

Off-Leash Area Working Group
Friday, August 15, 2014
City Hall, Room 202
Meeting Minutes

Attending: P&R Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Officer Ralph Torres, Lee McIntyre, Bud Grantham, Carol Schein, Ted Kuklinski

1. NSHS – Thompsonville Playground – update
 - Commissioner DeRubeis attended the July 15th School Committee meeting regarding the NSHS proposal. The proposal is a non- starter, there was a lot of opposition to the proposal.
 - Mr. Kuklinski suggested tabling the proposal for the future.
 - Mr. Grantham suggested having people in favor of the proposal attend the meetings, it seems only those opposed attend the meetings.
 - Alderman Albright agreed to table the proposal until a later date.
 - Mr. McIntyre is concerned if the proposal is pushed forward the entire off-leash program will receive negative publicity.
 - A suggestion was made to invite a member of the Newton TAB to one of the OLAWG meetings. Commissioner DeRubeis recommended contacting the Executive Office and notifying them if the TAB is invited to the meeting.
2. Off-leash area for small dogs
 - Commissioner DeRubeis recommended focusing on finding an area for small dogs.
 - Mr. McIntyre stated the two sites suggested are Spears Park and the area across from Oakley Spa.
 - Officer Torres commented parking may be an issue there are only a few spots for the Oakley spa customers. Washington Street traffic is fast and could be dangerous.
3. Jason Roberts – Off-leash Specialist
 - Commissioner DeRubeis reported Mr. Roberts was assaulted by an individual at the Auburndale Cove. Mr. Roberts was asked to go to the Cove due to complaints from the neighbors of many dogs off-leash in the area. The Police are taking this assault seriously and will press charges.
4. Next meeting: Friday, September 5, 2014