

The March 28, 2023 Public Hearing was held open for written comments for the purchase of a fence at Jenkins Park to be used for a potential dog park. The Public Hearing was closed on April 11, 2023 on a motion by Councilman Fendrick and seconded by Councilwoman Jasinski. All Board members were in favor.

PRESENT:	Michael Carota	Councilman
	Kelly Jasinski	Councilwoman
	Rob Fendrick	Councilman
	Chuck Curtiss	Councilman
	Carol Gumienny	Town Clerk
ABSENT:	Eric Connolly	Supervisor
	William Ryan, Jr.	Counsel

The written comments that were received between March 29, 2023 and the closure of the Public Hearing this evening are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Gumienny
Town Clerk

Carol Gumienny

From: Jodi Hollowood
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Carol Gumienny
Cc: Kerri Mains
Subject: FW: Jenkins Park dog park

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MAR 30 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Reynolds <reynoldsnancy900@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:55 PM
To: Eric Connolly <econolly@townofballstonny.org>; Joseph Whalen <jwhalen@townofballstonny.org>; Michael Carota <mcarota@townofballstonny.org>; ccurtis@townofballstonny.org; Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>; Kelly Jasinski <kjasinski@townofballstonny.org>
Cc: Jodi Hollowood <jhollowood@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Jenkins Park dog park

To the planning board of the town of Ballston,

Last night (3/28/23) I attended a public hearing regarding a proposal to create a dog park within Jenkins Park. As I am not used to public speaking, I would like to further clarify my thoughts and concerns as spoken last night about this proposal.

I have been a resident for 76 years. My parents brought their young family to settle in the small community of Burnt Hills in 1946. I have personally witnessed 3/4 of a century of changes to my community. Some good. Some bad. The good changes, with planned growth, have enhanced the town. The bad changes often done quickly, without enough planning, have lessened the beauty of our town.

I would like to go on record as supporting the presentation made by J. Hollowood at last night's meeting. In my opinion it was the only eyes open, realistic approach that was not based in part or totally on emotion. (I love my dog. I love my park. I love my neighbors.)

My children and now grandchildren enjoy visiting Jenkins Park. The increased traffic in a small parking lot adjacent to the children's play area and dog park has obvious safety risks. Neither Glenville or Blatnick dog parks have this concern. Jamming a dog park into such a small area doesn't make sense.

Also of special interest to me is the funding of the park. "450 residents", as stated on the town website, "support" the park. My family alone has been taxed for 69 years and 40 years respectively. Now the dog park plan will increase use (misuse?) of Jenkins Park and expenses will multiply.

For example:

- 1) The town clerk's responsibilities will increase. They should be compensated.
- 2) Maintenance costs must increase.
- 3) There is no trash service that I know of. (I used to clean up broken bottles in the pavilion when I bought my kids to the park).
- 4) There are no restrooms.
- 5) "Self policing is not reliable or realistic. We have no law enforcement (community police) to oversee issues that arise. (dog fights. dog owner fights) As a taxpayer I am assessed for community item like ambulance, fire department, and library. But only 450 of us are taxed for PARK. Are those if us residing in the "park district no. 1" expected to continue

being financially responsible for a park used by all ? Or is it time for the rest of the community to share the burden? Your presentation said fees "can provide income for the park." Has any research been done to determine the amount of "income" provided by these fees? Having the dog fee waived as a "Jenkins Park Tax District Resident " is an interesting concept since :

1) My tax levy is higher than the resident fee proposed. And 2) I won't be using the dog park as I fenced my own property for my dogs 25 years ago and no longer take my dogs to the park.

The information presented by former Jenkins Park Advisory members was new and worrisome to me. If what was said is true, the advisory board should be an active member in planning changes to the park.

In conclusion, I ask you to revisit J.Hollowood's presentation and closely consider her clear, concise, and well thought out (not emotional) issues regarding this dog park proposal. Put the plans on hold till further investigation. And keep me informed.

