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Yorktown

Yorktown mulls dog park location

By Art Cusano

Yorktown residents looking to have a place to let their dogs roam free will have to wait just a little bit longer, as the parks and recreation commission has asked for more time to review potential sites for a planned dog park.

On Tuesday, the town board passed a resolution in support of a dog park, but gave the committee 30 days to decide where it will be located. One option is Downing Park, but the recreation committee members will also explore other possible sites, including a piece of land on Solomon's Farm on Gomer Street that the town bought in 2006.

Dave Rocco, the Yorktown Community Dog Park treasurer, said some members of the recreation commission had voiced concerns about the park with its oft-used softball fields and full parking lots. But Rocco said the area on Gomer Street would be far more problematic because it's in a residential area.

"There are a lot of homeowners who may not want to hear dogs barking at six o'clock in the morning," said Rocco.

Laura Wuerth, the Yorktown Community Dog Park Leadership team chair, said members of her group were sold on the Downing Park location because it already has everything they need and it's already been developed.

"We're not looking to cut down trees and take away open space," she said. "That's why we like the Downing Park location. It's already got open areas and great amenities."

Wuerth and Rocco said they would like to see a decision made soon since her organization will



Photo courtesy of Dave Rocco

Dogs enjoy themselves at a recent dog walk held at FDR State Park.



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need time to start fundraising for things like fencing.

Joseph A. Falcone, the parks and recreation commission chairman, said some members of the commission simply wanted more time to consider the options.

“We all agree with the dog park idea, but the site is still to be determined,” he said.

Falcone said that he personally believed the Downing Park location was the best choice and agreed that its amenities – restrooms, light and parking – made it ideal.

He also agreed with dog park supporters that putting the dog park in a residential area might not be a good idea.

“I really don’t want to infringe on residential neighborhoods,” Falcone said.

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