

**HAMDEN RDOG MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2008**

The meeting opened at Hamden Government Center at 7:00pm. There were 12 people present.

The minutes of September 25, 2007 were read and approved.

Dawn Tiedemann reviewed the activity since the last meeting: fundraisers held at Two Smiling Dogs (photos with scarecrow, photos with Santa, photos with Easter Bunny, donation jars, percentage of professional photos). Many members attended the town meeting on the disposal of dead animals at the landfill. That issue seems to be resolved for now. Many members wrote to the town and the newspapers.

Dolores Giannini gave a presentation on the activities to date regarding the Hamden Animal Shelter. This began four years ago with a group that researched other shelters, have met with architects and engineers, applied for seed money to pay for initial planning fees, researched and selected a site, and are currently working with the town to apply for the funds to build it. They started another group, Happy Tails, a non-profit group to raise money for equipment, furniture for the community room, medical funds for sick animals, vaccinations/medical exams for current stray pets, and resuscitation equipment for all fire trucks in town. Animals now held at North Haven Animal Shelter, and are posted on petfinder.com. The proposed shelter will have 18 kennels, and a cattery for 30 cats.

Ann Levison distributed the financial report. Balance \$5,709.90. Expenses remain as disposal bags.

Spring Work Party: to be held May 17, 9am-12pm. Raindate May 18. Park will be closed during the work party in order to get the work accomplished without additional distractions. Difficult to open side gate to trucks with many loose dogs. Volunteers will be given T-shirt as a token of thanks. The group decided that stone gravel is not needed this year, but wood chips in the two front areas is needed. Will contact town about obtaining chips. Need a truck. Have several replacement blue plastic bag holders. Can put one in small dog area. Would like to move lock on bulletin board to middle so that it cannot be opened from below. Broken bench needs replacement board (Leo to work on). Small dog area has gaps in fencing (? wire).

Other park issues: The trash can near the bulletin board is missing and needs to be replaced. The dumpster outside the gate is not used and should be removed. The sand barrel is falling apart, and needs to be taken away. Gary will contact town. It has been noticed that some dogs do not have licenses and it was suggested that we have someone stand at the entry and not permit dogs in without licenses. It was felt that we do not have the authority to do this, but that Dawn will write a letter to the animal control officer and suggest that visits be made from time to time to check on licenses. Tennis balls are in bad shape. We will ask people to donate them. Lost dog signs should be dated, and removed after 2 months.

Memorial Day Parade: It was decided that there is not enough interest to participate.

Website has been updated by Veronica. Eleanor continues to expand www.henriscorner.com.

2008 Tax Filing and State of CT forms to be completed by Dawn, and our accountant Bruce.

A motion was made and passed to donate \$200 to Happy Tails, as RDOG was initially founded to create a dog park and to support the animal shelter. The group will send a letter of thanks for attending the meeting, and to congratulate them on the work done so far.

We have heard from the following dog parks which are either still in planning or are opening soon: Watson Dog Park in Hartford VT (opening day June 7), South Windsor opened November 2007

and asked us about non-profit status, Enfield asked about our layout for planning their park, West Hartford is in organization phase, Trumbull has been approved and clearing was to begin in November if the weather was right, Stamford is trying to raise \$45,000, Manchester Park for Pooches is still planning but asked us about numbers for usage, Somers is forming a group. See www.hamdenrdog.org for more info.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Dawn Tiedemann