



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, May 13, 2016

Room 205, City Hall-9:30 a.m.

### Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

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

- Mr. Grantham reported he has been visiting Cold Spring Park off-leash area; there is a lot of off-leash activity on the trail.

#### 2. Area Updates

- A few of the OLAWG members visited CSP to see if there is an area for a fenced in off-leash area for large and small dogs. There was pushback from the users of the off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the discussion over the past year or more has been an area for small dogs. The group should focus on the area for small dogs.
- Mr. Grantham stated people will use the fenced area for small and large dogs. Cold Spring Park makes perfect sense.
- Mr. McIntyre withdrew his support of a fenced area for small or large dogs in the CSP off-leash area. He represents the dog owners and they do not want the fenced area. An area for small dogs is an unmet need and he is on the committee to identify options, dividing what we have already established should be the last option.
- Mr. Grantham asked how anyone is injured by the fencing in CSP. Ms. Koel stated she has heard many different arguments; fence running may be an issue, small dogs can be injured by larger dogs. Ms. Koel is not advocating for fencing at CSP but we do need an area for small dogs. The Cold Spring Park off-leash area is important to the program. CSP should not be taken off the table but we should look at other areas first.
- Councilor Albright stated Hunnewell Park is an option for a small dog off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis agreed.
- The McGrath Park off-leash area is on the list for renovation. Ms. Belleville commented the group would like stones at the entranceway and if possible repurpose the tennis courts to create an L shaped area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the tennis courts are to be renovated.

#### 3. Norumbega Park– Jennifer Steel, Senior Environmental Planner

- The area in Norumbega Park (near the Marriott) has potential to be an off-leash area. The area would need to be cleaned up and fenced. Ms. Steel spoke with the Conservation Commission members; the members are not unanimous on dogs on conservation land but felt the majority were potentially perceptive.
- Ms. Steel stated OLAWG would be required to make a presentation to the Conservation Commission showing the concept from installation to operation. The Commission would like to re-establish the meadow that is currently being used by dog owners/walkers, an off-leash area would give them a place to go other than the meadow.
- Ms. Schein suggested a site visit. Commissioner DeRubeis agreed.
- Councilor Albright stated Weston allows dogs on conservation land and asked Ms. Steel if she has ever spoken to Weston about dogs on conservation land.

#### 4. New Business - No new business