



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

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Peter Spellios, Chair
Board of Selectmen
22 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907

June 4, 2018

Dear Mr. Spellios,

I am writing on behalf of the Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee regarding the renewed interest in siting a dog park in town. We understand that the Board of Selectmen will be discussing, and likely voting on, an authorization for the Town Administrator to work with the nonprofit organization "Swampscott Park for Off-Leash Time, Inc." (SPOT) on the creation of a dog park on land located just west of the Department of Public Works Annex behind the Swampscott Cemetery off Essex Street.

We agree that the proposed location presents the best available option in our town for a dog park. It is a large site with no immediate residential abutters, has an area for parking, as well as access to water. It will also result in the utilization of presently unused vacant Town property as public open space. We therefore support the Board moving forward with the creation of a task force comprised of the Town Administrator or his designee, a member of the Board of Selectmen, and one or more representatives from the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee and SPOT to work out the park layout, rules and regulations, etc.

That said, we have serious concerns regarding the proposed plan to access the site by driving through the historic part of the cemetery on a single-car only path that closely abuts historic gravesites, and the impacts that traffic flow would have on the cemetery. We suggest, therefore, that alternative access points be explored, in particular, access to the site by way of Capen Road, with parking in the existing DPW area.

As you may be aware, creation of a community dog park is one of the objectives of the 2013 Open Space & Recreation Plan and a goal that our Committee fully supports. We believe that a dog park would be a valuable resource in our community and one that should be supported by the town officials.

We are happy to assist in anyway the Board believes would be helpful in the siting of a community dog park in town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tania Lillak".

Tania Lillak, Chair
Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee

CC: Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator