

Kennebunk Dog Advisory Committee
Minutes April 13, 2016

Present: Selectman Boothby, ACO Parker, C. Connors, E. Fagan, S. Hennessey, P. Hoffman, A. Legg, R. Levangie, G. Rodriguez, S. Stewart

Absent: L. Kendrick (S. Stewart ran the meeting in the Chair's absence)

Minutes

E. Fagan moved that the minutes from the last meeting (October 2015) be approved; P. Hoffman seconded; all present agreed.

Announcements

ACO report

ACO Parker reported that over the winter there was the usual level of incidents, waste on the beach and complaints. She described a bite incident on Christmas day involving an unleashed Chesapeake retriever and another dog. While it initially appeared that there was no harm and the parties went on their way, the dog owner subsequently reported a discovered wound. The ACOP investigated; the retriever owner was not located (as it occurred on Christmas, this was more likely a transient visitor, and the time delay complicated efforts). There was no further action for the Committee to take; ACO Parker just reiterated that monitors should to always look carefully for any injuries immediately, and to call the ACO immediately, allowing the ACO to investigate promptly based on personal knowledge and not subsequent hearsay.

P. Hoffman noted that there was an unneutered German Shepard acting aggressively on the beach, so to keep an eye out for this dog, which she saw go after a dog with a cone on it, while the Shepard owner stated, incorrectly, that the Shepard was "just playing." R. Levangie noted that a cone can set a dog off.

Discussion ensued as to how to respond to an owner acting in a hostile manner when confronted by a monitor or committee member. The overarching rule is to disengage and walk away. If the owner appears to be open to some discussion, a point that can be made, in a friendly manner, is that if the rules are not obeyed, the result could be restrictions of dogs on the beach for everyone. Because many owners are transient, they may not have a vested interest in the status quo, complicating persuasion efforts.

Committee member resignation

S. Stewart reported that K. Leathers had resigned from KDAC due to the press of other business. Discussion ensued as to a replacement. Selectman Boothby noted that boards often

have alternates from which potential members can be identified. Active monitors are a possibility here, and members discussed asking potential prospects to attend the next meeting.

Location

S. Stewart stated that she had been notified that meetings can no longer take place at the first station. Selectman Boothby was unaware of this change. The town proposed West Kennebunk, which the consensus found unacceptable. Selectman Boothby informed the Committee that it may always meet at town hall.

Old business

Monitors and training

Selectman Boothby noted that life guards were now under fire chief. R. Levangie asked, understanding that the lifeguards are training at that time, whether one lifeguard could be assigned to begin at 9 am, not 10, to facilitate getting dogs off the beach at the time required by ordinance. Selectman Boothby said he would check with Brian. ACO Parker said that she would like the head lifeguard to attend the monitor training.

Monitor training was tentatively set for June 8 at 6:30 pm.

Service pets

ACO Parker noted that no one can ask for proof that an animal is a service animal or ask what the owner's disability is. C. Connors noted that there also is no obligation for service pet owners to pick up their pet's waste. ACO Parker noted that the service pet need not be labeled, either. To date, however, owners have been cooperative in providing notice. In short, monitors can tell people when it is time to leave the beach with a pet, but if someone tells them that their dog is a service animal, the discussion is over.

Breakfast on Gooches

S. Stewart and E. Fagan volunteered to organize the event, from 7-9 am on June 25. S. Hennessey will bring coffee and munchkins, per usual. Jar for donations. L. Kendrick has the KDAC sign. S. Stewart will confirm that the date works with Tasha, the new parks and recreation director.

Cards

Robert Wright died. A card will be sent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.