



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, September 06, 2013

City Hall, Room 202

Meeting Minutes

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

1. Off-Leash Specialist Update – J. Roberts

- There were incidents at Cabot Park and Cold Spring Park off-leash area. Mr. Roberts is in contact with Officer Torres.
- Mr. Roberts suggested a one-two-three day pass be available for those using the off-leash areas without a yearly pass. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the idea has been mentioned previously and the group should discuss how this would work.

2. Area Updates:

- Cold Spring Park – no complaints from the users of the off-leash area regarding the fence. The Newton Highlands Area Council has been notified the fence has been installed
- Claflin Playground- The fence is being replaced
- Cabot Park- Project is in the design stage, construction planned for Spring 2014
- McGrath Park – dust issue, benches – Carol Schein met with the users of the area to determine the best location for a bench. Grass seed is scheduled to be planted in the worn area.

3. Proposal for additional areas

- Waiting to hear from the Law Department regarding the deed for Thompsonville Playground.
- The newly hired Environmental Planner will be invited to the next OLAWG meeting.
- Alderman Albright and Mr. McIntyre will reach out to the principal of NSHS.

4. New Business

- Suggestion made to place bulletin boards in each OLA – to be discussed
- The proposed Watertown off-leash area on the Newton Line by Lincoln Eliot School is on hold.
- The Law Department is still working on a proposed amendment, to the ordinance, to give the Off-Leash Recreation Specialist the authorization to write citations.

5. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday, September 13 at 9:30am in Room 202 at City Hall.