Respectfully yours,
Nancy Reynolds
78 Goode Street

Carol Gumienny

From: Suzanne Brunelle <drsue@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Carol Gumienny
Cc: Lynnette Ziskin
Subject: Re: Proposed Dog Park

Hello Ms. Gumienny,

I regret that due to another commitment, I was unable to attend the Community Meeting last night (March 28th) regarding the proposed dog park at Jenkins Park. My husband and I have been residents at 4 Woods Edge, Burnt Hills (Town of Ballston) for 29 years.

This email is to convey our full support for building such a park. As anyone who has walked a dog at Jenkins knows, the unused softball field across from the playground has been popular with many town residents who can allow their dogs to play and run off-leash. Many dog walkers also use the town park for walking their dogs on-leash.

I have read the Power Point proposal of a two-phase implementation. It sounds like an excellent idea and would benefit the many residents who enjoy this gem of a park and appreciate the advantage of having a dog park nearby. It's commendable that the dog park would bring in an income and would have regulations that would help ensure that people who frequent the enclosure have dogs that are healthy and licensed.

I strongly encourage the town of Ballston to implement the plans for the proposed Jenkins Park dog park.

Sincerely yours,

Suzanne W. Brunelle

4 Woods Edge, Burnt Hills 12027

drsue@nycap.rr.com

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MAR 29 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Carol Gumienny

From: Jane Oppenlander <jane.oppenlander@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 10:54 AM
To: Carol Gumienny
Subject: Jenkins Park Dog Park

I write as a resident of the Town of Ballston living within the Jenkins Park tax district, paying the tax accordingly.

I raise the following concerns regarding the proposed dog park:

- Use of the dog park: Who will have access to the park and under what terms? If the dog park is available to all town residents or even those outside of the town, then they should be responsible for at least a portion of the expenses incurred in operating the park. It should not fall solely on the taxpayers of the Jenkins Park tax district. If it is open to all town residents, then the town must assume some of the financial responsibility.
- Control of the dog park: No doubt, increased usage of Jenkins Park is expected. At present, while many dog owners have their dogs under control and clean up after them, some do not. An increase in use will likely yield an increase in waste, need for more regular stocking of poop bags, and the potential for dog fights and other issues. Will the animal control officer or other law enforcement regularly patrol the park? Will some sort of permits, swipe cards, passes be required to use the park? If so, what will the limits be?
- Noise and Traffic: I have concerns that increased usage will increase both noise and traffic in this residential area. This must be considered when determining who can access the dog park.

I am a frequent user of Jenkins Park and observe it to be a wonderful recreational spot for walkers, dogs and their owners, pavilion users, and children using the playground equipment. I appreciate the effort that is made by the volunteers to improve and maintain the park. It is important to me living in close proximity to the park that the character of the park remains as it is and that all park users (walkers, children, dog owners) have equity with respect to safety and enjoyment of the facility. This will require careful control, planning, and funding. I also believe that if access to the dog park extends beyond tax district residents, then the costs associated must be borne by all users, not the tax district residents alone.

Thank you.

Jane Oppenlander
39 Woodside Drive
Burnt Hills

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MAR 29 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Carol Gumienny

From: Martha Flacke <martha.flacke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 5:53 PM
To: Carol Gumienny
Subject: Jenkins Park, dog park

To Whom It May Concern,

We built our home at 38 Woodside Dr, Burnt Hills, in part because of the benefits of having Jenkins Park so close. The addition of a dog park is, in my opinion, a good idea.

Off leash dogs are better in a controlled space rather than running loose in the open fields with children playing .

I feel that it should be free to all park district residents and their guests, as some who live in the district don't have dogs but do have guests who do.

The money that is being used is from the Jenkins Park tax district. Those who live outside of the special tax district should have to pay a fee to help cover the cost of the equipment and maintain the dog park area.

I would hope the park access would be controlled with either a swipe card or a coded entrance and all dogs using the park should meet the same laws that apply to them outside of the park (licensed, shots up to date etc per NYS Agriculture & Markets).

