

D: Student Work



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Pet Waste Disposal Station Proposal

Keene Town Meeting
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 5:30

Introduction:

Everyone loves their dogs. They are truly a man's best friend. However, their solid waste, if left on the ground, gets washed into our watershed. When this happens, people (and even their dogs) can contract many harmful diseases. Furthermore, dog waste is a significant problem on the Keene Central School grounds, where students slide through it during soccer games and step on it during recess. Since KCS is on the Valley Loop, a popular town recreational route, many dogs leave their waste behind on the fields.

The Proposal:

We are writing to propose the installation of four dog mess pick up stations at two sites in Keene Valley. The town needs these dog mess pick up stations in two areas: Point Park and three locations on the grounds of Keene Central School. The proposed KCS locations include one dispenser beside the mailbox on the right side of the KCS driveway, another near the dumpsters beside the gymnasium, and the final one near the entrance to the Beaver Pond. A map of the proposed locations is included on pages 5 and 6 of this packet. These stations will impact the town greatly by preventing harmful contaminated runoff from entering our watershed and keeping the fields and trails free of unpleasant dog waste.

Environmental Impact:

Dog waste is very harmful to the environment. In fact, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has put dog mess in the same category of pollutants as herbicides; insecticides; oil, grease and toxic chemicals; and acid drainage from abandoned mines.

Dog mess is also one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:

- Whipworms
- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Parvo
- Corona
- Giardiasis
- Salmonellosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Campylobacteriosis

A few of the major diseases on that list are giardia, salmonella, tapeworms, and cryptosporidiosis, all of which may be contracted by drinking infected water. Preventing dog mess from reaching the water supply by putting up dog waste stations would prevent the citizens of Keene from contracting these illnesses.

The Proposed Product:

The bag station that we propose may be found at the following web address: http://www.petstationsupply.com/Pet-Waste-Stations_c3.htm. The most cost effective options are the Affordable Pooper Picker Uppers Roll Bag Pet Stations, which cost \$189. These include a post, sign, commercial grade aluminum waste can with lid, hardware, 400 pet waste bags, 50 waste can liners, and instructions for installation. They contain three different bag dispensers and a covered metal trash disposal can. Since it has three different bag dispensers, the town employees would not have to refill the station as much. It is also powder coated for a long lasting finish.

We propose the purchase of four of these complete stations, for a total of \$756. In the long term, replacement bags and liners would also need to be purchased. Replacement

bags for this station are \$68 for ten rolls of 200 bags, or \$177 for 30 rolls of 200 bags. The waste bags cost \$60 for 200 liners, although less expensive liners may be available.

Maintenance Plan:

The KCS sixth graders would be happy to help the town employees install each station this spring.

As part of the decision to install additional dog mess stations, it is prudent to think about the long term upkeep of each station. Ideally, the town's road maintenance employees would take responsibility for refilling the station's supply of bags and disposing of the filled bags. This is the ideal situation, since it would ensure that the stations are properly maintained at all times.

If this is not possible, perhaps volunteers could be recruited to do the work. Younger volunteers, such as high school students, could restock the stations to earn volunteer credits needed for graduation. It would also be a good way for the people of the town to connect.

We propose that the town include the cost of bag resupplies (see above) in its budget going forward to ensure that these stations remain viable.

In the future, KCS students may be able to create informational signage to educate dog owners about the harmful effects of leaving dog waste on the ground.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, if the town board decides to install these dog mess stations, it will affect the environment in many positive ways. There will be fewer harmful diseases in the various waterways, as well as cleaner parks and nicer dog walking routes. Children playing on the school fields (and their fans) will be free from the worry of stepping in dog mess. Walking and hiking will be more enjoyable and relaxing, and the vibrant green fields and trails that knit this community together will be nicer and more beautiful than ever before.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider our request. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or for further information at mwellford@keenecentralschool.org or 637-2600.

Sincerely,

**Sam Baldwin, Linnae D'Auria, Brenna DeWalt,
Harvey Runyon, and Megan Wellford**

Source:

