

Off-Leash Area Working Group
Friday, September 27, 2013
City Hall, Room 202
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Alderman Susan Albright, Officer Ralph Torres, Bud Grantham, Lee McIntyre, Carol Schein, Amy Koel

1. Off-Leash Specialist Update – J. Roberts

- We received last minute notification of a track meet in Cold Spring Park on Wednesday 9-25-13 between 3pm-6pm. The Commissioner closed down the OLA and notification was sent out a.s.a.p. to the OL users but people did show up. Mr. Roberts stayed on site to redirect the OL users.
- Ms. Koel commented this is another example of the benefit of having an off-leash specialist.
- A request should be sent to the Athletic Director at NSHS for a track schedule at Cold Spring Park.
- Officer Torres suggested a bulletin board to post notices.
- Mr. Roberts mentioned there were bicyclists riding through Cold Spring Park during the track meet. Should “No bicycling” signs be posted?
- Mr. Roberts keeps a list of dog owners, he speaks with, whose dogs do not have a dog license and then he will check with the Clerk’s office to see if they do purchase a license. Dog Licensing is up.

2. Area Updates

- *Cabot off-leash area:* the plantings along the perimeter fence near the OLA have been installed. Mr. Grantham stated the neighbors have given positive feedback.
- *Newton South High School:* Alderman Albright met with the vice-principal, showed him the area, there will be another meeting scheduled.
- *Spears Park:* Alderman Albright met with Alderman Lennon and showed him the diagram of Spears Park with the ornamental fence and benches as proposed by OLAWG. Alderman Lennon agreed to an informal meeting with the neighbors. Mr. Grantham commented he walks in this area and there are a number of dogs walking in the neighborhood, but a cross walk would be needed for Washington Street.
- *Thompsonville Playground:* Still need info on the deed and to contact Mr. Tresca the owner of the condos abutting the playground.

3. New Business

- Ms. Koel asked what the policy is for a person who purchases an off-leash permit half way through the season. Is the permit pro-rated?
- Alderman Albright commented she checked the dog park on the cape regarding the rules of kids in off-leash areas. The rule is “monitor the behavior of children and dogs- you’re own and others”. Continued discussion required.
- Mr. Grantham commented from his limited data and observation, generally the more dogs in the area the more kids are in the area.
- Mr. Sanders commented about the signs at Cabot and the hours posted now that it is getting darker earlier.

4. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday, October 4 at 9:30am in Room 202 at City Hall.