

### Solar Light Update:



Several people have noticed that the solar light doesn't go on some late afternoons or goes on for a few minutes only to go off

again. We are very excited to have this light, but because it is solar, it does have more limitations than it would if it ran on electricity. The battery requires a certain number of sunlight hours to build up the six to eight hours of energy needed for each evening. During the winter solstice, our potential for those sunlight hours are extremely short, and we have certainly had our share of very gray days. The battery is equipped with a fail-safe that protects itself from being drained too low. For that reason, there is the occasional time that the light doesn't go on at dusk, or attempts to go on but shuts itself off. We hope you can all live with that rare time. We also ask that you text or call Barb at 508-331-2929 to notify her when it isn't on so we keep a record that will help us make sure the light is simply reacting to a lack of sunlight hours and that these times are rare.

We are also very grateful to the **Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation** for awarding the Dog Park a \$1000 grant to begin the next solar light fund, this time increasing safety by lighting up the parking lot area. We hope donations build that fund quickly!



## Be FDP's Valentine - 10 ways

1. Buy your valentine a **tile** for the wall. Orders are being taken now to be ready to put up right after the spring thaw! See the website or the order form at the park.
2. How about a long-sleeve or short-sleeve **teeshirt** for your valentine? We have a variety of colors, sizes (including children's and 2X) and will even mail them. Information on Facebook, the website or call 508-331-2929 to select one at the park.
3. Give a donation to the park in honor of a favorite pet or person. We will gladly send a card to that person telling them you have recognized them in that lasting way.
4. If you smoke while at the dog park, please make sure to put your cigarette butts into the gray holder just outside the fence at the park. We have had an increase of butts on the ground and it only takes a few to make a small dog very sick.
5. Pick up a broom and give a section of the sidewalk a good sweep. We need help keeping the stones off the walkways.
6. Buy your next item on **Smile. Amazon.com** and tell Amazon you want it to benefit the Dog Park. Amazon will donate a percentage to us without charging you a penny!
7. Sign up to become part of the **steward team**. Give just 15 to 20 minutes once or twice a month on the day(s) of your choosing and help maintain the park. A short 15-minute training available by calling Barb at 508-331-2929. It is simple and flexible and it **MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**
8. Support those businesses that help the park each year. A list is on the back of this newsletter and we couldn't survive without their help. Make sure to tell them thank you when you stop in and use their services.
9. If you notice the solar light isn't on once it is dark and it is before 9 p.m., please call or text Barb at 508-331-2929 to let us know. We are tracking how often the stretch of cloudy weather impacts our ability to have light at the park.
10. Offer to serve on the dog park Board of Trustees. We need a wide range of talents and dedicated people to make the park work. We meet on the third Wednesday every other month at 4 p.m. Call Barb Schneider at 508-331-2929 if you are interested. We need people willing to help with publicity, steward communication, newsletter development, event planning, fund raising, film-making, photography and many other areas. Please consider this as we enter a new year.

**Emergency Measures!**  
Remember that we always have an emergency horn in the red box mounted on the fence between the All-Dog and Small-Dog parks. A quick blow of the horn gives dog owners enough time to grab a stunned dog and separate them; and tossing a bowl of water works too!