



**Board of Parks & Recreation
Meeting Minutes**

October 25, 2017

Please be advised that these minutes are in DRAFT form and will not become "Public Record" until they are formally approved by the Board of Parks and Recreation at their next regularly scheduled meeting planned for December 6, 2017.

Board Attendees: Frank DiVincenzo, John Hartwell, Rick Loh, Thomas McGarrity, Gary Dell'Abate, and Scott Johnson

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Susan Snyder, Billie Schock and Tom Greco

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Guest Attendees: Leslie Yager, Michael Scotti, Liz Johnson, Mike Iodice, Dean Gamanos and Kirk Schubert

I. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. Mr. Johnson opened the meeting by stating there was not a quorum. The minutes will be approved if additional members show.

II. **Civic Centers, Sue Snyder**

Ms. Snyder welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Snyder provided an overview of the two civic centers; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center and Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center:

Both centers have a Director, operate with 2 full time Custodians and part time Custodial Aids, a permanent part time Accounting Clerk and both operate weekend hours using Recreation Leaders.

Ms. Snyder provided brochures for each civic center which highlights their events. Both centers operate with in-house programs as well as rentals to other organizations who have various programming, both facilities are also rented for private parties.

Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center-WGCC

Ms. Snyder reported that last fiscal year the center brought in \$270,943 in revenue; primarily from the Children's Day School (10-year lease agreement) \$4,234/monthly, sometimes more for additional space they rent. The Dance Pointe pays from \$6,000- \$8,000/month and the weight Club brings in \$600/month.

Eastern Greenwich Civic Center-EGCC

Ms. Snyder reported that last fiscal year the center brought in \$200,052 in revenue; OGRCC pays \$2,150/month + additional room rentals, basketball camps, in-house programs \$20,000 a year (pickleball, soccer, indoor baseball, indoor softball). EGCC hosts larger special events.

Both Civic Centers have camps that operate out of them, the revenue stream does not go to either civic center. Kamp Kairphree operates out of EGCC and brought in \$157,000 in revenue. WGCC hosts the Adventurers Camp, and brought in \$61,000 in revenue.

III. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Dell'Abate to approve the Board Minutes from the September 27, 2017 meeting. 6-0-0

IV. Fiscal Year End-Open CIP

Mr. Greco distributed and reviewed the summary of 2017 operating costs/revenues and capital projects (**ATTACHMENT A**). Mr. Siciliano advised that the department budgets for a full allotment of employees, however for example, when someone leaves and it takes 6 months to replace them, the money budgeted for that position, will be returned to the fund balance. The money cannot be used for anything else. While it appears that the department returned a large sum of money, it is mostly as a result of open positions.

Mr. Greco added that the money that goes into the fund balance is used in the next year's budget instead of increasing the mill rate as these funds have already been taxed.

Mr. Siciliano further added that next year, \$11M will be taken from the fund balance and applied it to next years' budget.

Mr. Greco reported that on the revenue side, the department brought in \$171,000 more than projected.

Mr. Siciliano stated that the department makes revenue projections based on historical information. Much of the revenues are dependent on weather, thus making it a bit difficult. The goal is to work with a revenue stream that makes it obvious that Parks and Recreation is a revenue generating department.

Mr. Johnson inquired about beach attendance, Mr. Greco replied that the numbers were up from previous year over 500,000. Mr. Siciliano further added that attendance is booked at each beach location on an hourly basis; both scanners and punch count.

Mr. Dell'Abate inquired what the biggest number of attendance at Greenwich Point on a given day was. Mr. Siciliano replied that maybe 7,000.

Mr. Loh asked what caused the Rink to be down by \$100,000. Ms. Snyder responded that most of it was from the return of ice time, it is very difficult to rent early morning as there are no showers. Additionally, a men's program did not return. Other groups want the same time slots.

Mr. Greco reported each year, the department presents a 15-year plan, once projects are approved, they stay open until they are closed out if they were completed with or without spending all the money. Mr. Greco stated that he meets monthly with the division Superintendents and discuss each project and the next steps. The goal is to make sure that if a project is completed, it is closed out and the money is returned back to the same fund. This helps when submitting next years' plan, the chances of getting additional funding for projects is less likely if there are large balances for other projects outstanding.

Mr. Greco further reviewed the list of Parks and Recreation capital projects that are in DPW's budget. Mr. Siciliano added that the 15-year plan is really benchmarks for projects that can take place; projects get moved around based on need and timing.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the funding for Binney Park. Mr. Siciliano responded that the funding for the dredging is in the DPW budget but the landscape is in the Parks and Recreation budget. There is a total of \$225,000 plus approximately \$50,000 in private donations for the landscape. looking at ways to raise money to implement the Martha Lyon landscape plan, which will commence this spring.

V. Greenwich Point Master Plan, Tom Greco

Mr. Greco reported that there is a consultant on board for the Greenwich Point Master Plan. The consultant has already met with the special interest groups. There will be a public forum on November 6 at Eastern Greenwich Civic Center at 7:00 pm.

VI. Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reiterated that Jeff Freidag will be leaving the department on November 3; his position was posted, 15 applicants applied only 7 applicants meet the minimum qualifications; 4 that could be possible candidates for interview.

The budget guidelines were received from the BET today, the goal is to get the operating and capital budget in by November 17.

Mr. Siciliano reported the Greenwich Pool at Byram Park is well underway, on time and within budget. The goal is to have the pool open on Memorial Day 2018.

Mr. Dell'Abate inquired if there were naming opportunities. Mr. Siciliano replied that there is a naming opportunity, there are also other naming opportunities with bricks. The Junior League has been working hard towards their commitment of \$2.5M. They are currently working on a public appeal.

Mr. Siciliano advised that the department is working on a schedule for the pool as well as some light programming; the goal is not to over program the first year. Members of the staff have visited other community pools. There will be additional funding in the budget this year for additional lifeguards, the revenue stream will offset this. Proposing a pass increase for the year, which includes the pool, there will also be a guest fee. Guests will need to be accompanied by a resident.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the missing sedimentation basins at Binney Park. Mr. Siciliano reported that the Public Works Commissioner put together a response to the Horton article in the newspaper regarding the sedimentation basins. **(ATTACHMENT B)**

Mr. Siciliano reported the article included statements that were not 100% accurate. An assertion was made that the design left out sediment forebays, they were just done in a different way. They put in a series of dams with a basin to catch sediment. Instead of a big concrete street catch basin, they put in a series of dams to knock the sediment down with spaces in between them that can measure and clean. This method went through the whole approval process.

