



*Monkton Community Dog Park Newsletter  
Issue 2, November 26, 2020*

## **A Community Dog Park for Monkton -- Newsletter**

Welcome to the Thanksgiving issue of our *Monkton Community Dog Park* Newsletter!

You are receiving this newsletter because you have asked to be added to our email list, or have shown interest in receiving news about our progress. To unsubscribe, please write to us at [dogpark@monktonvt.com](mailto:dogpark@monktonvt.com)

In this issue, we are honoring the season by giving thanks to our generous sponsors, our hard working committee members and auxiliaries, our community, and our pups, of course.

### **The Monkton Community Dog Park is Open!!**

First and foremost, we are so grateful that Monkton now has a community dog park!

Construction was completed on November 19, and on November 21, we officially opened the dog park in accordance with the current restrictions from Governor Scott. The entrance is posted with a limit of two individuals from different households, along with all other previously issued Covid-19 mandates. We have not publicized this widely, in order to keep the park from being overrun with excited patrons, but as soon as the public health situation improves, we look forward to a real “soft opening”. In the spring (conditions permitting) we will have a grand opening where we will thank our sponsors and celebrate everyone who helped make this dream come true.

### **Our Generous Sponsors**

We kicked off our fund-raising campaign with the first issue of the newsletter on August 19, 2020. Barely 3 months later, we have raised over \$14,000. This includes the donated labor from our Blue Ribbon sponsor, Red School House Contracting.

We gratefully thank our **Ribbon Sponsors**, who made it possible to build the park this fall:



Red School House Contracting, LLC

VT Buildings and General Services Recreational Facilities Grant

AmeriVets, with Bristol Animal Hospital and Hinesburg Animal Hospital

Greentree Real Estate

Our **Construction Sponsors** include the in-kind donation of the mesh fence from Deerbusters, and an early contribution from a committee member. They are joined by these supportive members of our community:

\* VT Barks & Recreation--Canine Camp

\* Clark Physical Therapy and Bodywork, PLC

\* Vergennes Animal Hospital

Our **Fence Sponsors** covered the remaining costs of materials:

- \* Paws at Home Mobile Vet
- \* Lantman's Market
- \* Cathie Buscaglia and Bob Radler
- \* Callie Brynn
- \* Adam Miller
- \* Jere Urban and Robin Shalline
- \* Andrea Wolack



*Red School House Contracting: Building the fence*

When the public health situation improves, and the weather warms up a bit, we will have a bench to sit on and chat with our friends while our pups play, courtesy of **Aubuchon Hardware Hinesburg**. We give thanks in advance for our park bench!

You can't have a dog park without a waste station (bags, waste container, and disposal), and **Pet Food Warehouse** came through with the donation of a full waste station for the park. An anonymous donor made it possible for the **Monkton Community Dog Park** to buy a bag dispenser for the Morse Park walking path, and **Casella Waste Management** donated a full-size tote and disposal services for the park! We are all very grateful for this material support and on-going service from this generous group of contributors.

We have been overwhelmed by the widespread support of members of the Monkton community. Through our PayPal and GoFundMe links, local generosity has showered this project with support and good wishes. In return, we would like to thank our **Committee Members\*** and local **Supporters**:

Corine Farewell\*  
Ian Schulze\*  
Cameron Barrows  
Gayle Chellis  
Laura Farrell

Chris Henry  
Ivor Hughes  
Diana Hill  
Phoebe Kittredge  
Emily McManamy

Patricia and Mike New  
Kesta Osborne  
Nicole Reilly

We are so grateful that **Monkton Community Coffeehouse** agreed to be our fiscal sponsor. As a registered non-profit corporation, they receive all cash contributions for us, allowing us to provide a charitable tax deduction for any of our donors who can use such a deduction, and more importantly, they made it possible to apply for funding through the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Facilities grant program. That \$2,000 grant was what we needed to order the fencing and embark on construction. We thank Jonathon Corcoran (President) and Steve Pilcher (Treasurer) for all the hard work it took to register the Monkton Community Dog Park as a dba for the Coffeehouse, and to set up the banking connections to allow us to receive cash contributions and pay for our expenses. This on-going support is such a gift!

Finally, it takes a dedicated group of people with diverse talents and great determination to make a community-wide project happen. The Monkton Community Dog Park Committee has pulled together a group of dog lovers, many of whom had never met each other before, and through their dedication to an idea, of a resource to build relationships within our community based on a shared need to have somewhere safe to go with our pups, the Monkton Community Dog Park was born. We were so lucky to have just the talents and resources we needed within our group to pull this off in record time. A big THANK YOU from everyone on the committee, to everyone else on the committee!

