

Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative
10 Timber Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525

July 11, 2018

Dear Board of Selectmen:

We write to clarify some real and perceived irregularities in the petitions on both sides of the dog park issue in Woodbridge. Our group, the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative (WDPC), had two separate petitions. The first, completed in 2017, asked the Board to grant us a dog park on the Fitzgerald Tract or other comparable property. That petition was never submitted to the Board, although we retain the original sheets should anyone wish to see them. We circulated the second petition beginning in the early spring once it was clear that our group wanted to focus on the Fitzgerald Tract over the former Country Club of Woodbridge, which was then in contention. This second petition, which was submitted in two batches (of 276 signatures and 352 respectively) was a wholly new petition that requested that the Board renegotiate one of several existing leases on the Fitzgerald tract in order to establish a dog park there. The two petitions were entirely separate. Each individual had to sign the second petition as a separate action. We used the opportunity of gathering signatures to talk and listen extensively to residents, both supporters and non-supporters, about the merits of a dog park in our town and all of the issues surrounding its establishment

In the May Board of Selectmen meeting Amey Marella alleged that there were people who had signed both the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative petition to locate the dog park on the Fitzgerald Property and the opposition petition to prevent establishment of a dog park on Fitzgerald (Only the first batch of that petition with 208 signatures had been submitted at that time. A second batch, submitted recently, has 10 more). She also alleged that people didn't know what they were signing. While we hoped this wasn't true, we sent Michelle Ditzian to re-examine both petitions carefully. It turns out that seven individuals signed both petitions: Doug Bowman, Shumei Chen, Marguerite Dilloway, Walden Dilloway, Lynn Donato, Brad Taylor, and Roslyn Chosak.

Because Roslyn Chosak indicated in the comment field of our petition that she did not want the park on the orchard location, her signature was crossed out prior to submission as indicated in Michelle Ditzian's email to the Board accompanying our first batch of signatures. Therefore, only six signatures were counted on both sides.

Marguerite and Walden Dilloway wrote a note next to their signatures on the opposing petition indicating that they had signed the pro-Fitzgerald dog park petition and that they were sorry. They changed their minds and clearly indicated support for the opposition (WDPC -2).

The actual opinion of the remaining four is undetermined, although it was discovered during this careful examination of all the signatures that one of the four, Lynn Donato, signed our petition two times (WDPC -1).

In fact, one other signer, Suzanne Principe, was found to have signed our petition twice as well (WDPC -1). A number of signatures were eliminated for illegibility, unverifiability, or duplication before submission, as can be seen by cross-outs on the document. Michelle regrets having missed these two duplicate signatures.

In examining the petitions on both sides for this review, she also discovered irregularities in the opposing petition. Cathy Shufro signed the petition against use of Fitzgerald for a dog park three times (Opposition -2). Lisa Flaherty signed it twice (Opposition -1).

Therefore the submitted count of signatures should be revised as follows: from Dog Park on Fitzgerald 628 / Opposition to Dog Park on Fitzgerald 218 to Dog Park on Fitzgerald 624 / Opposition to Dog Park on Fitzgerald 215.

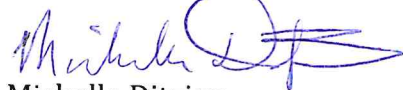
We realize that decisions made by the Board need to reflect issues more complex than numbers can express. This was never a referendum, after all. Still, we wanted to be as careful as possible to provide accurate information, and we thank Amey for the heads up.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Blake



Michelle Ditzian



Ramie Ackley

Approved via
email

Deena Myers

