

Your Neighbor



PHOTO: RON MEYERSON

From left, Dick and Luke Conte, Wally Brix, Bob Davis and his wife Patty, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Steve Ralston, Parks and Rec. President Jim Papa, Dog Park Committee Member Victoria Roach, with Bob Kenney in the background.

Memory of furry friend prompts generous donation

BY EMILY DIBIASE
FOR THE SOMERS RECORD

A small dog with a big heart was the inspiration for a \$4,000 donation to the soon-to-be erected dog park on Route 100, near the Highway Department, in Somers.

Last Thursday, Somers resident Robert Davis was one of three contributors who donated a total of \$4,000 towards the Somers Dog Park project, which is currently in its fundraising stage. This money was given in memory of his beloved Wirehaired Dachshund, Kiwi, who passed away on Father's Day last year.

"We are honored to support the dogs and [dog] owners of Somers," Davis, a 30-year resident of the area, said at the dedication ceremony with his wife Patty and their neighbor and family friend, Walli Drix.

Drix, the Davis family's longtime doggy-sitter, was very close to Kiwi and therefore wanted to be a part of the memorial as well. The money donated by the trio will be used for fencing, which will surround the Small Dog section of the proposed park. A plaque, which distinguishes the area as "Kiwi Memorial Field," will be positioned there in Kiwi's honor after completion of the park.



Robert Davis and his beloved dog Kiwi.

Davis, an attorney for the law firm Singleton, Davis, and Singleton in Mount Kisco, was very attached to his almost 15-year-old friend.

"A person in dog's clothing," was how he

described her. "She had the face of a cartoon character."

Both he and Kiwi enjoyed taking walks in Lasdon Park and working outside together.

"She always expressed her opinion," Davis said of the cream-colored Dachshund. Kiwi would let him know when it was time to go inside after a long day of outdoor work with "a look."

"I was her pet," Davis remarked with a laugh.

While Kiwi may be an unusual name for a dog, Davis said it fit her perfectly.

"My wife has a penchant for making up odd names," so Kiwi just seemed to fit their lovable companion. "It was a unique name for a unique dog."

The proposed Somers Dog Park will consist of three sections: Toy and Puppy, Small Dog and Large Dog. The plaque in Kiwi's honor will be erected in the Small Dog area of the Somers Dog Park at a later date and will read, "Kiwi Memorial Field. Donated by Bob and Patty Davis and Walli Drix. In loving memory of their dog Kiwi – a little

dog with a big heart."

Davis's two other dogs, Jetta and Jelly Bean, were at the ceremony on Thursday and all three look forward to enjoying the park upon its completion, which Davis hopes will be finished by the end of the summer. David

said he loves going to a dog park, as he feels it is a great place for getting to know your neighbors.

Currently, the dog park has raised \$14,000 of the \$20,000 needed to begin building, according to Somers Parks and Recreation Board Chairman James

Papa, who thanked the Davis family, along with Drix, for their very generous contribution.

"It put us very close to being able to launch the project," he remarked. This money, along with the recent donation of some materials from another donor, will help to bring the expected costs of the project down. He hopes that this recent generosity will allow them to be able to break ground on the new dog park by the middle of the summer.

YOU CAN HELP

To make a donation to Somers Dog Park project, please make checks out to the Town of Somers (with Dog Park in the memo portion) and send to the Town of Somers Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 46, Somers, NY 10589.