

Donna Conkling

From: Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Josh Frankel
Cc: Robert Cole; Trustee Ahuja; Trustee Arest; Trustee Brew; Trustee Crandall; Trustee Lewis; Trustee Whitestone; Donna Conkling
Subject: RE: Siting a Dog Park in Scarsdale, Part II

Mr. Frankel, please continue to follow our work session schedule as we have not stopped our investigation of dog park options, and I anticipate a discussion at the board level shortly. I simply shared with you that we juggle many items simultaneously and initiatives move forward at different speeds based on a host of inputs. The one constant is that serving our residents is our guiding principle. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and priorities with us. Jane

From: Josh Frankel <j_frankel@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 9:26 AM
To: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Cc: Robert Cole <rcole@scarsdale.com>; Trustee Ahuja <sahuja@scarsdale.com>; Trustee Arest <jarest@scarsdale.com>; Trustee Brew <kbrew@scarsdale.com>; Trustee Crandall <lcrandall@scarsdale.com>; Trustee Lewis <jlewis@scarsdale.com>; Trustee Whitestone <rwhitestone@scarsdale.com>; Donna Conkling <dconkling@scarsdale.com>
Subject: Re: Siting a Dog Park in Scarsdale, Part II

CAUTION: External sender.

Mayor, Trustees, Mr. Cole:

Thank you for your reply, Mayor Veron.

I can appreciate, and am sensitive to, the workload our staff have at any point in time. That said, I'm sure - without checking the historical record - that both staff and the Board had a fairly full plate back in 2018. Yet everyone was able to multi-task and ultimately settle on Weinberg, which was only scuttled because the vocal few detractors won the day. Truth be told, we should all be enjoying a Weinberg dog park today. Though I am not a PE, the case for the site I'm suggesting seems fairly straightforward, as can be seen in the images I provided with my previous correspondence.

I've been made aware by the State that a proposal to use the "infield" at the Hutch's northbound Exit 12 (formerly 22) has been declined. So, we're back to either Weinberg, the Maintenance Facility, or some as-yet-undiscovered plot.

I understand that siting a dog park in the Village will never be the Board's top priority. That said, neither should it be placed on a back burner indefinitely. Can someone be tasked with having this in their portfolio?

Thank you again for your engagement. I look forward to hopefully moving this project forward.

Regards,

Josh

On Oct 20, 2021, at 11:11 PM, Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com> wrote:

Hi Josh. Apologies for my delayed response. I must have missed your note in my inbox and thank you for following up. Yes, you are correct. Several of us sat on the board during the Village's 2018 exploration of potential sites. We carefully follow matters of import to our residents and appreciate your sharing your views.

I did forward your petition to the Board.

As you are likely aware, we have just initiated two major efforts, the Pool Complex and Complete Streets/Village Center. In addition, we are revamping the budget process and have our department heads very busy preparing. I provide this context so you have a sense for all the matters that are consuming staff time, in addition to day to day operations. We will most certainly follow up but also need to respect the workload of our Village staff.

Thank you for reaching out, Jane

From: Josh Frankel <j_frankel@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Subject: Siting a Dog Park in Scarsdale, Part II

CAUTION: External sender.

Honorable Mayor Veron:

I am writing, along with 300+ fellow Scarsdale residents, to request that the Board revisit the abandoned 2018 idea of siting a dog park within Scarsdale. I would begin by reminding you that at its Sept 25, 2018 meeting, the Board recognized "the potential recreational value and benefits of a local dog park and is supportive of further evaluation of the feasibility and prospective costs...". The resolution containing that language passed unanimously. We need not expound on the community benefits - to both dogs and their humans - of dog parks.

As a few Trustees are aware from your 2018 stints on the Board, several sites - most notably at Weinberg Nature Center - were considered. In the end, the small, vocal Not In My Back Yard, i.e. NIMBY, contingents of residents won the day, and the idea was scuttled.

The Village's Maintenance Facility sits on 11.06 acres. It is bordered by Secor Rd., Palmer Ave., and Ramsey Rd. On the image immediately below (an overview of the Facility bordered in red) I have outlined, with a dashed yellow line, where the park might be sited. Below that is a more detailed view of how the park might look which, of course, is flexible if other configurations prove more workable.

Most of the proposed site is currently idle, open, unused space. To make the proposal a reality, the Village should consider repurposing perhaps 10,000 - 12,000 square feet of wholly unused Maintenance Facility property to allow ingress/egress from/to Secor Rd., pave a small (~20 car) parking lot, and allot a bit of additional room for the park. Without too much effort, we could realize a space of ~40,000 square feet (~0.92 acre), as seen below.

There are no immediate neighbors to the proposed site. It is bordered across Secor (west) by Village property (Sanitation), to the south by the working area of the Maintenance Facility, and across Palmer (east) by protected wetlands. NIMBY is solved.

There are currently ~450 licensed dogs in the Village, and I'd suggest it's possible the number of unlicensed dogs is in the same vicinity. Requiring a license to use the park would certainly increase the number of licenses issued by the Village, with a commensurate increase in revenue. If the Village charged, say, \$100 per year per pass for dog-owning households' use of the park, I think it's reasonable to estimate perhaps \$30,000 in annual revenue from passes (300 dogs), which would more than offset annual maintenance costs. By way of comparison, New Rochelle's Paws Place at Ward Acres Dog Park issues passes to non-residents at \$100/year (with significant fines for non-compliance).

A petition in support of siting a dog park in Scarsdale is here: www.change.org/scarsdaledogpark. The petition reads, in part: "Dog parks are an invaluable community amenity, and one that Scarsdale is sorely lacking. It's time to ask the Board of Trustees to revive a 2018 initiative and finally site a dog park in our community. If you are a Scarsdale resident - and please, Scarsdale residents *only* - support us in this mission by adding your name." There are currently over 300 signatures, which I don't think it is necessary for me to include with this correspondence.

I would appreciate the Board taking a fresh look at what can be done to achieve this laudable goal, and am willing to work with the Board and the 2018 proponents to make it so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Josh Frankel
Black Birch Lane

<image002.png>

<image004.png>