

Heather Finnell

From: Suzanne Council <suzanne.council@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:39 PM
To: HB Commissioners; HBCommissioners; Woody Tyner; HBCommissioners;
HBCommissioners; HBCommissioners; Heather Finnell
Subject: HB Dog Park

Dear Mayor and HB Commissioners,

Thank you for placing the requested dog park on your agenda. The residents are underserved in regard to a dog park since the closest one is several miles from the island.

There is no question that you can act quickly to accommodate the needs of the resident community and vacationers as the minutes read that it has been a record money-making year for HB and there is excess tax money on hand. Other evidences are the recreational courts in place near Townhall and the free parking, restrooms, showers & water for nonpaying vacationers. Yet for every one basketball or pickleball player, I would venture to guess that there are twice as many dog owners who need an area where they can safely and legally exercise their dogs off-leash. Resident dog owners here have made their dog-related needs known. When you took away our dog park, you indicated to us that when the dog park dried, it would be returned to same use. Please keep your word. Thank you.

Heather Finnell

From: Jeff Hodges <rolledspine60@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:52 AM
To: holden@atthebeachnc.com; geraldbrown365@gmail.com; Woody Tyner; Brian Murdock; sullivm4@gmail.com; patricia kwiatkowski; Heather Finnell
Cc: laura Throckmorton; Suzanne Council
Subject: Agenda Item: Dog Park

Mr Mayor and BOC members; I would like address the subject of our dog park. The old Dog Park on Scotchbonnet road was taken away with the assurance we would have the use of it again in a few months. This was never going to happen. The residents of our Island who are dog owners need a dog park. The visitors to our Island need a dog park. And most importantly the dogs need one! Dogs need room to move, exercise and run if they feel the need. A fenced yard is not always the answer as many of us have very small yards. Dog parks provide a social environment for inter-action among different breeds. The owners also can enjoy this and many new friends can be made. The land needed can be modest, and upkeep minimal. To prepare the former area will take time and no small amount of funds. The town has property (though I am not versed in all of the locations) that may be useful as even a temporary Dog park. There is land East of the bridge bordered by Ferry on the West, Canal on the North and Shrimp on the East. It's location could provide parking and a very generous sized park. Although this may be private land, an arrangement for temporary use may be possible. I know that non-pet owners do not see this as a necessity, yet it will be an enhancement to our permanent residents and visitors quality of life here on Holden Beach. When the very warm weather is here, as it is now, dog walking can almost be dangerous! The heat and traffic are a challenge that a Dog Park would help negate. When we consider the amount of money spent buying the house next to the pump station, and return on investment of our tax dollars a dog park will be a positive return immediately. The jury is still out on the house purchase though broker and seller came out ahead. We, your constituents, are still awaiting some more positive action on this as now that the budget has been tackled you may focus on this and the other "loose ends" on the agenda. Thank you for your time and consideration! Jefferson and Mylene Hodges 254 Brunswick Ave. West.

Heather Finnell

From: laura Throckmorton <lthrock55@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Heather Finnell
Subject: Commissioners meeting, public comment on dog park,

As the Commissioners meeting is not open to the public, I am writing in regards to the agenda item - dog park.

I am requesting the Town of Holden Beach reestablish a dog park. I have owned my home since 2008 and relocated here full time in 2017. Prior to being full time, I used the dog park when here, and after my move the dog park on Scotch Bonnet was used daily. I soon learned the dog was used by many folks on a daily basis and during rental season met many guests there. When the park closed, we were told it would reopen in the spring of 2019. To date nothing has been done to reestablish a dog park on the island.

Living here full-time, I have learned permanent residents have very little influence in the decisions the Town makes, as the tax base from absentee owners and those whose only interest in the island is for the investment seems to be of greater importance than the quality of life for full time residents. Therefore, in an effort to include those homeowners, I searched the rental realty sites to determine the number of pet friendly rentals on Holden Beach. I found approximately 125 homes advertised as pet friendly on the island. This number seems to increase each year as more families now travel with their pets and nonresident owners are responding to their guest's request to allow pets. A dog park would benefit not only the permanent residents but our seasonal guests who bring their pets with them.

I understand if you are not a dog owner why you may not see the importance of a dog park. However, those of us with dogs, understand the need for the dog to socialize and have a place to run off leash. A dog park provides not only a place for the dog to socialize and run, but also affords the owner a park experience. Yes, dog owners could fence their yards, but a small fenced yard does not provide the same experience for the dog or owner.

Since we are reportedly having a record rental season and real estate sales are hot, in spite of COVID -19, surely the Town can locate the funds to reestablish a dog park on this island.

Thank you,

Laura Throckmorton

271 Brunswick Ave.

Heather Finnell

From: tracey thomas <tracey7.thomas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Heather Finnell
Subject: Speed limit

Heather,
Please read my comments at the meeting tomorrow (7/21/20). Thanks!

Speed limit change:

First of all, let's be clear that the speed limit on Ocean blvd west of the pier is **45 mph** (with a seasonal reduction to 35pmh), so Jeremy's argument in his memo dated 7/13/20 saying we cannot increase the limit to 45 mph due to NCDOT Traffic Ordinance chapter 3 section 24 is flawed - the speed limit is currently 45 mph!
(Ref: <http://ncdot.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=2229ffaa3ea5470992d021023618e1e6&useExisiting=1>)

The rest of Jeremy's arguments then support the current 45 mph speed limit. This speed limit was determined by a NC traffic and engineering study and is the safe and correct speed for that section of the road.

We should accept the science on the correct speed limit and the fact that there has never been an incident (per Jeremy at the Jan meeting), and not change it because a couple people want to drive their golf carts on the road in the winter. Please make a fact based decision and not based on unsubstantiated fear of accidents.

We currently do NOT have any official crosswalks in that area. If and when we get them, perhaps the speed limit will need to be revisited, but until then that shouldn't be used as a reason. Hopefully where crosswalks are needed will also be based on a scientific study and not someone subjectively choosing.

Finally, when surveyed in the Fall of 2019, almost 80% of over 400 respondents wanted the 45 mph to remain in effect during the off season. The people have spoken! (Woody's email to 100 people is not a 'random' sample like the survey was.)

I hope that the commissioners will listen to the majority of people.

I live full time on the west end and feel very strongly that the speed limit remains 45 mph in the off season.