



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, May 11, 2012

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Lee McIntyre, Amy Koel, Ted Kuklinski Carol Stapleton, Carol Schein

Also Attending: Ralph Rinalli, NYS

- **Discussion with NYS/NGS regarding the Weeks Park & Forte Park off-leash area proposal.**

- ✓ There were visitors attending the meeting. Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed agenda for the meeting. On the agenda was a discussion with NYS to find alternative sites for off-leash areas in place of Weeks Park and Forte Park.
- ✓ Introductions were made around the room.
- ✓ Ms. Susan Hurst, Weeks Park user, requested the definition of an off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there are a few fenced areas but mostly the off-leash areas are in parks that are multiuse.
- ✓ Mr. Andrew Lasara Weeks Park user suggested time restrictions for the off-leash area. Weeks Park is multipurpose serving all communities. Mr. Lasara's daughters were soccer players. The dog owners at Weeks Park clean up after themselves, the soccer players should also clean up the Park.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis commented the proposal for Weeks Park and Forte Park were put on hold due to the objections of NYS/NGS. OLWAG & NYS/NGS are working together to find alternative sites.
- ✓ Ms. Lori Ruston is a user of Weeks Park. If there are issues, the issues need to be addressed. The dog owners using the Park are responsible.
- ✓ Ms. Martha Houseman asked if Weeks Park is off the table, does the area remain status quo.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis requested the group continue discussion of the agenda item. On May 25th at the OLAWG meeting a spokesperson for the users of Weeks Park will have a chance to be heard regarding this issue.
- ✓ Ms. Houseman suggested posting signs at Weeks Park to keep dogs off the play fields.
- ✓ The group continued discussing alternate sites, a few suggestions were:
 - Bowen School upper level
 - Fire Headquarters- strip of green space between fire station & bank
 - Norumbega Park

- **Next meeting**

- ✓ The next meeting is Friday, May 18, 2012 at 9:30 am, Room 202, in City Hall.
- ✓ On the agenda: continued discussion with the soccer leagues

Respectfully Submitted

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary