



## Billerica Dog Park

365 Boston Road, Billerica MA 01821

**Billerica Dog Park Committee Minutes**  
(Recreation Commission Subcommittee)  
October 12, 2020  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
Via phone

### **Attendees:**

Kim Bloomfield, Brenda Komarinski, Diana Logue, Shirley Holdman, Mark Reid

### **Minutes:**

Diana led the meeting. Brenda took minutes.

The annual committee election was held. The slate of directors was presented as:  
Kim Bloomfield, Brenda Komarinski, Diana Logue, Shirley Holdman, Mark Reid

Brenda nominated the slate and Diana seconded. The slate was voted in unanimously. Mark Reid was nominated for Treasurer and accepted. Diana Logue was nominated as Vice-Chair and accepted. Brenda Komarinski was nominated for Chair and accepted. It was decided to continue with the three officers splitting the duties of Secretary as was done this past year.

Brenda gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$18,473.16 in the bank, of which \$2,552.47 has been set aside for the continued projects with the Pavilion.

No maintenance expenses have been paid out this yet for this fiscal year. We will continue to keep track of expenses paid out of the \$8,000 Operations and Maintenance funds.

Mark has been working with Enterprise Bank to allow Brenda and Diana to have access to the account on-line. Denis was successfully (finally) deleted.

Mark will continue to work with the bank in order to receive paperless statements. Shirley did go to the town hall and picked up the latest bank statement.

Brenda did not get anywhere with obtaining the ST-12 Mass tax exempt status paperwork. Mark will take over this.

Shirley noted that TD Bank offers non-profits a year end donation based on what is in the account. This would mean transferring our account. She has the paperwork about the program and will get it to Mark to look at.

Brenda noted that she needed to add in the weeding that was done at the park at the end of September to the Operations and Maintenance Log. Mark will do one last pass with the lawnmower before the winter. The weeds are dying off now. We will investigate better weed control in the spring.

Brian Carpentier emailed Mark last night with more items from the family. Mark will email him back for specifics. The idea of a metal planter was not accepted by the committee.

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The Billerica Dog park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization



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The location(s) of the planters was discussed. It was suggested that instead of planters on the ground, put in a retaining wall and have planters on top of that. This would help prevent erosion along the slope of where the fence is.

Per Diana, George will be staining the pavilion sometime this week. We are not planning to close the park while this is being done. Diana did purchase the stain herself and will need to be reimbursed for that.

The family ceremony to install the plaques was done on October 1. The two plaques installed inside the pavilion.

Brenda noted that we received another 5-star rating on Google. Mark figured out how to allow Brenda to be able to see when new reviews are done. Regarding the Facebook feedback of sore/scratchy paws, Mark submitted the following wording to be put up on Facebook:

“We thank you for your feedback and letting us know you are having these issues. The committee looked into the issue.

When we designed the park, we looked at many different surface materials. Each has pros and cons. There is a great summary here: <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks/guide/surfacing>. Ultimately, we went with this recommendation which was supported by the architect, and the Stanton Foundation who funded your park. There is no perfect material, but pea stone was the best compromise, and the most prevalent. Changing it at this point would not only be extremely costly, but it would introduce other issues associated with those other materials.

When the committee discussed the issue, we also considered it may not be the scratches themselves, but possibly contaminants (such as urine, fungi, mold spores, bacteria, dust mites, pollen) getting into the scratches that is causing the irritation. We believe that washing the park pea stone would help. Unfortunately, we are currently in a Level 2 significant drought. This means we have not had enough rain to naturally wash the park. Using sprinklers is not recommended due to water use restrictions during this drought.

Let's hope for rain and hope this helps. Please let us know if you find it better after a storm.

We are also aware that pea stone also means it can get uncomfortably hot during the summer, another issue we have seen on Facebook. There is no easy answer here either. The new pavilion provides needed shade. The trees we planted will eventually grow bigger each year and provide more shade.

As always, thank you for your feedback. We are a very hands-on committee and truly appreciate your feedback and suggestions. I wish we had a simple easy perfect solution, but we think this is the best we can offer.”

The committee agreed to this wording.

Diana finished sealing the dog statue Chip and put the new name plate on the base. The base is in bad shape. It was stained and should be okay over the winter.

Kim noted that the police are regularly monitoring the park.

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Diana was looking into if we need insurance and did not have much luck getting answers from the town. She will reach out to Dave Grubb to see if the recreation department has added the pavilion, kiosk, and fence to the property inventory list that gets sent to the town for insurance purposes. Also, she will ask if we have any responsibility for the deductible if applicable.

Kim is getting a quote for the walkway replacement from Anchor Bolt Excavating & Foundations Inc. This will be for a cement pad at the entrance the ramps up into an elevated sidewalk with brick blanks in it. This would be just for the All Dog side and not the small dog area.

The same company will also be quoting for the water fountain. This will be a 1 – 2' depth feature with an 18" high wall around it and an 18" wide ledge around it. Possibly have ramps up and down so smaller dogs can enjoy it. It will be an oval 10'x20' with a recirculating water system. The pump will need to run on batteries or solar power. We also need to look into the town requirements. This would be in the All Dog area by the back-water spigot.

Diana did look into the possibility of getting a PO Box. She noted that a separate PO box would not have solved the last misdirection issue where someone came into the town hall and gave cash and checks to the town clerk directly. We will continue with our box at the town hall for our mail.

One person from Facebook had commented on a safety issue with the dogs running into the posts of the pavilion. Mark investigated padding for the posts, none of which were attractive, and all were pricey. Kim noted that the dogs tend run around and play near where their humans are sitting. We no longer have dogs tripping over the dedication bricks for the benches at the end of the walkway because people aren't sitting there anymore. Until we have more information, we will put this on hold.

Mark spent a fair amount of time on the phone with National Grid about the webcam. Mark had spoken with Lt. Katz at the Billerica Police Department about a camera for a safety perspective. It will cost about \$5,00 for us to get a web cam. We are going to put this on hold for now.

The water will be shutoff sometime toward the end of October. Mark has contacted the landscaper who assisted us last year.

Mark noted that we need to decide what we are going to ask the Stanton Foundation for with the next grant that we are eligible for. Diana want to have a letter sent to Stanton saying that we are going to be applying and letting them know that we are looking at various capital improvement projects (web cam, Fountain, walkway, storage shed) and have Dave Grubb send it.

Diana had sent a letter to the Benevity donor in 2018 regarding a way to thank her. She did not hear back and sent another letter in September. If we don't hear anything back, we will assume that she wants to remain anonymous.

**Next meeting: Monday, November 9 from 7:00-8:30pm. The location TBD.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Komarinski, Co-Secretary

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