



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

## Off-Leash Area Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

### Room 211– City Hall

9:30am- Friday April 14, 2017

1. Reports- Officer Torres, Officer Mikoleit, Jason Roberts
  - Officer Torres reported he has been working in the Conservation Areas. Officer Mikoleit will be back in May.
  - Mr. Roberts reported he is back after the winter. Commissioner DeRubeis requested he check the trails at Cold Spring Park.
  
2. Area Updates
  - McGrath Park – renovation plan
    - Commissioner DeRubeis reported the project has been on hold waiting for the new City Engineer to be hired. Ms. Schein commented she will be meeting with the new Engineer in a month to discuss plans. Councilor Albright asked about the surface material being used. Ms. Schein stated it will not be the same material that was recommended for Cabot Off-Leash Area. A request was made to raise the level between the fence and ground at the entrance to avoid dogs escaping from area.
  - Norumbega Proposal
    - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group is looking into creating a proposal for a fenced off-leash area in Norumbega Park in the corner closest to Commonwealth Ave and the Marriott Hotel. Jennifer Steel, Senior Environmental Planner is in attendance to provide guidance on creating the proposal for the Conservation Commission. Commissioner DeRubeis commented parking may be an issue. Ms. Steel commented the park has operated as an unofficial off-leash for decades. Ms. Schein commented the Conservation Commission has previously stated dog parks are not ecologically sensitive. Ms. Steel commented yes those were previous thoughts but recently acknowledged current needs should be considered. Ms. Steel made the following recommendations for the proposal:
      - ✓ Clarify boundaries
      - ✓ Alterations
      - ✓ Surfacing
      - ✓ Access
    - Commissioner DeRubeis suggested having a designer develop a plan and a sub-committee be assigned to work on the proposal for the area and requested Ms. Gentile contact a designer and lead the sub-committee. The committee member will be:

- Councilor Albright
- Elaine Gentile – P & R Department- Chairperson
- Bud Grantham
- Ted Kuklinski

3. New Business

- Councilor Albright commented the group needs to recognize there are two group types that use off-leash areas; one group likes to walk trails and the second group likes to stay in one area and socialize and allow the dogs to run around. Edmands Park was suggested as an off-leash trail walking area, the park already is an unofficial off-leash area. Officer Torres stated enforcement would be difficult. Councilor Albright commented a lot of outreach would be required.
- Mr. Kuklinski asked about the old deer park. The deer park property is conservation land. Ms. Belleville commented Ms. Steel was not receptive to the idea.
- Ms. Belleville asked if the state was contacted again regarding the property next to the Chestnut Hill Mall. Ms. Belleville stated she reached out to Representative Balser and she was receptive to the idea. Commissioner DeRubeis requested Ms. Belleville reach out to the state. Ms. Schein suggested reaching out to the Mall.
- Mr. Grantham would like to revisit the Cold Spring Park option to enhance usability. Previously Mr. McIntyre brought a few people to the meeting who objected to adding a fenced in area to the site. Mr. Grantham stated he has spoken to over 40 people who are open to the idea.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am