The anti-dog park idea I have heard that people who don't have dogs shouldn't pay is unfounded. I don't have small children but I don't begrudge the cost of playground equipment for those who do.

Dog owners keep Jenkins park safe, they are the ones who report issues and often resolve them. Let's be good neighbors and give them a place for their dogs to play safely.

Regards,
Martha Hainey Flacke

—
Martha Hainey Flacke, MA CCC-SLP
Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist
38 Woodside Dr.
Burnt Hills, New York 12027
(518) 461-0414

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MAR 29 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Carol Gumienny

From: Juanita Brown <jbrown1@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:21 AM
To: Carol Gumienny
Subject: Jenkins Park Dod Park

I would like to respond regarding the proposed dog park at Jenkins Park.

I am a member of the Jenkins Park Tax District. I live at 7 Katherine Drive, Burnt Hills, and have been here, and volunteered at the park for 30 years.

I am very much in favor of the dog park. I feel that's it will add a positive qualify of life to our area. It is my experience that most of the people who are at the park, often walking their pets are very responsible and kind people. They are often the people who will speak up when something needs attention, when there was a problem in the area, etc. I feel that we need them at the park as extra eyes and ears for when there is a problem or if something needs attention.

Currently, I do not have a dog, however, I often help my neighbors by walking their pets. I wish that there was a provision that would allow somebody like myself to have access to the dog park when family or friends visit, or when I am helping a neighbor with their pet. I'm not sure how that would work, but it would be nice to be considered.

I can see that a lot of hard work went into this presentation, and I am very grateful for that. Thank you.

Juanita Brown
7 Katherine Drive
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Sent from my iPad

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MAR 29 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Carol Gumienny

From: Eric Connolly
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:39 AM
To: Robert Fendrick; Kelly Jasinski; Michael Carota; Chuck Curtiss
Cc: Carol Gumienny
Subject: Fw: proposed dog park additional comments

From: Debra Sammons <dsmmns1028@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:40 PM
To: Eric Connolly <econnolly@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: proposed dog park additional comments

Mr. Connolly,

Thank you for leaving tonight's meeting open for additional comments. I attended the meeting along with my husband (who I believe has already emailed his comments to you).

We are a dog loving family, and have always had a dog - we have a 14 year old rescued beagle at present. I have no objection to a dog park, I do however have reservations about having the dog park at Jenkins park.

My family uses Jenkins park quite often - walking, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing the trails; when our 4 children were younger, using the playground, sledding on the hill, baseball practice, picnics at the pavilion. We are so grateful that we live close to this wonderful park!

The proposal to have an official, designated dog park in this area concerns me for a few reasons: the proximity to the basketball court, the playground, and the pavilion. I believe the draw from the dog park will create an increase in the amount of cars parking so close to the basketball court (which is usually frequented by teenagers -either new drivers, or bike riders or walkers), and the playground (parents with young children running, or on small bikes, or in strollers).

Will there be enough parking spaces for us 'old timers' there to stroll the trails?

Will drivers coming for the dog park be cautious of the young children running/biking around?

I often drive past the dog parks in Glenville and Ballston Spa. There are times when only a few cars are there, and other times when it is very packed with cars. I am concerned that our lovely neighborhood park will be overrun by the dog park group.

A few of the comments tonight from people that said they go to dog parks that are perhaps a 30 min ride away makes me realize that we might get people from that far away coming to our little park.

Are dog parks great for dogs and their owners? Absolutely! Are they a great form of community? Yes indeed!