Mr. Siciliano added the sediment can be measured in the forebay and removed, this accomplishes the overall goal.

VII. Lia Fail Way, Frank DiVincenzo

Mr. DiVincenzo stated he had some questions about the Municipal Improvement (MI) application.

Mr. Siciliano stated the department will put together the MI application, once there is a professional site plan. A request will go to the Board of Selectmen, (BOA) for acceptance of the gift and MI and then the MI application goes to P&Z with the drawings.

Mr. DiVincenzo reported he and Bea Crumbine are working on a brochure to send to potential donors. The goal is to raise \$40,000-\$50,000. Additional funds are needed to get the site plan drafted.

VIII. Dorothy Hamill Rink Sub-Committee, Rick Loh

Mr. Loh reported that the committee met. A survey was sent to different user groups to find out what their needs for ice time are. The committee talked about the need to keep the various town departments up-to-date to let them know the committee exists and is moving forward. Going to reach out to the group that helped with the rink evaluation study in 2004, if they are still around, would like to line up the information provided by the user group to create a formal document that can be used going forward. One of the three plans for Greenwich High School includes an ice rink, will need to get on the same page.

IX. Field Sub-Committee

Mr. Dell'Abate reported that the committee met to review the field requests. Mr. Dell'Abate added that the system works.

Ms. Snyder stated that there have been some challenges; Western Middle School fields out of commission for games, New Lebanon field is in limbo, the change in school start times limits field use after school. Ms. Snyder further added that she heard that Board of Education is looking to add temporary field lighting at Central Middle School. There has also been some talk about overturning the restriction for lights at the high school.

Mr. Dell'Abate stated he is aware of some parents who want to overturn the school early start time.

Ms. Yager reported she attended the P&Z meeting, the Central Middle School neighbors came out, they were upset over the dangers at dismissal time because of a lack of lighting and sidewalks.

Mr. Dell'Abate inquired on the status of the turfing of the middle school fields. Mr. Siciliano stated prior to the BOE change over in facility management staff, he gave them the basic site plan with square foot cost estimate. Recently the plan was sent again. The hope is they will place funds in their budget for expansion of lights in certain locations.

X. Harbor Management, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that the Harbor Management Plan has been approved by the RTM. If you are doing anything on the coast the application will probably go to HMC before P&Z.

Mr. Siciliano stated that there are a few minor maintenance issues at Hamilton Ave. School. There is a plan to look at the Hamilton Ave. School Field, there will be some discussion at the next BOE meeting about the plan and funding an interim appropriation to get that field back as playable.

XI. Unfinished Business

Mr. Siciliano reported that since the last meeting, additional work has been done at the dog park; top soil, replanting of grass-portion of the park is closed off. Provided a storage area for dog equipment. Mr. Siciliano reported he met with Mike Scotti and Peter Tesei to review a proposal Mr. Scotti put together, discussion about dog park, commercial dog walkers, dogs on lead etc. there is an open conversation, regarding off lead opportunities, deal with some guidelines for following the rules. Proposal (**ATTACHMENT C**)

Mr. Scotti thanked Mr. Siciliano for the seeding and storage bin on behalf of Paws. Mr. Scotti reported that they've started an education for volunteers for a December 2 event at Greenwich Point. Volunteers will talk with the dog owners and educate them on what is expected and help them to be responsible.

Mr. Scotti further reported that he is meeting with Mr. Tesei to present him with the petition for the professional dog walkers. As a result of a few neighbor complaints, they have been banned.

Mr. Siciliano added that Greenwich Point is a great place to start the education of dog owners. Hopefully we'll turn the corner on the issue. The dog advocate folks have kept their word, and are educating people to progress to a more dog friendly community.

Mr. Dell'Abate volunteered to be the liaison to the dog advocate group, Paws of Greenwich.

Mr. DiVincenzo furnished an electronic dialog of neighbors complaining about dog issues ranging from dogs off leash, dog attacks, etc. (**ATTACHMENT D**)

XII. New Business

None

XIII. Meeting adjourned 7:49 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Summary of 2017 Operating Costs

	Approved Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget	Total Expenditures	Balance
Administration					
801 P&R Administration	989,745	119,872	1,109,617	1,047,020	62,597
Recreation					
811 Recreation Supervision	127,838	500	128,338	128,015	323
812 Organized Recreation	996,126	(19,906)	976,220	943,632	32,588
814 Eastern Civic Center	398,100	4,568	402,668	379,842	22,826
815 Community Centers	23,505	(807)	22,698	19,836	2,862
816 Ice Skating Rink	245,857	(10,023)	235,834	178,867	56,967
817 Western Civic Center	280,803	(6,122)	274,681	261,996	12,685
	<u>2,072,229</u>	<u>(31,790)</u>	<u>2,040,439</u>	<u>1,912,188</u>	<u>128,251</u>
Parks and Trees					
821 P&T Administration	137,663	(4,950)	132,713	128,500	4,213
822 Parks/Play Fields	3,444,943	(4,247)	3,440,696	3,299,189	141,507
825 Equipment Maintenance	177,821	1,500	179,321	178,143	1,178
829 Trees	1,289,431	1,116	1,290,547	1,154,140	136,407
	<u>5,049,858</u>	<u>(6,581)</u>	<u>5,043,277</u>	<u>4,759,972</u>	<u>283,305</u>
Marine & Facilities Operations					
831 Marine Supervision	232,006	0	232,006	228,489	3,517
832 Marine Maintenance	707,415	1,456	708,871	671,350	37,521
833 Beaches	1,266,143	(24,035)	1,242,108	1,153,704	88,404
834 Harbors & Boat Facilities	473,120	(20,908)	452,212	427,996	24,216
	<u>2,678,684</u>	<u>(43,487)</u>	<u>2,635,197</u>	<u>2,481,539</u>	<u>153,658</u>
Dept. Total	<u>10,790,516</u>	<u>38,014</u>	<u>10,828,530</u>	<u>10,200,719</u>	<u>627,811</u>

