



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

## Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, May 31, 2013

City Hall, Room 209

### Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Lee McIntyre, Carol Schein, Bud Grantham, Jason Roberts

1. Carol Schein mentioned the Stanton Foundation grant program for the design and construction of dog parks, and will have sent out to the others to read, if interested.
2. The group reviewed the draft PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming June 17 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at which 4 new OLA sites are to be proposed.
  - a. Thompsonville Playground
    - Add to the slide: the limits of playground plus acreage/sf; delineate boundaries of proposed off-leash fenced area and add acreage/sf (roughly 1/3 of an acre proposed).
    - Weekend hours to be discussed in the future
    - Over the summer, outreach with abutters, school, leagues
    - This area already has the support of NYSL
  - b. Edmands Park
    - Add to the slide: acreage/sf of entire park
    - Over the summer: Identify special interest groups; will need to talk with high school environmental group that uses the park et al.
  - c. Forte Park
    - Add to the slide: acreage/sf. Very small area; question arose: is it worth it? Perhaps for small dogs only, although this brings up enforcement issue.
    - Suggestion made that the entire park be a winter- use only site; Bob to reach out via email to NYSL (Ralph). Perhaps P&R could clean, fertilize and seed in the early spring.
    - It was noted that the parking lot is plowed in the winter but the circle at the end is used as a snow dump and may, in the future, be a snow melter site, but this should not be a conflict.
    - Lee had reached out to the private abutters to the east of the park with the large parcel of lawn area on the river; was waiting for a call back in the hopes of setting up a meeting. Number of issues related to this as it is private land, i.e., the City would not be providing enforcement there.
    - Double-check on the 100' buffer demarcation line here.
  - d. NSHS – Brandeis Road
    - Add to the slide: acreage/sf
3. Other Business:
  - Jason Roberts, Off-Leash Area Specialist, mentioned that the other day on Cold Spring Park's trail there were 11 dogs on-leash and one off-leash. A big difference from when he first came on board. Comm. DeRubeis reiterated how pleased the P&R Commission is with the enforcement job being done. Jason mentioned that a few professional dog walkers have asked him to have OLAWG reconsider the number of allowable dogs (3). He suggested they email the Commissioner/OLAWG with their concerns.

- Bud mentioned he had spoken with the abutter to the north of Cabot OLA and they are pleased with the new fence that was installed and they are okay with arborvitaes being planted there as long as it doesn't block their view of the park.
- Norumbega Park status: Schein to request the final proposal from Candace Havens, Director of Planning, as she was the presenter to the Conservation Commission. Proposal needs to be reviewed by OLAWG.
- Lee McIntyre will be at the Norumbega Fair this weekend handing out info re the OLA program. He also stated that some professional dog walkers are upset about the high fee for them on top of each of the dogs being required to have an OLA tag. In the future, OLAWG will discuss this and possibly re-consider the fee for Newton dog-walker businesses.

1. Next meeting

- **The next meeting is Friday, June 7, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202 in City Hall**