



# LAKES REGION KENNEL CLUB

## LRKC DOG PARK REPORT

### January 2005 – November 2008

Lakes Region Kennel Club started to seriously inquire into the possibility of having a Community Dog Park back in January of 2005. Bea Lewis, Northern Lakes Region Bureau, columnist for the Citizen wrote an article about Town Manager, Carol Granfield and LRKC member Lori Sirles on June 7, 2005, exploring the idea of a Dog Park in Meredith. At this time Lori had received over 150 signatures on a petition that she was circulating in and around Meredith. A collection of donations had been started also. This money was to be used for dog park expenses.

LRKC invited the Director of the Meredith Parks and Rec. Dept, Vint Choinere as a guest to our next Regular meeting, scheduled for Feb 7, 2005. The invitation was extended after meeting with Vint to discuss arrangements for our Spring Match and the subject of a proposed dog Park for Meredith came up. Vint wanted to know if LRKC would be interested in setting this idea into motion. Carol Granfield also attended our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and brought many great ideas and a bit of history of dog parks that she had either started or visited all over the world.

In August 2006 an article came out in the Union Leader by Roger Amsden about Lori Sirles looking for a Home For Meredith dog park.

On September 21, 2006 The "Friends of the Meredith Dog Park held a meeting to discuss the Status of Town of Meredith land and involvement, donation of fencing, non-profit status to move forth, possible partnerships, location-Meredith or Lakes Region options, fundraising activities, publicity and the next steps and action items.

Approximately 248 feet of four foot chain link fencing, two gates with hardware was donated by Spears Bros. from Belmont. The fencing was removed and transported to Lori Sirles residence on #6 Center Meredith Rd.

2007 Meredith notifies Lori that they have no area available to go towards a dog park and to seek private citizen's assistance.

2007 December, Sara Harden approaches Laconia Parks and Rec. A meeting was held and attended by Lori Sirles, Nancy Cardoza, Cathy Bourne and Marjorie Wessner at the Laconia Community Center. On February 21, 2008, notice came out in the Laconia Dailey Sun that Dog Park was unlikely at this time.

In August 2008, the Happy Tails Dog Park Club in Belmont invited LRKC representatives to attend their first official meeting. Representing HTDP was Lisa Clutters, William Stanley, Kecia Stanley and Cheri Spinale. Guests were Carol Granfield, Lori Sirles and Cathy Bourne. Information and ideas were passed around and shared by all. The HTDP meets monthly on the second Thursday of every month, 6 PM at the Corner Meeting House (second floor) 18 Fuller St., Belmont, NH 03220

An offer of 148 feet of fencing and gates, collected by LRKC in 2007 was given to HTDP, providing that a site be secured first.

On August 7, 2008 a program aired on Channel 25 with representatives from both the Happy Tails Dog Park (Will & Kecia Stanley) and LRKC Pres. (Cathy Bourne) promoting the idea of a local dog park and requesting ideas for a site.

Ongoing HTDP meetings have been attended by representatives from LRKC. The sites initially viewed by officers of HTDP have been denied by the Belmont Town Selectmen. More research is underway and the possibility of leasing or sharing a site.

This ended the fiscal year for LRKC and the activities for this year. There is still no park but a lot of people striving for one. Success comes in numbers hopefully.

**UPDATE-NOVEMBER 2008**

Laconia Parks and Recreation held another meeting with Phil Rowley, Director and Seth Creighton, Assistant Planner on November 13, 2008. This meeting was also attended by Sara Harden, Lori Sirles, Cathy Bourne and Nancy Cardoza. The topic of this meeting was to discuss the proposed concept of City land at the end of South St. in Laconia. It was generally felt that due to no parking, close to apartment building dwellers and the area had to be fenced during use and then removed for snow storage that this area would not work for a dog park. We thanked them for all of their time and work concerning this matter.

**LRKC joined forces with Happy Tails Dog Park in Holiday parade**

Lori Sirles, Karen Kearney and Debbie Booth marched in the Santa Parade on November 30, 2008, with their dogs and a new banner with LRKC information. They handed out dog treat bags with business cards telling about the Happy Tail Dog Park efforts and also the LRKC.

For more information about the ongoing efforts in establishing a community dog park please contact:

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