



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, March 15, 2013

9:00 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Lee McIntyre, Amy Koel, Ted Kuklinski, Officer Ralph Torres, Carol Schein, Carol Stapleton

1. Update

- Mr. McIntyre was acting Chairman in the absence of Commissioner DeRubeis
- Braceland & Claflin off-leash areas will re-open tomorrow.
- Three Conservation Commission members have been sent an invitation to attend the 3-22-13 OLAWG meeting. One invitation was declined, two have not responded.
- Applicant for the Off-Leash Specialist position has submitted his paperwork and is scheduled to have a physical next week.
- Ms. Lewinger is scheduled on the P & R Commission agenda for Monday night to issue a complaint about Cold Spring Park
- For Cold Spring Park, Ms. Schein presented an option of two segments of fencing in place of only plantings at the Cold Spring Park off-leash area, as to better delineate the limits of the off-leash area. The fencing would be black chain link, and shrubs could be added to soften. The plantings-only concept presented originally at a previous meeting would require many more plants than originally thought, taking many years to become established and not at all guaranteed to survive to fill the gaps and create a barrier as desired. Ms. Schein withdrew the conceptual plantings-only plan.
 - Mr. McIntyre asked what problem the fence is solving. Ms. Schein responded the fence will simply divert dogs from running directly up the hill as well as running between the two fields and will better delineate the space for all park users. It would make it clearer than it is currently for someone entering the area.
 - Mr. McIntyre commented we are discussing this due to a complaint last summer by one individual and being called to attend the Newton Highlands Area Council (NHAC) meeting. Mr. McIntyre does not think the fence should be put up, people will continue to complain and next there will be pressure to fence the entire area.
 - Mr. Kuklinski liked the idea of the partial fencing and does not think people will notice it once it is installed. Planting could be put along the fence.
 - Mr. McIntyre asked again why. Ms. Schein commented there was a commitment made to the NHAC to come up with an option. Ms. Stapleton commented we are all working together.
 - Mr. Kuklinski asked what the cost will be. Ms. Schein does not have a cost at this time.
 - Alderman Albright and Officer Torres agreed the partial fencing was a good idea.

2. Cabot Park Off-leash Area

- The group discussed surfacing for the off-leash area. Ms. Schein looked into Arlington's Thorndike Park as was recommended by some of the Cabot Park users. Rice stone was used there, which is ¼" rounded stone or pebbles. More research needs to be done on this option. Mr. McIntyre will locate a sample of the rice stone.
- A plan for plantings will be decided on at the Cabot Off-Leash Area once the surfacing is decided on. A line of arborvitae along the Cabot Park border fence alongside the abutting residence was suggested as a possibility.
- The group discussed the noise testing and came to a consensus the test should be done by a professional, neutral third party.

3. Enforcement Update

- Applicant for the Off-Leash Specialist position has submitted his paperwork and is scheduled to have a physical next week.

- At the next meeting a list of tasks should be created for observations at the off-leash areas and city parks for the Off-Leash Specialist.

4. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday March 22, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202