
FW: Dog Park Special Event and Library Landscaping Project

Joan Chabot <jchabot@tiverton.ri.gov>
To: Catherine Damiani <cdamiani@tivertonlibrary.org>

Wed, Sep 20, 2023 at 4:31 PM

FYI

Carol sent it directly to council members

From: Carol Herrmann <cherrmann-trustee@tivertonlibrary.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:05 AM
To: ddemedeiros@tiverton.ri.gov; mburk@tiverton.ri.gov; jpedwards@tiverton.ri.gov; jedwards@tiverton.ri.gov; djanick@tiverton.ri.gov; dmilbourne@tiverton.ri.gov; administrator@tiverton.ri.gov; Joan Chabot <jchabot@tiverton.ri.gov>
Subject: Dog Park Special Event and Library Landscaping Project

Dear Town Council Members,

We are writing to share our concerns about the dog park's proposed plans to run a Lollapawrooza on October 7, 2023. As you are aware, a softball tournament has already been scheduled for that day at Bulgarmarsh Park, and so the parking spaces in that lot will likely be filled to capacity. Any overflow parking from that event will no doubt impact the library lot. The library is open to patrons every Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. While we can certainly absorb some overflow parking from the softball tournament, adding another special event at the dog park during the same hours will negatively impact the ability of library patrons to access the library and its resources that day. For this reason, and in order to provide a safe environment for all drivers and pedestrians in our lot, we would ask that another large event not be scheduled for that day.

We have also read on social media that the dog park's organizers plan to have vendors set up tables on the library lawn. If this is true, it would be in direct violation of the library's long-standing solicitation policy (see attached). Last year we made an exception for the dog park's grand opening in order to be a good neighbor, although the organizers never contacted us requesting permission to set up vendor tables on the library lawn. Moving forward, however, any use that violates library policy would have to come before the trustees for discussion and a vote. That has not happened yet in regard to the new "annual fundraising event" now being brought before the council. If the town council votes to approve the requested special event permit for October 7, we ask you to please clarify that the event permit does not include permission to violate library policy by setting up vendor tables on the library grounds.

Finally, we'd like to address the issue of the library's property management. According to the state of RI Library Trustee Handbook, trustees are the "legal guardians and custodians of the library," are responsible for the "promulgation of all its rules and regulations," i.e., policies, and are charged with "managing property and finances for the constituency served." While the town of Tiverton legally owns the library building and the parcel it sits on, the library director and trustees manage the property on a day-to-day basis. This management has included the installation of new outdoor story walks around the building, routine maintenance of planting beds around the building perimeter, the addition of a memorial bench and tree on the library lawn, and striping and resurfacing of the parking lot, among other improvements.

One of our current projects includes the installation of a fence and plantings along the library's southern property line that abuts the dog park property. In April 2022, the trustees met with the dog park chair, David Paull, and we toured the site together. As summarized in a follow-up email sent to Mr. Paull and the town council (see attached), he told the trustees at that time that the dog park planned to erect fencing on the library lawn side of the entry path to help direct the public to access the dog park directly from Roosevelt Ave. He added that the plan was to eventually line the exterior of the entry path fence with plantings to camouflage it and to provide a more aesthetically pleasing view from the outside.

As recently as April 2023, the dog park committee minutes (see attached) included the following agenda item: "Discussion/Possible vote on entrance path fence" in response to "continued issues with people walking across the grass to access the dog park." The item was tabled "pending seeking advice from the Town Administrator regarding feasibility."

We'd like to stress that both the dog park committee and the library have always been in agreement about the need for the fencing and additional landscaping. Although the dog park originally committed to doing the work, the library is now in a position to assume responsibility for it. The library director also discussed our current fencing and landscaping plan with the town administrator, who has encouraged us to move forward with it. As a result there should be nothing controversial about the plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information from the trustees.

Best regards,

Carol Herrmann
Chair, Tiverton Library Board of Trustees

3 attachments



Library Solicitation Policy.pdf
53K



Gmail - Re Dog Park Progress.pdf
231K



DogParkMinutes.pdf
44K