



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, April 26, 2013

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Amy Koel, Lee McIntyre, Ted Kuklinski, Carol Schein, Carol Stapleton, Jason Roberts

1. Jason Roberts, Off-Leash Recreation Specialist reported his observations for the week.
 - Mr. Roberts asked what the process is for people who visit from out of town and use the off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated maybe a day pass could be issued but this would require further discussion, including the City Clerk who administers the permits.
 - Mr. Roberts recommended removing the pamphlet holders in the off-leash areas. Most of the holders have been filled with trash and dog waste bags.
2. Area Updates
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented at the 4-22-13 P & R Commission the members voted to accept the remediation's presented. Mr. McIntyre commented he heard a rumor the direct abutter does not want the arborvitaes planted. Mr. Grantham, Resident suggested speaking with them. Mr. Grantham supports the overall design. Mr. Sanders, resident stated he spoke with the abutters. Commissioner DeRubeis requested the abutter send in a written letter. Alderman Albright stated she will follow up with the abutter.
 - Mr. Sanders recommended installing a new fence with the arborvitaes. Commissioner DeRubeis commented he is not opposed to cleaning and repairing the fence.
 - At the next meeting the group will review the design options and look at the budget for the Cabot off-leash area.
 - Mr. McIntyre stated it is great the hours at Cabot were extended during the weekdays, is it possible at some point to extend the hours on the weekends? Other activities occur at the park after 5pm. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the weekend hours were a compromise, we can revisit the hours some time down the road. Alderman Albright requested the item be put on the June OLAWG agenda.
 - Alderman Albright recommended proposing additional fenced in off-leash areas.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis reported a phone call, from an elderly woman who lives near Edmands Park. She reported many off-leash dogs and owners at Edmands who do not pick up after their dogs. An off-leash dog jumped on her over the winter knocked her down and the owner was rude to her when she spoke to him.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented on the next agenda there will be a discussion of the partial fence proposal for the Cold Spring Park off-leash entrance.
3. Other Business
 - Alderman Albright requested the group reach out to the Conservation Commission to check the status of forming a sub-committee with OLAWG.
4. Next meeting
 - There is NO MEETING on May 3rd. **The next meeting is Friday, May 10, 2013 at 9:30am in The Parks & Recreation Office, 124 Vernon St, Newton Corner**