Cathie Buscaglia  
Ian Schulze  
Deb Gaynor

Callie Brynn  
Corine Farewell  
Lizzy and Nora Woolf

Linda Reynolds  
Paul Low (auxiliary)

### Signs

We have ordered the permanent signs which will be posted at the Dog Park soon. One is our beautiful logo (thank you Linda Reynolds), and the other sign lists the rules. These have undergone a few slight modifications since our last newsletter, so we invite our readers to check out the final version. For now, the Governor's Executive Order is superimposed on these rules, and we all fervently hope that the need for these restrictions will soon be gone, and our permanent rules will be the only ones that apply.

## MONKTON COMMUNITY DOG PARK

### WELCOME!

**Please read and understand all dog park rules before using the dog park.**

- Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated and healthy
- Dogs must be kept in sight and under voice control at all times
- Limit: 2 dogs per adult
- Minimize excessive barking
- Dogs in heat and dogs under the age of 12 weeks are prohibited
- Pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it properly
- Dogs that display aggression toward people/dogs must be removed immediately
- Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult
- Keep your dog from jumping on other dogs or people
- Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them
- No glass, food, alcohol, or smoking - all other Morse Park rules apply

Hours of Operation: The Park will be open from dawn to dusk.

In an emergency, please call 911.

Questions or concerns?

Contact [dogpark@monktonvt.com](mailto:dogpark@monktonvt.com)

The Monkton Dog Park Committee and/or Town of Monkton will not be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog or person in the park. Users of the park do so at their own risk. All dogs and their owners must comply with the Town of Monkton Animal Control Ordinance.

## Archaeology

We would also like to send our thanks to the Vermont Department of Historical Preservation. While restricted from field work for most of the summer, due to the pandemic, the State Archaeologist Jess Robinson and the Archaeology Volunteer Coordinator (a Monkton resident, and our Assistant treasurer Kathy Nolan) pulled together a team to extend the previous site investigation to include the areas where cement footers would be poured to support construction of the fence. They brought their tools, skills, and the most beautiful fall weather anyone can remember for 2 ½ days of careful digging and sieving. While they only found a few small pieces (pre-conquest rock artifacts and Colonial pottery shards), the work was key to building the park this fall. We are grateful to everyone who came and worked, and who shared their joyful pleasure in the search for evidence of our early history. The photos below show the process, and the bagged, labeled artifacts of each type found.



## Fundraising Continues

One of the realities of owning dogs is cleaning up after them, and one of the delights of a dog park is the poop bag dispenser and waste can RIGHT THERE! so the clean-up job is easy and doesn't go home with you. But those bags have to be purchased, and this will be a significant and on-going expense. Come summer, we will all want the beautiful grassy field to stay beautiful and grassy, and this involves mowing and trimming along the fenceline. Again, this is a significant expense. Our goal is to never have to burden the Monkton taxpayer with any costs related to the dog park, so we will continue to look to our supporters for funding for these on-going expenses.

- 🐾 Are you looking for that special gift, for a dog-lover in your life? Or are you the dog-lover, and someone is asking you what you would love to receive? How about a donation in your (or your pup's name) to the Dog Park? Skip the in-person shopping, or even the on-line stress, and give the gift of helping the Dog Park.
- 🐾 You can now use Amazon Smile to generate funds for the Dog Park! 'Tis the holiday shopping season, and if you use Amazon for your shopping, you can select the Monkton Community Coffeehouse as a charitable recipient, and 0.5% of the purchase price (for all qualifying purchases) will be donated directly to our bank account. All you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4429225> to start your shopping! It's easy to do, and your purchases will not cost you anything extra.
- 🐾 We are providing an opportunity for dog-lovers to memorialize a beloved pet's life with a small engraved plaque. For \$25, your pet's name and information can be engraved on a dog tag, and your dog can play on in memory at the park.
- 🐾 When public health conditions permit, we hope to sponsor events at the dog park which will raise money through small attendance fees and donations.
- 🐾 We will continue to receive donations at both our PayPal (<http://monktonvt.com/community/monkton-community-dog-park/>) and our GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/monkton-community-dog-park>) links.

It is our goal to make this an inclusive and transparent process and anyone interested in joining the workgroup or sharing ideas is welcome. The next meeting of the Dog Park Committee is Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Please contact us (see below) for meeting login information.

We look forward to seeing you at the Dog Park!

*To join the committee or request additional information contact us at [dogpark@monktonvt.com](mailto:dogpark@monktonvt.com).*