



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, January 22, 2016

Room 211, City Hall-9:30 a.m.

### Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

#### 1. Reports- Officer Torres, Officer Mikoleit, Jason Roberts

- Officer Mikoleit reported there have been issues in the conservation areas, Auburndale Cove, Norumbega Park and Kennard Park.
- The main focus in 2016 is to reduce the number of dog bites throughout the city.
- Mr. Kuklinski asked if the Off-leash Specialist has enforcement rights. Ms. Schein responded not at this time the Commissioner will be addressing this with the Police Chief.

#### 2. Area Updates

- Cabot: Hours
  - Ms. Belleville, user of Cabot Park requested the hours at Cabot be changed from 7am – 7pm to 7am to dusk. This would help those residents who work. The members present agreed to change the hours to 7am – dusk seven days a week, year round.
- Small dog area options
  - Hunnewell – along existing off-leash area fence and fence that runs along mass pike. Need to check permitting information for ballfield.
  - Cold Spring Park – the area is currently working well, the concern is increased activity may create neighborhood complaints.
- Other area suggestions
  - MaryLee Belleville presented a proposal with new location ideas:
    1. Newton Centre Playground area between tennis courts and the recreation building. This is not an option due to a programming conflict.
    2. Lyons Field- grassy area – This is the location of a little league field. The members will drive down and take a look at the area.
    3. Norumbega Park – area closest to Marriott where. Carol Stapleton will bring it up when she meets with Jennifer Steel. OLAWG has previously presented this are tot eh Conservation Commission and the proposal was denied.
    4. Newton Center Playground on the corner of Bowen St and Centre St.
    5. Newton Highlands- currently there is a master plan and an off-leash area is not included on the plan.

#### 3. New Business

- Ms. Bellville presented a survey she created to be used to gather information form off-leash area users. The group requested she send the survey to them for review.