

2/5/16 - Awaiting WUVDP committee approval

WATSON UPPER VALLEY DOG PARK  
Minutes of meeting – January 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM  
Hartford Town Hall

Those present were Marina Silvio (President), Amanda Childress (Membership), Gaylord Newcity (Vice President) and Toni Richie (Communications).

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- 2) Minutes of last meeting of November 11, 2015 approved.
- 3) Discussion about raising \$6,000 in 2016 rather than \$3,000 as in past years. Many ideas and suggestions which we will work on over the coming months. Some ideas are: increasing membership to \$25 per person, holding a yard sale, arrange with local businesses to ask customers at the checkout if they'd like to donate \$1 to WUVDP.
- 4) In order to increase membership, we need to communicate clearly the benefits, such as receiving updates via email (Mail Chimp) regarding events/issues at the park; perhaps arranging a 10% discount at local animal-related businesses (vets, groomers, doggie day-care centers, pet stores etc.); free use of the SAVES indoor "dog park". We plan to establish a membership sign-up table when we reopen after mud season. Amanda will redesign the membership form.
- 5) How to encourage more people to volunteer – we had only a cursory discussion of this.
- 6) Potential improvements discussed -- installation of a culvert for the dogs to climb on and tunnel through; some agility equipment; another floodlight, or other lighting options to shine more areas of the big and little dog parks, primarily for safety as well as for fun; a bin for dog toys. Stressed the importance of getting approval of and discussing with town officials first.
- 7) Regarding use of the indoor space at SAVES, Marina needs to connect with Wayne Vanasse (Facilities Manager) in order to firm up our arrangements for this year.
- 8) Dan will need to raise the gates at both sides of the park to accommodate the build-up of snow & ice.
- 9) OTHER – Toni will send Mail Chimp login info to Amanda and Marina. Toni will begin using the Upper Valley listServ for announcements in addition to MailChimp and Facebook; Toni will also see that we are listed on various dog park websites (dogfriendly.com, wetnoses.com, etc.). Next meeting scheduled for 7PM on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.