



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, December 04, 2015

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

### Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

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

- Hunnewell Park Update. Commissioner reported that Officer Lisa Mikoleit has returned to the Patrol Bureau until next spring and that Officer Ralph Torres is once again the lone Animal Control Officer.
- Officer Torres reported that he has ticketed users and has seen an increase in use by the Brighton Dog Walkers who are using the entire area of the park.
- A discussion followed to see if we should open the entire park for use during the winter months through spring of 2016. More discussion on this item will follow at the next meeting.
- The Commissioner intends to meet with the newly appointed Police Chief David McDonald and continue the discussion on the status of animal control and enforcement powers for citations for Mr. Roberts in the near future.

#### 2. Conservation update

- Carol Stapleton reported on her meeting with Jennifer Steele, the Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to open a dialogue about the use of Con Com lands by dog owners. Ralph Torres was unable to attend this meeting. Jennifer and her Director, James Freas, hope to meet with the new Police Chief with a request to enforce leash laws on Conservation Lands especially at Norumbega Park. Further meeting will be schedule after the New Year.

#### 3. Area Update

- City Clerk, David Olson supplied the committee with reports from his office on a complete list of the count of dogs registered by breed in 2015 and that 2,987 dog licenses were issued and 1,326 off-leash licenses.
- A discussion followed on McGrath Park and the use of the dog park located on site and a notation that the tennis courts would be a total reconstruction project and a question was asked by Lee that when this project happens would it be possible to move the courts which would allow the dog park space to be increased. The Commissioner said he would look into that question.
- Cabot Park Review was given by Mr. Grantham which included the following items:
  - Request to increase the hours on the weekends to be the same hours for the park that are scheduled for Monday thru Friday. A discussion ensued and the committee moved to increase the weekend hours on a trial basis.

- Mr. Grantham also reported on issues such as the mud hole caused by the small pool in the area.
- Commissioner DeRubeis also reported on discussions he has had with the Cabot School PTO and the possibility of doing a Master Plan for the entire Park.
- Mr. Grantham also reported on discussions he had about Cold Spring and the possibility of fencing in the area. Lee spoke to this issue and the committee will take another look at the area at the next meeting.

#### **4. New Business**

- **Small dog Off-leash Area:**
  - Discussion on the Oakley Spa land, Hunnewell Park and the small area at Norumbega Park for a small dog park which will be discussed at the next meeting.