

"Would they need parking, would they expect the Town to improve sidewalks," - *MayDOG*

Yes, there is need for (unpaved) parking, as this will encourage a higher usage of the park, however, MayDOG would not expect the town to build a parking area. However; we feel that some work might be carried out by the developer of the Solar Array. If further improvements to parking would be required, then we would once again finance the parking lot through fund raising and donations. Although we would not expect the town to install sidewalks on Waltham St. (currently, only one tenth of a mile is without sidewalks), we feel that this would be a worthwhile project for the town as it would encourage more residents to walk to the Dog Park instead of driving.

Would MayDOG be able to create some draft regulations for use of the park?

Absolutely, we would be both willing and able to create and provide draft regulations for the town. The American Kennel Club has created a list of suggested rules which would serve as a good guideline for the park for safety and comfort.

We would also like add that the Dog Park is not for dogs, but for dog owners. Some of the ancillary benefits of a Dog Park are:

- A well-exercised dog is a happier and healthier pet. An exercised pet is more likely to be a better neighbor. Puppies and dogs which get enough exercise by playing in an enclosed dog park are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, destroy property, jump on passers-by, etc.
- Owning a dog encourages people to exercise. Walking with a dog has been found to stimulate social interaction with other humans, dog parks bring people together and create a greater sense of community.
- Fosters social interaction between diverse groups of people.
- Dog parks are more accommodating for physically disabled persons and senior citizens who cannot always walk with their pets.
- Dog Parks help reduce vandalism at surrounding areas (as they are being frequented by adults on a very regular basis) and this would be of importance with the proposed Solar Array Farm in close proximity.

And not to forget:

- Dog owners make up a large part of the community, dog parks are one of those things that people look for when choosing a place to live - and research has shown that property values would increase with such a facility

It should also be noted that many other dog parks have been built on recovered land fill area. Quite recently a dog park was opened in Kennebunkport ME and we suggest that someone from the Town administration contact the Town Manager of Kennebunkport to discuss pros and cons of placing a Dog Park on a reclaimed landfill.

In closing, we would like to know what is required next by the Board of Selectmen from MayDOG, in order to get preliminary approval of an O.L.R.A.

Robert Wezwick
President Maynard Dog Owners Group, MayDOG