Operating

Parks and Recreation Summary of 2017 Revenues

	Approved Budget	Actual Revenue	Variance
Administration			
801 P&R Administration	0	4,650	4,650
Recreation			
811 Recreation Supervision	0	0	0
812 Organized Recreation	1,019,400	1,086,471	67,071
814 Eastern Civic Center	165,383	200,052	34,669
815 Community Centers	11,400	8,275	(3,125)
816 Ice Skating Rink	568,685	467,317	(101,368)
817 Western Civic Center	260,920	270,943	10,023
	<u>2,025,788</u>	<u>2,033,058</u>	<u>7,270</u>
Parks and Trees			
821 P&T Administration	0	0	0
822 Parks/Play Fields	22,250	116,235	93,985
825 Equipment Maintenance	0	1,107	1,107
829 Trees	0	3,549	3,549
	<u>22,250</u>	<u>120,891</u>	<u>98,641</u>
Marine & Facilities Operations			
831 Marine Supervision	0	0	0
832 Marine Maintenance	4,500	1,456	(3,044)
833 Beaches	2,110,750	2,066,769	(43,981)
834 Harbors & Boat Facilities	781,510	889,021	107,511
	<u>2,896,760</u>	<u>2,957,246</u>	<u>60,486</u>
Dept. Total	<u>4,944,798</u>	<u>5,115,845</u>	<u>171,047</u>

Town of Greenwich

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Capital Project Appropriation Statement

Capital Fund		Original Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Prior Yrs Spending	Current Yr Spending	Encumbr	Available Budget
Parks & Recreation								
801 P & R - Administration								
2016 Z 16180	Turf Study	40,000	0	40,000	9,500	0	0	30,500
1		40,000	0	40,000	9,500	0	0	30,500
809 Storm								
2013 Z 13213	Storm Sandy Infrastructure	785,810	2,045,552	2,831,362	2,785,185	0	46,177	0
1		785,810	2,045,552	2,831,362	2,785,185	0	46,177	0
812 Recreation - Org Rec								
2017 Z 17176	Skate Park Court Upgrade	200,000	4,900	204,900	128,586	75,800	0	514
2017 Z 17177	Heating Sys For Platform Tennis	26,500	0	26,500	22,976	0	3,500	24
2		226,500	4,900	231,400	151,562	75,800	3,500	538
822 Pks & Trees- Pks/Play/ Fields								
2012 Z 12192	School Landscape Program	50,000	0	50,000	24,394	0	25,606	0
2015 Z 15189	Tennis & Basketball Maint Progr	115,000	0	115,000	42,347	45,097	0	27,556
2016 Z 16193	Binney Park Master Plan Phase	150,000	0	150,000	19,520	0	0	130,480
2016 Z 16196	Bruce Park Bridge Repair	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	50,100	49,900
2017 Z 17180	Tree Truck - 1	195,000	0	195,000	0	0	182,914	12,086
2017 Z 17186	Binney Park Improvement	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000
2017 Z 17187	Playgrnd Inspectn & Upgrade Pr	210,000	0	210,000	23,773	25,070	28,280	132,877
2017 Z 17188	School Landscape Renovation P	25,000	0	25,000	0	623	16,019	8,358
2018 Z 18180	Compact Tractor	52,000	0	52,000	0	0	51,117	883
2018 Z 18181	Organic Turf Prgrm Equipment	25,000	0	25,000	0	14,147	4,770	6,083
2018 Z 18182	Parks Lawn Mowers	18,000	0	18,000	0	0	0	18,000
2018 Z 18183	Organic Turf Prgrm	300,000	0	300,000	0	0	14,842	285,158
2018 Z 18184	Artificial Turf-tuefel& Middle Schl	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	24,500	75,500
2018 Z 18185	Pemberwick Park Playground	75,000	0	75,000	0	0	21,348	53,652
2018 Z 18186	Playgrnd Inspectn & Upgrade Pr	210,000	0	210,000	0	0	0	210,000
2018 Z 18187	Tennis & Bsktball Maint Program	121,000	0	121,000	0	0	0	121,000
16		1,846,000	0	1,846,000	110,034	84,937	419,496	1,231,533
829 Pks & Trees - Trees								
2018 Z 18188	Tow Behind Wood Chipper	60,000	0	60,000	0	0	59,298	702
1		60,000	0	60,000	0	0	59,298	702
832 Marine - Maintenance								
2017 Z 17189	Storm Water Improvement	54,000	0	54,000	10,800	0	0	43,200
2017 Z 17190	Greenwich Point Master Plan Ph	35,000	0	35,000	0	0	35,000	0
2018 Z 18189	Workboat Outboard Motor	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	19,550	450
2018 Z 18190	Storm Water Management Progr	49,000	0	49,000	0	0	0	49,000
4		158,000	0	158,000	10,800	0	54,550	92,650
833 Marine - Beaches								
2014 Z 14195	Gr Point Kayak Storage Improve	50,000	0	50,000	17,337	2,240	3,153	27,271
2014 Z 14196	Repair Greenwich Point Causew	75,000	0	75,000	43,288	1,212	14,927	15,574
2015 Z 15197	Sand Replenishment	150,000	0	150,000	65,052	0	0	84,948
2017 Z 17192	Ferry Dock Headwall Repair	80,000	0	80,000	11,240	0	1,420	67,340
2017 Z 17193	Dredge Arch St Ferry Dock	100,000	0	100,000	5,768	2,890	38,442	52,900
2017 B 17194	Repair Grnwch Pt Causeway	1,334,000	0	1,334,000	0	0	0	1,334,000

Town of Greenwich**Wednesday, September 27, 2017****Capital Project Appropriation Statement**

Capital Fund		Original Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Prior Yrs Spending	Current Yr Spending	Encumbr	Available Budget
2018 Z 18191	Utility Cart (2)	34,000	0	34,000	0	0	0	34,000
2018 Z 18192	Replace Deck On Indian Harbor	200,000	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000
2018 Z 18193	Electrical Upgrde-ib Caretakers	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
2018 B 18194	Ferry Drydock Inspect & Maint	275,000	0	275,000	0	91,642	0	183,358
	10	2,348,000	0	2,348,000	142,684	97,984	57,941	2,049,391
834 Marine- Harbors & Boat Facil								
2015 B 15200	Launching Ramp - Cos Cob	250,000	0	250,000	6,832	390	19,630	223,148
2015 Z 15201	Launching Ramp & Docking - By	25,000	0	25,000	5,255	0	19,375	370
2016 Z 16199	Greenwich Point Harbor Pier	350,000	0	350,000	50,084	1,148	26,528	272,240
2016 Z 16200	Byram Dredge Permitting & Eng	100,000	0	100,000	12,864	330	6,467	80,340
2017 B 17195	Rpl Byram Launch Rmp & Install	260,000	0	260,000	0	0	0	260,000
2017 Z 17196	Seawall Repairs	81,000	0	81,000	16,769	0	17,883	46,348
2018 Z 18195	Marina Led Safety Lighting Upgr	25,000	0	25,000	0	0	17,220	7,780
2018 B 18196	Cos Cob Ramp Phase II	350,000	0	350,000	0	0	0	350,000
2018 B 18197	Dredge Byram Marina	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	0	0	0	1,500,000
2018 Z 18198	Grass Island Marina Expansion	25,000	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
	10	2,966,000	0	2,966,000	91,804	1,868	107,102	2,765,225
Total Parks & Recreation								
	45	8,430,310	2,050,452	10,480,762	3,301,570	260,589	748,064	6,170,539
	45	8,430,310	2,050,452	10,480,762	3,301,570	260,589	748,064	6,170,539

