

**2014 Annual Report
For Paws of Ulster, Inc.
Presented to the Town of New Paltz**

This report is a summary of the activities of For Paws of Ulster, Inc for the year ending December 31, 2014.

Progress

County Executive Mike Hein announced to the For Paws of Ulster Board late in the Summer (2014) that the County would be able to fund the fencing need for the dog park, including installation and signage.

This kicked off a fast-paced effort on For Paws behalf to use funds previously raised to order other needed amenities and have them installed before the official opening of the dog park.

For Paws ordered benches and dog waste stations, and worked closely with the Town of New Paltz Highway Department to have them installed.

For Paws is very thankful for the assistance.

The For Paws of Ulster County Dog Park opened for the first time ever in the Town of New Paltz on September 23, 2014 with an event with the County Executive. This was followed by a Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, September 27 led by For Paws of Ulster, Inc.

Since the dog park opening, For Paws has been continuing fundraising events while also monitoring and maintaining the Dog Park weekly. For Paws volunteers maintain the waste station trash cans and stock the waste station bag holders, as well as perform basic maintenance duties at this time. For Paws volunteers remove all of the trash (dog waste) from the waste stations home to their own trash cans (at their homes) to dispose of since there are no receptacles for this to go to at this time, nor have the For Paws volunteers been granted permission to take it elsewhere.

For Paws also held a volunteer work day to deal with a maintenance issue: mud pits at both entrances grew to the point of serious concern, so For Paws received permission from the Town of New Paltz Highway Department to use some stone from the parking area stone pile and fill in the worst spots. This occurred on New Year Day, January 1, 2015

Activities

DOG PARK YARD SALE- August 30 and 31, 2014. We wanted to repeat the successful Yard Sale event we had in Rosendale a few years ago. This year, we collected donations and included a bake sale. The yard sale was stationed at Schain and Company CPA's office in New Paltz on Labor Day Weekend. The week prior, the community dropped off items and many generous and supportive shoppers visited the sale. We generated \$757 as a profit for the two day event.

DOG PARK GRAND OPENING EVENT- September 27, 2014. For Paws organized a day of interacting with the public, and invited several other local organizations to set up booths. We had a raffle and raised \$506 for the dog park, as well as added a waste station sponsorship for \$400.

3rd ANNUAL FOR PAWS & WRIGHT NATURALS FAMILY 5K – October 12, 2014. This grows in popularity every year. Wright Naturals, the Shawangunk Runners Club, P&Gs, and many local businesses sponsored our t-shirts, and a record 75 runners helped make this our most successful race yet bringing in \$2,660.52 after expenses. We also received donations of food and drinks from the community for the race day. This even will remain as our annual event since it has built a following and continues to grow in popularity.

PICTURES WITH YOUR PUP WITH JOHN FISCHER PHOTOGRAPHY- November 9, 2014. Photographer John Fischer donated his services and provided dog owners a chance to have portraits taken with their pups (with or without the owners in the photo. John Fischer also set up a display of his work from the area, which features many of the well-loved landmarks in Ulster County. Hundreds of people visited the For Paws of Ulster County Dog Park that day. 20 people participated in the photo event, and the donation total a little over \$500. An exciting outcome is this event exposed new patrons to the park, all who now attend regularly with their canine family members!

HOLIDAY WREATH AUCTION- December 2014. Bigg Wreaths and More generously donated one of their handmade wreaths for an online auction to benefit the dog park. The wreath was dog-themed (of course!) The online bidding went well, and the winner got the wreath while we received a \$70 donation!

HOWL AT THE MOON VIRTUAL RUN – Ongoing (from 2013 to 2014). Hosted by Chris Regan, the main planning force behind our Annual 5k. Participants were asked to register to run a virtual 5k, meaning, anytime they liked, anywhere they liked, but “official” event days coincided with the monthly full moon. For your registration fee, participants were awarded a very significant medal. As the event is ongoing, we do not yet have a total for revenue raised.

Goals for the coming year

Community Awareness – With the fence installation and opening of the dog park a reality this fall, we have gone into full speed with our outreach and interacting with the community. We have updated our “policy” for collecting donations from coin cans at businesses, and we have additional Board members working on our social media interactions.

Infrastructure Development – With one of our Founders, Danielle Cardella, stepping down from the Board to raise her first child, we restructured our officers and added several new Board members.

Maintenance- Now that the dog park is open, the work to keep it usable and enjoyable begins.

Our goals for this in 2015 include:

- Amending Town contract to fulfill maintenance (mowing) needs;
- Establish a plan/ agreement for a location to take trash with the Town
- Address wet areas (long term) and under fence gaps;
- Improve landscaping around rocks/ removing ground wasps that are present (safety issue);
- Remove ground debris (old trash seems to keep unearthing itself and is dangerous to users...old metal and such must be removed as it shows up);
- Add at least two more waste stations, possibly one at or close to parking area to address dog waste at parking area needs;
- Order and install appropriate size rules sign. Have sign at street moved so it can be seen (we are hearing a great deal of complaints);
- Install the message center we ordered, maintain this with information about the Dog Park;
- Fundraise for waste station bags and other amenities;
- Examine the potential for water/ fountains for the site.

Financials- (in brief, as we do not do our financial reporting until we close out our fiscal year, and at the time this report was written, that was in process)

Dog park opening costs (benches, waste stations, waste stations bags)- \$6,500

Insurance- \$1,200

Website-\$100