

# ***Bark Park News***

***March 2019***



Yarmouth residents,  
Sweet Georgia Brown & Mr. Indiana Black

**News of Yarmouth Parks and Lands Committee's proposed off-leash dog park.**

**Send us pictures of your dog(s) and s/he could be our next *Bark Park News* star!**

**Get your updates and information right from the dog's mouth...or join the email list to get immediate information as it is "released."**

**Sign up today:**  
[marywebber612@gmail.com](mailto:marywebber612@gmail.com)

## **Top Priorities: Park Design and Cost Estimates**

The first organizational meeting of the Bark Park was called on Thursday, March 7th.

At this gathering, amidst discussions of possible park sites, fund raising efforts, and pet waste disposal, it quickly became clear that our first priorities should be developing a park design and estimated budget figures. Weighing the cost of fencing alternatives, surface materials, waste disposal systems, and various pet and people amenities is the next step. We plan to investigate various eco-friendly solutions to these needs, including rainwater collection and solar lighting.

Regarding site options, it is hopeful that the selected location is already town-owned so as not to remove additional property from the tax rolls. Adequate nearby parking, and an effective waste disposal program are also critical. Aside from the aesthetics, proper pet waste pick-up is essential to both pet and human health. Giardia, an intestinal parasite, has been noted at one Portland dog park, and its prevention, through prompt pick-up and disposal, is essential for disrupting the disease cycle. It was noted that Scarborough uses a large bin with a small drop-down opening (similar to a mail box) which is also effective in preventing the use of this bin for other trash/waste disposal.

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**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 AT TOWN HALL STARTING AT 6:30PM.**

## Top Priorities: Park Design and Cost Estimates (cont'd)

Further discussion focused on potential fundraising including prospective corporate business sponsors, fees from magnetic access keycards, sponsored paving stones and other amenities.

Rules for the park, such as hours of operation, have yet to be discussed, but public input on any proposed rules is essential. Please share with us any concerns you or others you know may have about any aspect of a possible off-leash dog park; such information would be very helpful for guiding this committee's efforts.



### **Bark Park: A Park that Yarmouth will Love**

**(...and Fido will, too!)**

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

1. Please share this newsletter with anyone who might be interested.
2. Want to be on the mailing list? Just send your information to Mary Webber, Parks and Lands Committee representative and Bark Park coordinator. See contact info below.
3. We need demographic information on how many dogs there are in Yarmouth, how many owners (we found at our meeting that most of us have two dogs), and specific needs of various categories of dog owners. We may need to develop a survey of dog owners. Is this something you'd like to work on? Let us know!
4. Could you check out the amenities, fencing, waste disposal bins, and other features at other locations? You can send your investigations directly to Mary's email below.
5. If you know of a feature that works well in other communities, you could assist by doing research on those sites' specifics, sizes, sources, costs and/or any reviews that site may have for its effectiveness.

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