DPW - PR Capital Projects
15 Year Plan

Org	Capital Project	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	TOTAL
312	Annual Paving Program	4,000	4,000	4,250	4,500	4,750	4,750	4,750	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,500	5,500	72,750
312	P&R Parking Lot Maintenance Program	50	175	175	175	175	200	200	200	200	200	225	225	225	225	225	2,875
345	P&R Parking Lot Maintenance Program	4,050	4,175	4,425	4,675	4,925	4,950	4,950	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,475	5,475	5,475	5,725	5,725	75,625
345	Hamill Rink Improvement / Portable Rink			700	2,000	4,500											7,200
345	Bruce Park Mosquito Barn Replacement		60	800	400	100	440	400	60	400							860
345	Town Wide Restroom Rehab		600	100	250	40	750					60	200				2,500
345	Greenwich Point Facility Improvements			20													1,320
345	Eastern Civic Center Design		350	12,000				60	650	1,000							12,350
345	Byram Park Facility Improvements							60	650	200							710
345	Pemberton Community Center						100	650									1,200
345	Birney Park Maintenance Building		450														750
345	Phaelum Greenhouse & Garage Restroom	0	1,460	13,620	2,650	4,640	1,290	1,110	910	1,400	0	60	200	0	0	0	27,340
	Total	4,050	5,635	18,045	7,325	9,565	6,240	6,080	6,110	6,600	5,200	5,535	5,675	5,475	5,725	5,725	102,965

Caserta, Lenore

From: Siebert, Amy
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 5:16 PM
To: thomas.mellana@scni.com; jbreunig@stamfordadvocate.com
Cc: Tesei, Peter; bobhorton@yahoo.com
Subject: Binney Park

Good afternoon gentlepeople,

I would like to share some comments regarding Mr. Horton's Binney Park article on 22 October 2017. DPW believes this information should also be shared in like form – on page one – to correct the published information which was incorrect. Here goes:

First, it's great to know that someone remembered something I said at a presentation to the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce. I was speaking about public works in general, and I noted how while excavating under Route 1 for a drainage project, we came across an unmarked telephone conduit that caused us a major redesign. Yes, I noted that when you dig in the ground, you can find things!

In his article, Mr. Horton has made some pretty interesting comments about the Binney Park Pond project. He asserts we left out the sediment forebays – we did not. The Department of Public Works, with its consultant, and through discussions with regulators and the Town's Parks staff, developed the design for the project that has been underway this summer.

Let's think about the area in question. We're talking about Binney Park and the Cider Mill Brook. This is a living system – a watercourse that supports a variety of wildlife, including mammals, turtles, fish, birds, and other lifeforms. Today, you don't line these with concrete or some other impervious surface that eliminates part of the natural ecosystem – such surface would not readily allow plant life or other life to find a home at the bottom of the channel.

Let's also think about the permitting for these systems. The project was reviewed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency. These entities want to see us protect the environment. We, as engineers and scientists, also want to protect the environment. Today's design goals are to return rivers and streams to as natural a state as possible while meeting desired maintenance goals. We obtained the approval of all of these agencies for this project – that's three permits.

Let's review the project. Sediment accumulated over many years has been removed from the ponds in the park. The sediment forebays were constructed, streambanks restored, and stone weirs restored/constructed, among other tasks. Landscaping will occur in the spring. The design will allow us to lower water in the pond, isolate the forebay areas, and remove sediment every year or two. Maintenance frequency will be dependent on Mother Nature and operating experience. Our design allows the turtles, the fish, and all the other creatures to continue to thrive in the entire area as they have been doing for decades.

Let's talk about what residents can do to help Binney Park, now and in the future. If you live in the Cider Mill Brook watershed, and particularly along the banks of the brook, any and all efforts to control sediment and erosion on your property is appreciated. While we know erosion is a natural process, and sediment will move through the brook down to the Park, each and every one of us should do what we can to minimize this on our properties. Many resources are available that talk about proper streambank plantings as well as other stormwater handling processes that address erosion. And implementing good stormwater practices on our properties can also help

water quality issues. We appreciate everyone's help and efforts to keep Greenwich green, and to keep Binney Park the beautiful place that it is.

On behalf of DPW, I can only hope that one of these days we'll find ourselves teaming up with you folks to educate the public more about what steps we could all be taking to help stormwater quality, as well as other environmental matters. I bet your paper would be really helpful with those efforts, so if you have someone interested in getting out the word, we'd be delighted to work with them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy J. Siebert, P.E.
Commissioner, Greenwich DPW
203-622-7740

Town Hall Meeting

10/2/17

Peter Tesei

First Selectman

Joseph Siciliano

Director, Parks & Recreation

Michael Scotti

Presenting

Objective: To make living in Greenwich a more enjoyable experience for dog owners and their families through a comprehensive plan to address the issues currently facing such residents.

Executive Summary:

- 1) We seek to have improvements made to the existing dog park through a combination of municipal funding and private donations.
- 2) We seek more land to be designated as off leash areas where residents can exercise their pets without fear of ticketing.
- 3) We seek a change to the ordinance that prohibits Professional Dog Walkers from using the existing parks to exercise their client's pets.

Purpose: This document looks to briefly sum up the issues that each of the bulleted list above addresses in the sections marked **Issues**. We offer possible solutions and compromises for each of the three items, in the sections marked **Solutions**. The overall goal is to make Greenwich a better and more inclusive enclave for animal lovers and the general public.

