



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, August 23, 2013

City Hall, Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Officer Ralph Torres, Bud Grantham, Lee McIntyre, Ted Kuklinski, Carol Schein, Amy Koel, Jason Roberts, Carol Stapleton

1. Update

- Mr. Roberts reported with the cooler weather more people are out, and a lot do not have a dog license or an off-leash permit. Mr. Roberts has been spending time at the Auburndale Cove. There is a morning group of dog owners who meet in the park at the Cove.
- Ms. Koel held a training class and the class went well.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented McGrath off-leash area has picked up a group of regular users.
- A question had been asked if the off-leash areas are accessible, we will look at the ADA requirements.
- Ms. Koel commented that Mr. Roberts has been doing a great job providing education, firmness and humor. Mr. Grantham and Commissioner DeRubeis agreed with Ms. Koel.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the fence at the Cold Spring Park off-leash area has been installed. Mr. McIntyre stated the fence installation went well and seems to be working, he has not received any complaints and some of the owners are happy the fence prevents the dogs from running into the creek.
- Alderman Albright commented she has received e-mails requesting fenced off-leash areas. There are also rumors about a proposal for Edmands Park and it is becoming an issue in the Alderman race.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated he met with Watertown representatives at the Lincoln Eliot School. Watertown is proposing an off-leash area on the Newton Watertown line by the school.
- Alderman Albright and Mr. McIntyre met with the Principal of Bowen Elementary School about the proposed off-leash area in Thompsonville Playground.
- The group agreed to remove the small area at Forte Park as an option for a site. The area is too small even for small dogs.
- Mr. Kuklinski recommended fencing in the remainder of Claflin Playground along Lowell Ave. This would be a safety benefit for children as well as for dogs.
- A recommendation was made for benches at McGrath off-leash area.

2. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday, September 6 at 9:30am in Room 202 at City Hall.