

MILLBURY DOG PARK COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2021

DRAFT

ATTENDANCE: Laurie Connors (Chair), Susan Ainsleigh (Vice Chair-left 6:40 PM), Pam Adams, Christine Kelley, Mary Wright

ABSENT:

NON-VOTING: Monica Delaporta (Friends of the Millbury Dog Park-left 6:30 PM), Cheryle Vanessia, Amanda Van Ness, Amy Thornton

1. Call to Order: Laurie Connors called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. The meeting was held remotely through Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was streamed through Millbury Public Access Cable.

Laurie introduced Amy Thornton, who is interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Millbury Dog Park.

2. Discuss Incidents from Last Month:

Laurie reviewed the incident policy and outlined how the discussion would proceed. Ms. Van Ness began by telling her version of the events of 2/26/21. Amanda and her dog Ella Rae were present in the park with her friend Stacy and her dog Riley when Cheryle and her dog Val arrived. Amanda has seen other situations when Val has been aggressive with other dogs. She noticed that Riley seemed uncomfortable, and her hackles were raised. Amanda said that out of nowhere, an escalation occurred and Val went after Riley. Amanda said she pulled the dogs apart. Cheryle removed Val and pushed his face into the ice. Cheryle was apologetic and offered to Stacy to cover any issues with Riley. Cheryle and Val left the park.

Amanda stated that the next day, she and her dog were at the park when Cheryle and Val arrived. Amanda approached Cheryle and asked her why she had come back to the park when there had been an incident with her dog the day before. Cheryle stated that she had muzzled her dog. Amanda is concerned that Cheryle returned with her dog less than 24 hours after an incident, and she is concerned about the negative psychological effects of the muzzle to Val.

Cheryle replied that Val and Riley were playing in the park and there was a ball. Cheryle stated that she saw Riley jump on Val's chest and Val retaliated by biting Riley. Cheryle dragged her dog to the ground. Amanda did not separate the dogs. Cheryle apologized to Stacy and offered to pay if anything was wrong with Riley. Stacy looked Riley over and did not say there was anything wrong. Cheryle left the park.

When Cheryle and Val arrived at the park the next day, she said that Amanda spoke rudely to her as she told her to put Val in the small dog park. Cheryle had a nylon muzzle on Val and let him into the large park.

Laurie read a letter dated 3/4/21 from Stacy stating her version of the incident.

A discussion was held. Monica left the meeting at 6:30 PM. None of the committee members had an issue with the way Cheryle disciplined Val. None of the committee members knew the psychological effects of a muzzle on a dog. It was decided that Cheryle will visit the

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park in the mornings and afternoons when the park is less busy. If Riley is present at the park, Cheryle will put Val into the small dog area until Riley leaves. Everyone present at the meeting was in agreement. Laurie will write up the decision and send it to all involved parties. Laurie did inform Cheryle that if another incident with Val is reported, other measures may need to be taken.

3. Meeting Minutes: February 4, 2021

Pam Adams made a motion to approve the February 4, 2021 minutes of the Millbury Dog Park Committee as presented. Christine Kelley seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

4. Status:

- a. Treasurer's Report: Receipts as of 2/17/21 \$28,883.67
- b. Friends of the Dog Park Treasurer's Report: \$2,681 as of 3/4/21.
- c. Number of Registered Tags: As of 2/26/21 – 15, 2020 – 219. 2019-288 tags.

5. Capital Improvements & Maintenance:

- a. Emptying trash and filling bags: Laurie asked that members check the dumpster when they are at the park to be sure it is being emptied twice a month.
- b. Weston & Sampson (WS) Stormwater Mitigation Design: There was no update.
- c. First Aid Box: There was no update.
- d. Gate Repair: There was no update.
- e. Springtime: Install pachysandra behind the pavilion and install stone on the balance of the slope behind pavilion.

6. Payment of Invoices: Laurie received an invoice today for the dumpster in the amount of \$77.

7. Fundraising:

- a. Butler Farm Bark Park Info Flier: Laurie will have this ready for the next meeting.
- b. Banner Program: Christine will get pricing for 2 – 4 colors on 72" and 36" banners from sign.com. It was acknowledged that the banners will be more expensive to have different sponsors' logos printed on each banner.
- c. Poppin Popcorn: Mary will set up this online fundraiser over the weekend to begin immediately. The park will sell popcorn and sweets and will have a donation feature. Laurie will send dog park members' emails to Mary. The fundraiser will be run under Friends of the Millbury Dog Park.

8. Next Meeting: April 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

9. Adjournment: Mary Wright made a motion at 7:20 PM to adjourn. Pam Adams seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wright

