



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, September 13, 2013

City Hall, Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Officer Ralph Torres, Director Havens, Bud Grantham, Lee McIntyre, Carol Schein, Amy Koel, Jennifer Steel-Environmental Planner, Buzz Dunker, NSLL/NELL

1. Off-Leash Specialist Update – J. Roberts- absent- No Report
2. Thompsonville Playground Proposal
 - Buzz Dunker of NSLL/NELL was present. Ms. Schein reviewed the off-leash recreation proposal for Thompsonville Playground. The area would be fenced. Alderman Albright and Mr. McIntyre previously met with the principal of Bowen School. The Principal requested the off-leash area be as far back as possible.
 - Mr. Dunker did not see a problem having the off-leash area at Thompsonville Playground as long as it is a fenced area and is located as far back as possible; the little league uses both fields.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis suggested inviting Mr. Tresca, owner of the condos abutting Thompsonville Playground, to the next meeting.
3. Jennifer Steel -Senior Environmental Planner
 - Commissioner DeRubeis introduced Ms. Steel, the new Environmental Planner for the City and provided an overview of the off-leash program for Ms. Steel. Commissioner DeRubeis is hoping to open up a discussion with the Conservation Commission regarding off-leash areas and conservation land.
 - Ms. Steel provided her past experience and stated she likes to be clear and defined in her communication.
 - Ms. Schein asked if Ms. Steel has worked in towns with off-leash areas. Ms. Steel stated she has had some exposure to the off-leash program in Andover. Ms. Schein asked if the program worked, Ms. Steel replied it was controversial in establishment, especially about fencing the area, but once established the off-leash area became part of the culture.
4. New Business – No new business
5. Next meeting
 - The next meeting is Friday, September 27 at 9:30am in Room 202 at City Hall.