Interesting Statistics:

- 70% of apartment seekers search for pet-friendly apartment housing via Apartments.com
- It is estimated that there are over 7,000 pet owners in the town of Greenwich, and only one dog park, located next to the sewage treatment plant
- Off leash dog parks are community centers, offering residents the opportunity to socialize, share ideas and truly create a sense of community
- All Greenwich resident are prohibited from hiring a professional dog walker to walk their dog in any town park
- Approximately 75% of Americans in their 30's have dogs, according to a survey released by research firm Mintel
- Since 1996, the pet industry has grown three-fold, to \$63 billion

1) Dog Park:

Issue: There are over 7,000 dog owners in the Town of Greenwich, we are the largest and most influential and affluent town on the Connecticut Gold Coast. Yet the only *LEGAL* off-leash Dog Park in Greenwich is less than one square acre and is located on Grass Island, right next to the town's sewage treatment plant. Dog owners endure horrible odors that emanate from the plant and have to deal with the mosquitos and flies which are attracted to the location. This area is sub-standard at best. The area is unsuitable to dogs and their owners for large parts of the year. The lack of tree coverage in the summer leads to a scant few hours in the morning and early evening when it is safe for dogs to run around without fear of heat exhaustion. Early evening brings out the bugs, which keeps smart dog owners away. Springtime flooding makes for a muddy experience due to the poor drainage. Winter finds us without a clear path from the parking to the actual area and no clearing of the snow from the dog's play area, which affects small dogs ability to move about. Additionally, the Dog Park wasn't properly designed, and has caused harm to dogs and their owners; we have seen incidents where dogs get their heads caught in the broken fences, fences that are not secure, glass in the play area, constant mud problem accumulation, sharp screws under the limited seating that can cut open a dogs head, and lack of snow removal on the stairs leading from the parking area. This is just a partial list, we could go on but for brevity sake, we will just say that a town the size and affluence of Greenwich, we should be able to do much better.

Solution: PAWS of Greenwich, a new non-profit, has shown an interest in caring for and improving the Dog Park. PAWS has already done some projects with help from volunteers and donations from private citizens. The good work they are doing needs to be recognized, and the town needs to participate in the effort, or at the very least relax the ordinances to allow them to make improvements without the added expense of having town employees present and mandating that PAWS pay for that service. We understand that there are union rules, but if PAWS is willing and able to donate their time and resources to improving this area the least the town can do is provide the union workers without cost to PAWS for the project. We believe that having a safe and well-maintained dog park is a hallmark of any great community. Greenwich can and has to do better through a series of changes to our priorities and budgeting the funds needed to improve the area. The longer-term goal would be to have more than one area and to have any new areas designed by professionals that are familiar with the unique needs of such facilities. We understand the herculean task that this involves, both from a time and political standpoint. The question is do we have the will to start this and the fortitude to see it through.

2) Legal Off Leash Trails:

Issue: The town of Greenwich encompasses almost 70 square miles of land (or 44,800 acres) and has a population of over 50,000 people. The dog population is estimated at over 5,000, which means that more than 10% of all the residents own one or more dogs. The only legal public area for them to allow their pets off leash exercise measures less than one acre. Due to the lack of adequate facilities, many people skirt the town laws and use our larger parks to walk

their dogs off leash, even though they could, and do, get fined for such behavior. We understand that much of this behavior “flies under the radar” and enforcement is not as strong as it could be unless provoked by complaints. Yet many other smaller and less influential communities are willing and able to facilitate the needs of their residents by providing ample space for off leash activities. Fairfield has one of the finest parks, Lake Mohegan, where people and animals interact in a safe and legal manner without the limitations in place here. Greenwich residents should not have to travel to exit 42 on the Merritt Parkway to access an area of this quality.

Solution: We propose that the Town Of Greenwich set aside some areas of our larger “Suburban Wilderness” areas like Pinetum and Mianus River Park and have them adhere to the more lenient General CT State Statute (2004 R-308) which states:

LEASH LAW

Roaming Dogs

The general statutes do not mandate that dogs be on leashes at all times. But (1) a dog's owner or keeper must not allow it to roam on another person's land or on a public highway, including sidewalks, if it is not under his control and (2) local governments may create leash ordinances. Violating the state roaming law is an infraction punishable by a fine of \$92 (CGS § 22-364). Additionally, the Environmental Protection Department requires that owners keep their dogs leashed in state parks.

To paraphrase: the dog must be under control but not necessarily on leash. We would not expect this in areas designated environmentally sensitive or areas that are close to any roads.

We suggest that the town offer a second class of dog license which allows for off-leash activities at designated places in those two parks. Part of the funds for the “off leash” licenses can be used to support the Friends of Mianus and other groups that help to maintain these areas. The fees for these off-leash licenses could also offset the cost of the signage needed to notify the public of the trails that are designated off leash zones. This method of regulating the use of parks to off leash activities is done successfully in many places, including New York City. Of course we would all prefer unfettered access for these activities but also want to be sensitive to our residents that don't prefer to see or come in contact with off leash animals. People are already walking their dogs in these areas, (albeit illegally), raising some funds from that activity gives our residents a sense of commitment to the land as well as eliminate the feeling of anxiety that comes from skirting the law.

3) Professional Dog Walkers:

Issue: The vast majority of our town's residents maintain a busy lifestyle and many turn to professional dog walkers to exercise their pets. In June 2017, Greenwich began actively ticketing dog walking companies in town parks, including Mianus River. A park that dog walking services have used for many years. On Thursday June 15, 2017 the town installed new signs

sighting Greenwich Municipal Code 7-30-3 and 7-31-10e, to enforce the Dog Walking company ban, which states the following:

- "No commercial use of parkland"
- "Prohibits advertising/profit-making use of parkland"

The posting of these signs seems to be targeted specifically against the dozen or so professional walkers that service Greenwich residents and act as proxies for the dog owners who cannot access the park during work hours. We know that the continued enforcement of these ordinances will inconvenience many dog owners, and will eliminate a valuable service that Greenwich residents have come to rely on. People are concerned over this and see it as an over regulation by the town. This concern is exhibited by the petition that was started by Paws of Greenwich and has gathered over 350 signatures in just three weeks. We are aware that the town is reacting to recent complaints made to the town. We would like to understand if these complaints are made by numerous people, or if this is the work of one or two vocal residents who are claiming "not in my backyard" status while enjoying the benefits of having a house that borders one of the parks.

