

Wooten: Let's build a dog park in Calverton

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Written by Denise Civiletti

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Riverhead Town will have a dog park come springtime, if a proposal by Councilman James Wooten is approved by the Town Board.

Wooten says he plans to introduce a resolution at the the Jan. 4 Town Board meeting authorizing the dog park on a site near the yet-unopened EPCAL ball fields.

"The original plan called for a dog park here," Wooten said at the EPCAL site this week. The park will be simple and inexpensive to build, Wooten said. It involves fencing, a water source some receptacles and disposal bags.

Its cost can be covered by recreation fees, the councilman said. He said he did not have an estimated total cost yet.

Wooten said the dog park would be about an acre in size and would include two different areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs.



"It's a perfect location," Wooten said.

Councilwoman Jodi Giglio, the other Town Board member of the animal advisory committee, said she believes there's a demand for a dog park in Riverhead.

"A lot of people in town want to have a place for their dogs to run free and socialize with other dogs," Giglio said.

Dog parks have been popular in nearby towns, including Southold and Brookhaven, Wooten said.

Wooten said the dog park can be completed and opened by Memorial Day, possibly sooner.

The ball fields at Calverton will finally be opened this spring, according to Riverhead recreation superintendent Ray Coyne.

The councilman said he's also looking at the Calverton site as a possible place for relocating the town's outdated animal shelter, now situated on Youngs Avenue, across from the former town dump.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Riverhead resident Denise Lucas has established an organization called "Move the Animal Shelter" and has held several successful fundraisers to raise money for a new shelter.

Supervisor Sean Walter was surprised to hear of the dog park plan. The councilman has not yet brought the idea to the board at a work session, he said.

Walter said he's not convinced there's a need for a dog park in the town.

"I wish he'd stay focused on the animal shelter right now, on getting that privatized," Walter said. "That's got to be the first objective. It's been a problem for too long."

Photo captions:

Top: Councilwoman Jodi Giglio and Councilman James Wooten at the site of the town park in Calverton this week, discussing the location of the dog park Wooten wants the town to build.

Bottom: The Southold Town dog park Wednesday afternoon.

RiverheadLOCAL photos by Peter Blasl.

Should the town build a dog park in Calverton?

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Paceride

I'm 100% for a dog park. I think it shouldn't be in such an out of the way place, though.

12/31/2011 05:57 PM 2 Likes

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ykcin100ahman

I agree- the dog park should be located on Northville turnpike next to where the fire department has their new firematic building

01/02/2012 10:07 PM in reply to Paceride 1 Like

[Like](#)



Paceride

It's not about walking the dogs, Jeff, it's about letting the dogs run free.

12/31/2011 05:55 PM

[Like](#)



Fulcoly Jeff

Riverhead is 29,000 acres - plenty of places to like dogs run free without using taxpayer money

12/31/2011 06:15 PM in reply to Paceride

[Like](#)

Fulcoly Jeff



I mean, really? There are plenty of places already in a town the size of Riverhead for people to walk their dogs. We don't need to spend the taxpayer's money on this. And why start something new when they haven't even figured out how to complete the ball fieldsIt's only been about 10 years or so since they started and still not one ball field is ready to play on

12/31/2011 01:57 PM 1 Like

Like



paulrocco

Councilman Wooten should be thinking a bit bigger and perhaps more comprehensively. While both a dog walk and privatization of the Town's animal shelter are objectives of great merit, there are many attendant issues that will remain unresolved and continue to fuel the acrimony between animal rights activists , the Shelter Advisory Committee, CSEA and the Town Board. So here is a New Year, albeit a bit early, suggestion for action:

1. Continue talks with the North Fork Animal Shelter on outsourcing the function of Animal Shelter. These talks shgould be the focus of a newly coalesced group and not the individual Town Animal Shelter committees; members of the Committee should have no possible conflict of interest- e.g., membership in an animal rights group.
2. Embark on discussions about creating a single North Fork entity at EPCAL, perhaps a public authority or non-for profit organization shared by all the North Fork Towns and incorporated Village entities that stands independent of any particular Town Board. Explore the possibility of just how such a consolidated entity meets the mandates of animal control and maintenance as enacted in NYS Ag and Markets law, rule, and regulations.
3. Include in the discussions consideration of establishment of a "refuge" for unwanted, not able to be adoptable out animals. This would warrant acquisition of more than 2-3 acres at EPCAL, perhaps as much as 25 acres. There are several upstate models for refuge, and life-term sites- begin discussion with these to find out just how many animals could be sustained and how much space is needed.
4. Establish an internship program with both BOCES and Suffolk County Community College to utilize their animal groomers and vet tech students.
5. Reach out to both public and private elementary schools on the North Fork to determine how animal care education could best be incorporated into lesson plans on a regular basis.
6. Explore available options for the work that will need to be completed for a new Shelter- that is how to get materials, labor, etc- in the most cost effective manner.

