



Upper Valley Dog Park Supporters
General Meeting Minutes
Hartford Town Hall, 6- 8 PM
Thursday 25 April 2024

I. Opening

Greetings to members from the President: Many people are using the park now. Some are daily users and some are visitors to the Upper Valley, such as those who stopped by during the Eclipse.

The park survived 2 floods, in July and December, with no major damage.

Financially the park is doing well. The account has about \$5000 currently. The budget was aided by plowing services the Town provided the past 2 winters and the rainy summer lowered the need for mowing.

II. Attendance

Attendees: Karen Crawford, Mary Mills, Lee Hathorne, Betty Hathorne, Kim Reardon, Paul Lawrence, Andrew Kilibarda, Matt Rogers, Rob Leutschuh

III. Agenda Approval

The current agenda was provided to attendees as they arrived.

IV. Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous agenda of the board was reviewed.

V. Finance

The current budget was reviewed. The donations received from the 4 events last year, the membership dues collected, and those from the donation box were presented. The donation box had been broken into after the lock was recently replaced; new sources of donations were considered.

The Town acting as the Treasurer for the organization was discussed, along with connecting with the Town website as a portal for donations.

VII. Programming

The 2 clean-up events, Spring and Fall, and the 4 fundraising events were reviewed. The 3 new events, Spring Fling, Puppy Prom, and Dog Days of Summer, were shortened to a few hours and amazingly squeezed between the constant rains of last summer. Howl o'ween was shortened to the noon to 2 period to make the most of the warm sun.

All 6 events were expected to be repeated this year. Dates were suggested for each event this year.

VIII. Nominations

Elections were held: Jim Leavitt, President; Linda Fadden, Secretary; Betty Hathorne, Membership Chair; Andrew Killibarda, Fundraising Co-chair; Kim Reardon, Fundraising Co-chair; Lee Hathorne, Maintenance and Operations Chair

IX. Old Business/ New Business

OLD: Maintenance: Bricks that need to be placed in the patio were recently found with the leveling sand and will be placed along with the border fixed. A load of stone was delivered to the park by Linda's son-in-law. A company able to provide mowing services needs to be found and contracted for this summer.

Fundraising: Selling company banners on vinyl material was discussed with a decision to look into acceptable fonts and create an example to present to possible donating companies.

Events: The park had 6 events last year: 2 cleanups, 4 fundraising. Expect to repeat them this year, hopefully with less rain.

NEW: Committee Chairs and members opened discussion to various concerns.

There is a new information kiosk Lee Hathorne repaired and is providing. It's placement in the large dog park was discussed.

The land by the outside picnic table was discussed.

Requesting increased Town of Hartford Police patrols.

Who grates and fixes the park driveway and a possible second speed limit sign?

Unleashed dogs in the parking lot is a safety issue that needs signs.

Parking on one side of the parking lot, the left side, to aid parking and reduce accidents.

The gate areas need to be built up to keep water from flowing through. The town engineer might be available to evaluate the flooding/water flow issues.

Tentative dates for events:

Spring Fling– June 8

Puppy Prom – July 13

Dog Days of Summer – August 31

Howl o'ween – October 26

Fall Clean-up – October 12

Spring Clean-up – April 28

We will look into selling t-shirts for the park again.

Lawn mower may be donated by Linda Fadden. Grass seed is needed.

X. Adjournment

The next general membership meeting will be on Thursday, April 24, 2025.