I just think it needs to be elsewhere -not in an area that already has an established purpose. Please let our neighborhood park stay our walking, running, playing, sledding, ball gaming, picnicking park.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Debra Ann Sammons
41 Forest Road

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MAR 29 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Carol Gumienny

From: Eric Connolly
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:35 AM
To: Robert Fendrick; Chuck Curtiss; Kelly Jasinski; Michael Carota
Cc: Carol Gumienny
Subject: Fw: Proposed Dog Park additional comments

From: sammons6@aol.com <sammons6@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Eric Connolly <econnolly@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Proposed Dog Park additional comments

Additional comments from Bob Sammons, 41 Forest Rd.:

- Thank you for leaving the meeting open for additional comments. The presentation tonight was well done but begs the question that apparently 3 speakers believe a defined process for reviewing a proposed project by the park advisory committee was not followed. I would request that a legal opinion on this question be included in the record, If corrective action needs to be taken the residents in the Park District should be informed.
- Request clarification on the scope of work being proposed. The presentation defined 2 phases but the comments by Mr. Connolly seemed to indicate the "bark fob installation" would be included in the first phase. If this is the case what is the revised scope and budget for the first phase?
- I agree with the concern that the use of the proposed park is open to more users than can be accommodated in a small setting. Propose a phased approach by limiting the number of registrations granted for say for the first couple of years to see how this works. Park District residents given priority, then a limited number of Town residents. Residents outside the Town granted access only after the 2 year test period.
- The presentation stated the registration permits would earn revenue but nothing was said about how this revenue would be used. Please clarify.

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MAR 29 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Jenkins Park

FYI nope was see below

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From: Marybeth Relyea <mbrelyea@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:06:20 PM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Jenkins Park

I was excited to see the park board planning to fence in the area next to my home where dogs typically run (and end up in my yard). I spoke to Ryan this morning who said people in the area want no fence just a field. This is not ok with me (the owner of the property that is next to that side of the park). Please let it be known that I am in support of the completely fenced in area, and very much apposed to no fence at all.

Thank you,
Marybeth Relyea
18 Jenkins Road
518-368-6114

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Dog Park

FYI

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From: Michael Walsh <m5w57315@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:10:52 PM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Dog Park

Robert,

I just wanted to email you my support for putting in the dog park at Jenkins Park. It would be a great utilization of that area. Thank you.

Michael Walsh
123 Scotch Bush Rd
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Dog Park - Jenkins Park

FYI

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From: Robert Choquette <rchoquet@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:38:56 PM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Proposed Dog Park - Jenkins Park

Please be advised we strongly support the proposed dog park project located at Jenkins Park. We are residents in the neighborhood who frequently utilize the park. As a former dog owner, and likely future owner, we believe this would be a great asset to the neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Robert & Cindy Choquette
3 Goodman Court
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Sent from my iPad

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:47 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Jenkins Park proposal

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From: Jim Schultz <jimschultz5631@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:10:04 PM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Jenkins Park proposal

I support the dog fencing proposal as a member of the Jenkins Park tax group.

Thanks

Jim Schultz

116 Scotch Bush Rd

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:47 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Jenkins park

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From: Beth Comley <comleyclan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:54:36 AM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Jenkins park

I'm a resident in burnt hills and am very interested in Jenkins park becoming a dog park. I believe it will be a great use of space for dog owners in the area. I have 2 dogs, 5 children and 4 grandchildren. My kids have so many options for sports and play while there are not many options for our dogs. I see both sides and believe the dog park is a very worthwhile venture.

Thank you
Beth Comley

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Jenkins Dog Park

FYI

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From: Kristin McAlonen <mcalok@sage.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:49:03 AM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Jenkins Dog Park

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to you to voice my opinion in the proposition of the dog park at Jenkins park. It would be a very beneficial use of space in my opinion. Many people bring their dogs to Jenkins already, including myself.
Thank you for your time!
Kristin McAlonen

Carol Gumienny

From: Robert Fendrick
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Carol Gumienny; Sally Draina
Subject: Fwd: Jenkins Dog Park Proposal

FYI

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From: Connor Mooney <cmooney187@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:47:22 AM
To: Robert Fendrick <rfendrick@townofballstonny.org>
Subject: Jenkins Dog Park Proposal

Hello,

I am reaching out to express how great I think it would be to turn the old baseball field into a dog park! Myself and many others bring our dogs there to walk them on the trails already, and having a place for them to safely play would make it even better!

Best Regards,

Connor Mooney
10 Wheeler Dr
Ballston Lake, NY 12019