Solution: We are requesting that the ordinance be altered to reflect the reality that the Town of Greenwich has a need for the services of these dog walkers to use the parks in a controlled and professional way. We ask that rather than *eliminate* the services that they provide, that we *regulate* the services they provide. We propose registering each dog walker and having them pay a yearly fee for a park permit. Here is a broad outline of what this would entail:

- a) Yearly Permit for a Nominal Fee (\$1,000)
- b) Proof of Legitimate Business (TaxID)
- c) Proof of Insurance and Bonding (Town to decide level of coverage)
- d) Mandatory Monthly Attendance at volunteer based Dog Committee
 - a. Committee reports monthly summary to Park & Rec
 - b. Committee reviews any complaints received
 - c. Committee self regulates and makes recommendations to P&R
- e) The Town can revoke current or deny future permits at any time
- f) All dogs being walked in town parks must be owned by Greenwich residents and be licensed, vaccinated and have their tags on

Each dog walker will wear a registration number so in the unlikely event of an issue the specific walker will be held accountable for any trail conflicts. A walker that has numerous problems associated to them can then be identified and future registration can be denied or curtailed based on the facts and recommendations of the dog committee. These walkers would be restricted to designated hours and trails within the park. All trails and hours would be posted at the entrance of the park and at the appropriate trail heads. Additionally, we have seen instances of out of state residents use our parks for professional walking and this method would allow the town to identify the outsiders and would curtail the use of the park to valid Greenwich residents only. The self-governing nature of the dog committee also has other positive side effects. Every professional dog walker's livelihood would depend on making sure that they and others adhere to the rules the town mandates. This also alleviates the burden for

the town from being the chief regulator of the rules as we propose here. The volunteer board would be responsible to notify the proper authorities when unlicensed operators attempt to use the parks and/or flaunt the rules.

Summary: Greenwich is home to some of the most influential and affluent people on the East Coast. We have a beautiful town that is a shining example for everyone that aspires to a wonderful life. The problems that we wish to address here are certainly not life threatening, they are valid concerns, and should be given the same careful thought and deliberation to other quality of life issues that the town addresses. We seek a middle ground where the town balances the needs of the overall community and understands the wishes of responsible pet owners. We want what is right for ourselves, but do not want to overburden our neighbors. We also do not want a small but vocal group of people who dislike dogs to curtail the rights of our professional walkers to provide this valuable service to the hundreds of residents that count on this service. Some of Greenwich's most prominent and notable families use these services. It is not limited by economic or social position. This is a need that spans across the strata of this town's citizens. We want a dog park that is safe, comfortable, and a place we can be proud to visit. We want to walk our well-behaved dogs off leash in designated areas without the fear of being ticketed. With this in mind we hope this document can be the starting point for a more detailed discussion and ultimately to get us to a point where issues will be addressed and resolved in a mutually effective manner.

Caserta, Lenore

From: DiVincenzo, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 8:54 PM
To: Caserta, Lenore
Cc: Siciliano, Joseph; Dell'Abate, Gary; Hartwell, John; Johnson, Scott R.; Loh, Richard; McGarrity, Tom; Slyne, Patrick; Christian Thalheim, Hans; Caplan, Nancy
Subject: Dogs in MianusPark

Hello Lenore,

Please add this conversation as it appeared In the "Nextdoor Greater Cos Cob site, into the record of tonight's Board of Parks and Recreation meeting. Sorry it's not in attachment form. Hope it works for you anyway.

Thanks,

Frank

Elizabeth Staple, Westover

Dogs in Mianus River Park

Most dog owners in the park are very respectful, so I'll start by saying I know I'm addressing a small group. Today during my walk two large, unleashed dogs ran by without an owner in sight. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence. My toddler loves walking in the park, examining things, spotting animals, etc., but unleashed dogs make that a dangerous environment for her. There are conspicuous signs stating the leashing requirement. Please respect them so that everyone can enjoy the park.

31 Aug · 18 neighborhoods in [Crime & Safety](#)



19 Thanks · [48 Replies](#)



Brian Fellion, Westover · 31 Aug

I completely agree! Further, it isn't safe for the free-running pet, either. The park isn't enclosed, so it's not hard to imagine a pet roaming beyond the boundaries into pretty busy roads. As a dog owner myself, it simply isn't worth the risk.



3 Thanks



Janis Stahlhut, Post Road·31 Aug

It needs to be said. I seldom walk there anymore for just this reason.



Thank

1 Thank



Janis Stahlhut, Post Road·31 Aug

sadly, there are always one or two that spoil it for everyone. there are clear signs that say LEASH REQUIRED. Is that so hard to understand?



Thank



Diane Mays, North Mianus·31 Aug

Actually, last year.....I ran into a dog walker who was harnessed with like 7 leashes and not one dog was on them! My little 20 lb dog was quite intimidated by his large beastly pack.....and while I'd love to say my cockapoo is not intimidating at all, I respect the rules. He is always leashed. With all due respect and not to cause trouble, I called Greenwich Police. They should be made aware and tickets should be issued, if possible.



Thanked!

4 Thanks



Frank DiVincenzo, Greater Cos Cob·1 Sep

Janis Stahlhut. Please don't give in and stop using the Park. The Park belongs to all of us. We can't allow irresponsible people to flout the rules. Report it and enjoy what nature has to offer.

3 Thanks



Joanna Giorno, Greater Cos Cob·1 Sep

AGREED!! Why is it so difficult for people to keep their dogs leashed, pick up their mess and stay out of others yards? Dog owners, Please be courteous, not everyone loves dogs



Thank



Whitney Alexander, Greater Cos Cob · 1 Sep

Hi. please call animal control and let them know when this happens. they will take note and go out to the park to see what is going on etc



Thank



Linda Drabova, North Stamford · 1 Sep

90% of dogs there are unleashed. I carry stick pepper spray taser horn. When you ask owners to leash them they look at you like you are crazy. Very disrespectful! If that happens just call animal control.



Thanked!

2 Thanks



Whitney Alexander, Greater Cos Cob · 1 Sep

if everyone calls animal control when they see it then they will go there more and ticket people so that it's stops. not all of the dogs in there are friendly and unleashed dogs running at a leashed dog (yours) will cause your dog to be on guard a s dog fight might break out. so it is very unsafe. no one calls animal control or the police non emergency number so it has gotten out of control in town over the years. please call.....it takes 2 minutes and if you get a message machine leave a message.



Thanked!

2 Thanks



Lyudmila Erlikh, Rippowam · 1 Sep

Actually it is allowed to have an unleashed dog in the Greenwich part of the park. Stamford does not allow it. And it is the police who enforces it on the Stamford side from time to time. It is an inconvenience but not a danger. I hope dog owners do not want anything bad to happen. Everyone just need to have and use their common sense.

 Thank
3 Thanks



Diane Mays, North Mianus · 1 Sep

Please re read the rules on line. It is illegal to have dogs unleashed in city (Stamford) town (Greenwich) and state (CT).

