

Press Release

Fairhaven Board of Selectmen issue Plan of Action addressing Pokémon GO issues at Fort Phoenix

Fairhaven, MA, August 10, 2016: After two hours of hearing comments from numerous people regarding the negative and positive impacts of the social media game Pokémon GO at Fort Phoenix at their meeting on August 10, 2016 the Board developed the following three step plan of action to address the concerns raised while recognizing that use of the park should be as open and unfettered as possible.

- 1) The Town Administrator will work with the Board of Public Works and the Police Department to implement, to the extent possible, the following:
 - a. The re-installation of no parking signs 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Green Street and Fort Street.
 - b. Closing the gate to the park at 9:00 p.m., instead of the current 10:00 p.m.
 - c. Installation of portable bathrooms and cigarette disposal devices
 - d. Enhanced enforcement of parking regulations
 - e. Enhanced enforcement of disturbing the peace violations, particularly after 10 p.m.
- 2) The Board of Selectmen authorized Selectmen Freitas to organize a working group of residents who live by the park and Pokémon GO game advocates for the purpose of:
 - a. Facilitating communication between the parties
 - b. Encouraging the Poke-man community to self-regulate themselves in terms of hours of use, littering, parking, etc.
 - c. Explore money raising options to offset the cost of the Town to maintain peace and order at the park.
- 3) The Town Administrator with the assistance of Town Counsel will contact the owner/operator of the Pokémon GO game to ascertain the following:
 - a. What changes to the game can be made, or will be made, to minimize the negative aspects of the game at Fort Phoenix including limiting hours of operation and the concept of "migration" of Poke-man characters.
 - b. If there is a legal basis to bring action to compel changes to the game to minimize negative impacts and/or seek compensation for damages.

In addition, there appears to be a lack of clarity between the Board of Selectmen, the Historical Commission and the Board of Public Works regarding lines of authority and responsibility for the maintenance and operations of Fort Phoenix. The Town Administrator will arrange for a meeting of the Chairs of these respective boards to discuss this matter.