recreation Committee conducted a special meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 in Council Chambers of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford CT, pursuant to notice duly posted.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Rich, Co-Chair; Bob Jaekle, Co-Chair  
Paula Lockshier, Rachel Solveira and Danielle Stella

## I CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Chairman John Rich called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He then introduced members of the subcommittee.

## II OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Possible sites for Stratford Dog Park

- Boothe Park (2 sites)
- Great Meadows Park
- Longbrook Park (2 sites)
- Roosevelt Forest
- Short Beach

Mr. Rich stated he received the following emails prior to the public forum:

- Nancy Russo, 160 Terrill Road – Against Longbrook Park; For Roosevelt Forest or Boothe Park
- Sarah Barnes -- Against Longbrook Park; For Roosevelt Forest
- Jean Sutton, 25 Horace Street – Against Longbrook Park

The following residents addressed the subcommittee:

- Wali Kadeem, 196 Larkin Court – As 3<sup>rd</sup> District councilman, residents in his district are against a dog park at Great Meadows Park, and recommends the area next to the Animal control facility
- Michael Sinnott, 86 Frash Street – Against Great Meadows Park; For area next to the Animal Control facility
- Richard Ianucci, 10 Shea Terrace – Against Boothe Park
- Devney Worsdale, 59 Elm Terrace – Against a dog park in Stratford altogether. If the Town must have one, opposed to Longbrook Park.
- Claudine Cody, 111 Colony Street – For Roosevelt Forest; Against area next to Animal Control facility
- Robert Levine, 46 Pamela Drive – Pro dog park in Stratford and would help fund one in memory of son; Recommends Ranger Station area at Roosevelt Forest

- Rick Minton, 5725 Main Street – Against Boothe Park due to deed restrictions of the Boothe brothers’ will
  - Submitted a letter from Carol Sinetti, 5395 Main Street – Against Boothe Park
- Anne Minton, 5725 Main Street – Against Boothe Park
  - Submitted a letter from Bessie Burton, 165 Chapel Street – Against Boothe Park
- Dave Capozzi, 44 Elm Terrace – For Longbrook Park
- Lisa Hernandez, 175 Cutspring Road – Pro Dog Park; Longbrook Park best site in her opinion; against Great Meadows Park
- Alice Arcuri, 65 Bittersweet Lane – Pro Longbrook Park; Against WPCA location
- Mike Palmieri, 35 Oak Ridge Road – Against Longbrook Park
- Gwen & Parker Ackley, 111 Pepperidge Circle – Against Boothe Park, as it would be in violation of the Boothe Brothers’ last will & testament
- Virginia Harris, 1316 Main Street – Against Boothe Park
- Paul Reslick, 1316 Main Street – Against Boothe Park
- George Adams, 5895 Main Street Putney – Against Boothe Park
- Joseph Pedoto, 478 Prospect Drive – Kudos to Ms. Lockshier for her hard work with this project; Pro dog park in Stratford; Against WPCA area
- Elizabeth & Andrew. Gabicki, 39 Pleasantview Avenue – Against Roosevelt Forest; For Longbrook Park
- Aimee Sprogis, 478 Prospect Drive -- Pro dog park; Against WPCA location; okay with either Longbrook or Short Beach
- Karin Douglas, 96A Seminole Lane – Pro dog park; Against Boothe; Roosevelt Forest is better choice
- Mary Budrawich, 63 Meadowview Avenue – Against Great Meadows Park
- Stephanie Philips, 41 Yarwood Street – Pro dog park; Against Great Meadows Park and Boothe Park; okay with Longbrook or Roosevelt Forest
- Jen Dunton, 173 Woodcrest Avenue – Pro dog park; Against Short Beach; Pro Longbrook
- Paul Tavares, 1372 South Avenue – Pro dog park; Against WPCA site
- Vincent Chase, 640Whippoorwill Lane – As 8<sup>th</sup> District Councilman, residents in his district are against Boothe Park; recommends a central location in Town; suggested the subcommittee tell the Town Council their personal recommendations in the report it sends to the Town Council
- Paul Butler, 292 Roosevelt Avenue – Against Longbrook Park
- Kayne Bosma, 379 Glendale Avenue – Pro dog park; Against Longbrook Park; For Roosevelt Forest
- Wendy Scott, 21 Bridgeview Place – Pro dog park at Longbrook
- Brendan Peters, 55 Burritt Avenue – Pro dog park, but Roosevelt Forest not ideal location
- Beth Matlock, 620 Beaver Dam Road – pro dog park at Roosevelt Forest

#### Subcommittee Members’ Responses

- ∞ In response to a constituent’s question regarding liability, Ms. Solveira answered that the owner is responsible for any and all damages their dog causes at a dog park.
- ∞ Ms. Stella thanked all the speakers who addressed the subcommittee.

- ∞ Ms. Lockshier thanked Mr. & Mrs. Levine, and would recommend naming the dog park after their deceased son. She noted that Milford does not have a “Friends of” committee attached to it, which Stratford would. She does not support the WPCA location due to the high levels of contamination in the soil there.
- ∞ Mr. Jaekle thanked Ms. Lockshier for all her hard work on this project. He noted this matter has been discussed at the Council level since 2007, and believes the Town will be able to put up a fence in a field for a dog park. Mr. Jaekle added that the Quail Street site is not a viable location as it is on school property, and Short Beach has not been taken off the list.
- ∞ Mr. Rich thank all the speakers, and explained the vetting process and how the subcommittee’s report with their recommendation will be sent to the Parks & Recreation Committee. Mr. Rich also explained the reasons for having a Public Forum.

### III ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rich ended the Public Forum at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Aileen Marsh*  
Recording Secretary