 Thanked!
3 Thanks



Elizabeth Staple, Westover · 1 Sep

I think you're incorrecr about the Greenwich side allowing unleashed dogs, but regardless, it really comes down to just being considerate of others. <http://www.friendsofmianusriverpark.org/park/visitor-guidelines.htm>

 Thank
2 Thanks



Michael Gorman, North Stamford · 1 Sep

Cut and pasted from the above website: Most of us regard Mianus River Park as a single space but legally it consists of Mianus River and Natural Park, owned by the Town of Greenwich; Mianus River Park, owned by the City of Stamford; and Mianus River State Park (commonly known as Treetops), owned by the State of Connecticut. Each has similar laws for their open spaces but with some significant differences. Dog Walkers State, Town and City laws all make it illegal to have a dog off leash in the park.

 Thank
4 Thanks



Diane Mays, North Mianus · 1 Sep

This is exactly where I pulled my information from! Thanks for including the link!

 Thank
1 Thank



Whitney Alexander, Greater Cos Cob · 1 Sep

You are not allowed to have unleashed dogs at any park in Greenwich. It has been law here for years and there are signs posted. It is for the safety of animals and humans.



Thank

1 Thank



Michael Gorman, North Stamford · 1 Sep

And here is a photo of one of the Kiosks inside the park stating the rules.



2



Thank

1 Thank



Whitney Alexander, Greater Cos Cob · 1 Sep

And there are signs at the park entrances....



Thank



Michael Gorman, North Stamford · 1 Sep

Dogs are allowed off leash at some Greenwich parks. Here is one open year round: Grass Island Dog Park
Shore Rd & Grass Island Rd, Greenwich, CT, US, 06830



Thank

2 Thanks



Whitney Alexander, Greater Cos Cob · 1 Sep

Grass island park is the only dog park in Greenwich so yes they are allowed off leash there. And at the beach they are allowed on the beach below the tide level only and this is during the months posted online. All other areas there is a leash law. Please feel free to call animal control to discuss if you do not believe.



Thank

1 Thank



Louise Stix, Old Greenwich · 1 Sep

Actually the reason dogs can be off leash is because it is a DOG park. Not a place where families hike.



Thank



Michael Gorman, North Stamford · 1 Sep

Sorry for any confusion. As I have stated, pasted from their website and provided a photo: Dogs are Not allowed off leash at Mianus River Park. Someone stated:"You are not allowed to have unleashed dogs at any park in Greenwich." I was just trying to provide correct information that you are allowed to have unleashed dogs at other parks in Greenwich: Grass Island Dog Park year round and at Greenwich Point Park (Tod's Point) below the high tide line during the winter months. I hope this clears thing up and sorry again for any confusion.



Thank

2 Thanks



Janis Stahlhut, Post Road · 1 Sep

ENOUGH ALREADY! DOG OWNERS PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE TO SPEND ALL THIS TIME ABOUT SOMETHING SO SIMPLE. DOGS=ON LEASH UNLESS IT IS A DESIGNATED DOG PARK (THERE IS ONLY ONE IN GREENWICH, DON'T KNOW ABOUT STAMFORD). We go through this every year about Tods Point too, when dogs are allowed ON LEASH (except, apparently, below the high tide line on the beach) during the winter.



Thank



Jennifer O'Connell, North Stamford · 1 Sep

As I Realtor I was showing a house that borders park. I had a brand new coat on during mud season and two blonde labs, unleashed came running from park and jumped all over me, one even bit my hand and arm, not seriously but hurt. Owner yelled SORRY!! as she and her dogs went on their way disappearing into the woods. Leashes people leashes!



Thank



David Hook, Newfield Ave/Vine Rd · 1 Sep

Its also a huge liability for the dog walkers and owners.



Thank



Louise Werner, Bedford St/4th St · 2 Sep

We definitely need more places where dogs can run free during certain hours. Enclosed dog parks are good but the are not the whole answer.



Thank

3 Thanks



Frank DiVincenzo, Greater Cos Cob · 2 Sep

As a homeowner bordering the Park, I am heartened that there are people (dog owners at that) that care about the Park enough to speak up. I can't tell you how many times I've had dogs come through my yard chasing deer. When I walk through the Park I ask owners of unleashed dogs to leash them. They could not care less and I get rude comebacks. I've been nipped at my ankles, on my coat and pawed on with muddy paws very much like Miss O'Connell had. The best way to improve the situation is to call the non emergency number of the GPD non emergency 203-622-8004 or Animal control 203 622 8229. It may seem that nothing is being done but, your complaint is recorded and when enough calls come in, they can justify an officer to come out and start writing tickets. Most of all don't be discouraged and use the park as it should be with your example.

5 Thanks





Stewart Farr, North Mianus · 2 Sep

Dog owners who dont leash their dogs in public dont care much for their dogs. So many things can go wrong. They will learn.



Thank



Linda Drabova, North Stamford · 2 Sep

How about taking pictures of those irresponsible dog owners and post them here



Thank



Diane Mays, North Mianus · 3 Sep

Interestingly enough big story in Greenwich time this morning on Grass (glass) island. Maybe it'll get the attention of friend and townspeople to do something about it!



Thank



Louise Werner, Bedford St/4th St · Edited 3 Sep

My personal feeling is that leash laws are far too restrictive, considering that NYC parks including Central Park have off leash hours from 9 p.m. To 9 a.m. and my dog loved to play there when we lived there. In parts of CA there are also off leash sections of the beach for dog lovers. Dogs have increasingly become part of people's families and if we found ways to accommodate them in certain areas or at certain times the problems would be easily eliminated. It doesn't have to be an us vs. them situation. In the meantime, there are several dog parks in the area in Greenwich, Stamford and Rowayton. Stamford is currently reseeding the large dog section, so most of it is closed off. As a result, one of my dogs was attacked by a more territorial pooch and so we aren't using it right now. I have not found Grass Island to be a problem, although if people see glass there it might be a good idea to just pick it up. At Rowayton, dog poop is often a problem even through there are usually plenty of poop bags around. Westport is a trek, but there is a park behind the Playhouse that allows for off leash although it isn't fenced in. The best location for an off-leash hike is Lake Mohegan in Fairfield. That's a long drive for anyone trying to reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to reversing climate change.



Thank

2 Thanks





Rosemary Loudon, Old Greenwich · 4 Sep

In the fifty years I have had the privilege of being a dog's companion I have always obeyed the leash laws. If I want to "run" my dog I do so on my own property (less than 1/4 acre). The leash laws are for everyone's protection, including the dogs'. Take your dog to agility training if need to learn new ways to exercise your dog.



Thanked!

6 Thanks



Linda Drabova, North Stamford · 4 Sep

Sports like lure coursing or Flyball are great as well.



