

**West Stockbridge Dog Park Committee
Regular meeting**

November 11, 2023, 10 a.m.

Present: Jana Sax, Roni Kramer, Heather Hicks, Renee McCormick (via video)

Absent: Michael Bolognino, Paige Orloff, Lorri Santhay, Sharon Vidal

Jana called the meeting to order and shared the meeting's agenda, then called for a motion to approve minutes from the prior meeting. Renee McCormick offered the motion, Jana seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. The group discussed making minutes available to both the committee and the general public. Michael Bolognino will send minutes to Marie Ryan for posting.

The group present understands the Mr. Bolognino has attempted to learn from the assessor of available properties but has yet to connect.

Ms. Sax has been in contact with people responsible for the Brewster (MA) dog park and they are willing to Zoom with our committee, date TBD but possible in December (12/2 or 12/16). Ms. Sax recommended that all look at the Brewster dog park website and prepare questions for that meeting.

Roni Kramer has been looking into the Stanton Foundation grant but has not heard back. She also learned that we are not able to create an LLC because we are just a committee so no bank account for us at this time; we will have to revisit this down the road.

Heather Hicks was in communication with Rep. Smitty Pignatelli about Senate docket number 923/Senate number 1956 filed 2/9/2021 by Patrick M O'Connor, an act establishing the commonwealth municipal dog park trust fund, asking if these funds were available to us. Rep. Pignatelli said the act was not refiled so not available at this time, but did say if we needed more help to reach out. Ms. Hicks will be emailing him again to see if he has any ideas and also ask him about the Stanton Grant that Ms. Kramer was looking into.

Ms. Sax reported that Lorri Santhay was in communication with Cait from Parks and Rec to determine if there have been past attempts to create a dog park and if so, why they did not come to fruition. Ms. McCormick will also reach out to relevant town officials to speak with us at a meeting. A town resident who was in the meeting room overheard the conversation and offered her support for the committee's efforts.

Ms. Sax called for a motion to adjourn, which Ms. Kramer offered, Ms. Sax seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hicks and Paige Orloff