12/31/2011 10:28 AM 1 Like

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jim132

Before we actually think about moving anything there, lets finish the ballfields already!!! Go to any other town and ballfields go up in 6 months. Here in Riverhead it takes what about 3 years and still not finished... Really , why is it that all these dreams never evolve (ice rink in downtown area for example) ... Enough talk , FINISH A PROJECT !!

12/30/2011 09:25 PM 1 Like

Like

ykcin100ahman

Privatize the animal shelter and have that shelter closer to a centralized location. Those who say that the shelter should not be located on Youngs Avenue should find a place closer to where they live even if they live in a residential area. These animals are neglected and they would feel the love by living in a residential area instead of being out in the wilderness like they are on Youngs avenue. As for the dog park, people currently walk their dogs off of Eastport Manor Road near the



intersection on Shultz and Wading River Manor Road. And that's no charge to the recreational fees. It's FREE and those who bring their dogs there to socialize provide their own disposable bags to pick up the dog droppings.

12/29/2011 09:54 PM

Like



patrick10

what a great idea let the dogs run on the ball fields at least they will get to use them

12/29/2011 07:35 PM 1 Like

Like



GregFischer

Councilwoman Jodi Giglio and Councilman James Wooten in the photo? Hmm? Who was walking who? (Just kidding)

However, It could be done with private money at the landfill. Fencing and the sweat to put it up. Well water at 60-70' and a wind powered pump (like the old days). It could all be moved if we need to move it. Simple and across from the Animal Shelter. To prevent lawsuits require a "key deposit" that comes with a legal wavier of assumed risk. It would not impede a wind or solar project at that site but would give it a safe DUAL use (while looking for more non-competing multiple uses). Putting it out at Epcal may be another "ballfield" and we are getting laughed at enough for that unused PORK project.

12/29/2011 02:17 PM

Like



[Jim Karen Kane MonaVie](#)

also... who is responsible for monitoring/watching and cleaning the park? There are some unfriendly dogs in Riverhead. The point about being next to a ball field is valid. At best..if at all... a different location should be considered. :)

12/29/2011 01:38 PM

Like



LuckyLuckyLucky

Not a good idea putting a dog park by the ball fields. The dogs will constantly bark at who ever is playing ball. Wooten should try and find another location closer to town. Rec fees should not be used for this either!

12/29/2011 09:05 AM 2 Likes

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NorthForkBob

Terrific idea to put up a dog park. The Animal Shelter certainly needs to be addressed

12/29/2011 09:36 PM in reply to LuckyLuckyLucky

Like

[Denise Lucas](#)

Calverton is the perfect place for a dog park and a new state of the art animal shelter for cats and dogs. In 12 weeks I have raised over \$20,000.00 in hosting 3 events with each one being completely sold out to make money for this new facility. This should show our supervisor that our Riverhead town residents are in favor of a park and a new shelter. Whether we privatize the shelter or keep it run by the town there are only positive things that can happen with a new location and a new fresh start. When people see positive things happen more and more people will join to help make it a success. We have over 30,000 residents in the town of Riverhead from Jamesport to Wading River etc..How about we make it a town vote and



not just a supervisor decision on whether we should have a park and a new shelter? I am sure by the support our residents are showing the people will win the park and the shelter and maybe more than just one park. I will continue to have fundraising events until I reach the goal of building the shelter. On Jan 21 The Riverhead Elks spaghetti dinner and band The Vendettas, Feb 11 the Riverhead Moose buffet and band Uncle Fester, Feb 29 Codys BBQ buffet, last week of March Hy Ting buffet "Politicians and truck drivers cook for a cause" Wooten & Giglio cookoff with myself and fellow truck driver Greg Springer, April 29 Calverton links car show, motorcycle poker run, lots of local bands on stage "Hogs and hotrods rock the shelter". In February I will be hosting a meeting at the Calverton links with large and small business owners and any residents that would like to attend to figure out what will be donated to make this all a reality. I have already met with plumbers, construction, fence, etc.. and we will all be joining forces to propose our master plan to get this under way. The Riverhead MTAS Inc. "move the animal shelter" will keep the same name "mtas" even after the shelter is built and we will continue to host events but our logo will then stand for "moved the animals successfully". Thank you to all of the community for your support. Please visit my website www.rmtas.org Denise Lucas

12/29/2011 08:58 AM

Like

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