Thank

1 Thank



Jennette Leal, Old Greenwich · 4 Sep

I moved here from Marin County (north of SF) a year ago and although I am a dog lover and owner, I am relieved that there are more limits on dogs here. Or at least, people respect leash laws a little more here. Marin County open spaces were overrun not just with unleashed dogs but also with dog poop everywhere. This is pretty gross for everyone. When the dogs aren't leashed, the owners don't necessarily see where the dogs are leaving their poop (I'm not saying this was always intentional, but if your dog runs off trail, maybe you don't see them going to the bathroom... benefit of the doubt). Letting dogs go to the bathroom just anywhere can also impact habitat for wild animals - if a breeding or feeding ground smells like a dog has been there, birds and other wildlife interpret that as an intruder, and it can impact feeding, mating and breeding- they will avoid that area. There are many reasons for dogs to be leashed, but the safety of people and pets are the primary reason. I can't tell you how many times my small-statured children have been run over and jumped on by "friendly" dogs that were off leash. Believe me, I like your friendly dog but my kids are terrified. Leash laws help everyone.



Thanked!

6 Thanks



Don Carlson, Old Greenwich · 4 Sep

I'd like to echo the few lonely voices speaking up for the right of dogs to run free. Yes all owners should have good verbal control over their dogs; and yes aggressive or unruly dogs should be leashed. But the fetish of having companion animals perpetually leashed is an example of humans wanting everything in nature to be contained, controlled and subject to our social norms. I love watching my beautiful dog chasing squirrels and frolicking in the woods. What on earth is wrong with that? There ought to be at least some portions of the

woods where that is legal -- just as there should be some portions where those who feel threatened by dogs can go to walk and enjoy the woods in their own way.



Thank

2 Thanks



Elizabeth Staple, Westover·4 Sep

Thanks for your reply, Don. You make good points for a debate over whether or not the park SHOULD be leash-only, but as long as the park IS leash only, it's hard to see room for debate re whether or not individuals should respect the rules.



Thank

2 Thanks



Louise Werner, Bedford St/4th St·4 Sep

Elizabeth, I don't recall anyone on this feed saying the law should not be respected.



Thank



Elizabeth Staple, Westover·4 Sep

Louise, I tried to be as polite as possible in my original post and all responses. Obviously people are not following the law, as so many of us commenting here have had issues with unleashed dogs in the park.



Thank

3 Thanks



Sally Chamberlain, North Stamford·Edited 4 Sep

Oh Don, if only most of the dogs running loose in the parks were actually under ANY verbal control! Yelling that "they're friendly!!" as they're running up to someone else, and the fact that they EVENTUALLY come back to you, doesn't count as control. I'm not saying YOUR dog is like that, but in reality, sadly, most are. Nobody leashes their dog because they WANT to, everyone (myself included) would love for their dogs to run free and have all the freedom in the world, but the fact is, in public, we need leashes to keep everyone safe and because it's the law.



Thanked!

4 Thanks

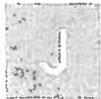
Linda Drabova, North Stamford·4 Sep

Why not find a place for dogs to run off leash and suggest it to the city to be designayed as one. Nothing wrong with initiative , although it takes some work.



Thank

4 Thanks

Joanna Giorno, Greater Cos Cob·4 Sep

Jessica, can you expand on your answer? Not sure what you are alluding to?



Thank

1 Thank

Stewart Farr, North Mianus·4 Sep

How bad is the grass island park? Can it be cleaned up? Likewise I like Linda's suggestion of finding the more solutions for dogs to run off leash. Provided it is well managed. I don't want harm to come to the people, wildlife or the dogs (I love dogs, but don't have any because I no longer live on a large property). Anything less than well refined management of the matter will end in someone getting hurt. Just letting dogs run free because they are friendly, is not good enough - for all parties involved. Seen too many attacks both from dogs and towards dogs to think all people have everyone's interest at heart. We can get there, but it requires actual work and it requires compassion. Not demands.



Thank

2 Thanks

Diane Mays, North Mianus·4 Sep

Stewart - according to the article, it seems pretty bad. I don't know as it's been a long while since I've been there. This seems like a good time to adress the issue. and bring forth concerns on this 'string' of responses to the attention of Town of Greenwich Grass Island Dog Park. I just don't know how to acculate email addresses to start a petition (or ??) to help support the Dog park.



Thank



Jennifer O'Connell, North Stamford · 4 Sep

My friend is terrified by dogs. She was seriously bitten by one as a child. How awful it was for her as she exited the ladies room at Tod's Point and was jumped on by a "friendly" weimaraner, off leash, during dog season. Dogs are allowed 100-200 yards away,(depending on tide), in low tide area only. Children in strollers are attacked by dogs is not unheard of in any city USA. As a long time owner of many rescue dogs, two dogs in our home now, I believe in people first, pets second. PS Just a few years ago an owner in Mianus Park let her dog off leash during the winter and was never seen again. After much searching the opinion was that the poor fellow fell through the ice and drown. PS PS I too have two sets of scars from friendly dogs that I received as a child. This doesn't count re: my nip and bight from the 2 dogs at Mianus Park that I previously mentioned. People shouldn't be afraid.



Whitney Alexander, Greater Cos Cob · 4 Sep

There was an article regarding cleaning up Grass Island Park in the paper recently. I know the town is frustrated with residents and having to police the leash laws not just in parks but there are unleashed dogs all over town. There have been many dog bites and attacks in town that no one ever hears about. And unfortunately if you are bit or your dog is there are not strict laws to protect you



Marcia Davis, Old Greenwich · 4 Sep

This is almost the exact same discussion we had on here regarding following the rules at Tod's point in the winter! It doesn't matter whether you'd love to let your very well behaved dog run free or not- it's common decency to respect the law and your neighbors. I am an animal lover and owner, but I acknowledge the fact that not everyone is. There seems to be a problem with entitlement in our town. No, you are not entitled to special privileges, we all have to follow the same rules. The original poster was not opening a discussion about whether or not dogs should be allowed off leash, she was asking that people please have the courtesy to follow the rules and respect others.



4 Thanks



Andrea Richter, Greater Cos Cob · 4 Sep

Amen Marcia. Well said.



Thank

2 Thanks



Nishani Naidoo, Old Greenwich · 5 Sep

Take a picture and report it. Same with people who blow through crosswalks, etc. The problem is that they keep doing it because they get away with it. So the rest of us get intimidated and stop using these recreational spaces. It's a few people who destroy it for the rest of us, so we need to figure out a way to make sure civility is restored



Thank

1 Thank



Louise Werner, Bedford St/4th St · 6 Sep

Next Door is a forum for sharing and for discussion.



Thank