

EASTHAM DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

**Thursday, April 12, 2007 @ 6:30PM
Eastham Police Conference Room**

Present: Fred Fenlon, Lynne Bates, Mary Beth/Bill O'Shea, Pat Engstrom, Gretchen Bondi, Linda Van Nest, and Cindy Nicholson

Absent: Loretta Neilsen, Val Young, Bernie Kaplan, Kari Miller, Maureen Fagan, Katrina Boucher

TREASURERS REPORT – Treasurer absent, no report.

MINUTES: Previous minutes reviewed. Minutes accepted.

LOST DOG – THE MIA STORY

Cindy Nicholson shared the brief synopsis of the missing dog starting from the night of April 1st to the finding of Mia by her four-legged friend, Jackie O on the morning of April 4th. The focal point of the Town Hall played an important role with Cindy and Mary Beth involved – posters were placed on every countertop for all town folk to see as they came in, questions and concerns were shared. Emails were sent almost hourly and posters were put up. Copies of a map of Eastham were being broken up into neighborhoods for help displaying posters when Mia was found. Many were reached in a short period of time.

Discussion held on how to improve the next time an emergency like this happens. Suggestion was that a nucleus committee for emergency situations of lost dogs, etc. be combined with a Natural Disaster situation similar to the Emergency Dog Shelter Committee telephone chart chain. (see attached). Cindy will talk with Russ Moore from the Neighborhood Watch Group and perhaps merge with their group on this matter. The local newspapers need to be advised of the happy outcome for publication to include the importance of the Eastham Dog Owner Association's network.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTER

Pat Engstrom took the floor. A letter was sent to the Chief of Police and Town Administrator on March 16th questioning if there are funds or grants available for obtaining a trailer. Along with the letter, Pat attached grant and trailer information she obtained from the Office of Emergency Management in Arlington, Va. They suggested we contact David Vieira from the Citizen Corps Council in Bourne for possible grants.

Pat then contacted Chief Hedlund and he said he would call David Vierra. Pat also requested she be part of the meeting when the Chief and Town Administrator meet. As of this date they have not met.

Pat then contacted the Wellfleet Police Chief and he sent her pictures of the trailer they have as she has not received a response from Eastham Town as of this date.

Fred mentioned June 1st starts the beginning of hurricane season.

The Committee is in need of volunteers (has rec'd 6 responses) and supplies (list attached). Anyone have any supply contacts?

Fred mentioned how great an email newsletter would be at this time to recruit more interest. Lynne suggested Channel 17 for free advertisement as other towns such as Harwich has done in the past.

DOG PARK

Fred asked for feedback of pros and cons – what direction do we want to go in? If Wiley Park was available, would it be a yes to a park? Perhaps limited hours would be favorable to the Town?

Pat and Lynne voiced opposition. Lynne thought it would be a legal nightmare and Pat thought area was too small. She also suggested the Conservation area by Wiley Park be cleared (with permission, of course) and not officially call it a “dog park”.

More discussion needed on this.

INCORPORATION

The State has advised Fred that the number of officers/directors on our current by-law must be consistent with the actual acting officer/directors. Applications were distributed for officers/directors to complete if they hadn't done so already.

A motion was made to accept the following new members into the Board: Gretchen Bondi, Katrina Boucher and Maureen Fagan. All were in favor. Welcome new members.

NEW MEMBERS – Cindy reported at present 130 members. This represents household members, not registered voters.

TOWN MEETING

Fred reported all selectman are in favor of accepting our amended by-law as presented to the town on May 7th. It was confirmed that it is not necessary to have another meeting before the Town Meeting as we felt comfortable that it would be voted in. Dog owners are still encouraged to attend the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES - Wait for better weather, outside Post Office – Fred to check when the next Part-Time Residence Meeting is scheduled. Perhaps we can make a presentation to the part-time owners who have dogs and want to become involved.

MUTT MITT PROGRAM – Lynne spoke with Henry Lind at the Nat'l Resources Dept and received a positive response regarding moving the mutt mitt box at Rock Harbor as previously requested. He is thankful for the help of the Dog Association. Lynne brought to his attention the donation of the Agway mutt mitts but voiced her concern of the Town's aging mitts as they are biodegradable. We should use the Town's first.

Suggestion of more trash cans was brought up but was vetoed – more work for DPW – and more abuse from individuals dumping household trash.

We should also follow up on obtaining Mutt Mitts and dispensers for First Encounter beach.

PROJECTS FOR TOWN OF EASTHAM

Fred called Kathy Sette whom is on several committees, to discuss which committee cleans up the trash on our beaches. Jerry Gibson, Pres. of the Eastham Forum is temporarily in charge. We need to organize dog clean up "parties" before they go down to clean up trash from beaches. Dog waste is not their responsibility.

LOGO – Decision was made, Lighthouse with possible minor changes.

FUTURE DISCUSSIONS – Topics for next meeting: Windmill Weekend, banner for parade, Therapy Dogs (Just for Dogs Training Center, owner Gina Hayes) perhaps be guest speaker at next public dog meeting?

Next Board Meeting is May 10, 2007 at the Police Conference Room.

Adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Nicholson

Emergency Disaster Pet Supplies

Intake forms
Paper collars
Pens/Pencils

Supplied by town:

Rolls of Plastic
Digital Camera or Polaroid
Tape
Heavy rubber mat (runner)

Donations of:

Dog crates for both dogs and cats
Blankets
Old towels
Newspapers
Dog food & water dishes
Cat food & water dishes
Dog food
Cat food
Can opener
Plastic spoons
Liter boxes
Liter
Scoops
Plastic bags (grocery bags) for used liter
Garbage pail
Garbage bags
Spray bottles of disinfectant
Paper towels
First aid kit
Leashes
Mutt Mitts

Emergency Disaster Pet Shelter Phone Tree

