



Eastham Dog Owners' Association December 18, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Vicky Anderson, Per Bentsen, Ruth Bentsen, Steve Cole, Dianne Cullen, Larry DiBona, Kathy Herrick, Cindy Nicholson, Ellen Murray, Joanne Baldauf

Absent: Cindy Blum, Ed Daniels, Tracey Plantier

The November meeting minutes were approved. (*Motion to accept by Ruth, Per 2nd, passed with one abstention*)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruth distributed a report showing our actual income/expenses through December 18th versus what we budgeted for the year. She also highlighted income and expenses in the last month, including memberships, merchandise sales and donations at Turnip Festival, and expenses such as web hosting, PayPal, and annual meeting. This information was used in our later discussion about Budget 2015.

- Our account balance is currently \$12, 040.06 (\$9628.63 bank balance, \$2033.26 CD, \$378.17 PayPal). *Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Vicki, Larry 2nd, passed.*

CORRESPONDENCE/NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- Larry reiterated that Eastham Veterinary Associates will offer EDOA members a 10% discount on services, excluding food and medicine. He asked that we update their office with our membership list, but we also said that members should present their cards to receive the discount since we do not distribute updated membership lists with every new or renewed membership.
- A letter to ACO Diana Back was forwarded to EDOA regarding a local resident seeking assistance in dealing with her leashed, unfriendly dog being approached by other dogs that are often off leash. We reached out to the resident but have not yet had a response. There is a responsibility on both sides: from the owner of the unfriendly dog to warn others and/or to avoid situations where possible, but also from the owners of dogs, either on or off leash, who approach her and her dog. Much of this comes down to training and personal responsibility. Kathy will write a blurb to put in an upcoming EDOA Newsletter that addresses this.
- A question was asked about what percentage of dog owners in Eastham are members of EDOA. There are about 700 families in town who've licensed about 1000 dogs. We currently have 156 members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (*Motion to accept all committee reports by Vicki, CindyN 2nd, passed*)

Education – Ellen has been speaking with Kristin Davis of Nauset Pet Services and Vera Wilkinson of The Cooperative Dog regarding a possible training session next May. Kristin is willing to offer her fenced area at NPS at no cost to us, and Vera is willing to offer a group training session with owners and their dogs for about \$100 per person for a 4-hour session. Sunday, May 17th is a date that will work well for both businesses. Vera needs at least 10 participants but could handle as many as 20. Ellen will get more detail from Vera about specific course content, and then we'll float the idea to our membership and see if there is interest in pursuing this further.

Lost Dog Network (LDN) – There is no recent activity to report. Larry talked to ACO Diana Back about whether the Eastham Police Department (EPD) has thermal/heat sensor equipment that might be helpful in night searches for lost dogs. It turns out that EPD has night vision goggles, and not thermal equipment. Cost for these would be prohibitive for EDOA. We may want to add money into the LDN budget to purchase high-powered flashlights, because although we typically do not search after dark because of personal safety issues, some volunteers have done so.

- We've not heard anything further from LDN Chair Tracey Plantier about scheduling training sessions and regrouping with team members. CindyN and Larry will meet to discuss getting something scheduled.
- We will need to assign a coordinator(s) to be on call for lost dog activity starting in January and continuing until mid-March. Can Tracey arrange this coverage?
- We need to update our inventory of vests, radios and LDN alert signs. Kathy will send out an email after the holidays to find out who has what supplies/equipment.



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Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST) – a refresher training session is scheduled for Saturday, January 10th from 2-3 p.m. at the Wellfleet Fire Department on Route 6 in Wellfleet. Joanne has been putting up posters around the area, and Kathy sent an email notice to all people who attended either our initial information session or our subsequent basic training course held earlier this year. Members of the Provincetown Animal Advisory Committee have been invited to attend. The intent is to review shelter plans with our current members and to provide an opportunity for new volunteers to hear about our team, all in anticipation of a potential need to open the shelter with winter storms.

- Cindy Blum and Kathy Herrick are planning the session. Kathy will schedule a meeting with the LCAST Steering Committee (CindyB, CindyN, Ed, Kathy and Per) in advance of this session to go over content and plans. She also hopes to have a booklet highlighting LCAST responsibilities done for this session.
- We were recently asked to submit LCAST operational details to Phil Burt of the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC). Kathy provided this information to Phil, including a current organization chart. She also included an additional request to him, repeating our need for Material Data Safety Sheets (MDSS) for Nauset High (listing any hazardous materials in the area where the animal shelter is located), a current inventory of the Conex box that stores emergency supplies, and a listing of subject matter experts who could conduct training for our members. We've not yet heard back from him with the information we requested.

Membership – We have 45 paid memberships already for 2015. CindyN will send membership cards out after the new year. Memberships are valid through December 2015.

Buddy Scholarship – Vicki is now sending donation acknowledgement letters, so her name should be added to the Committee Membership list that was recently compiled by Ed. Although CindyB was not able to attend tonight's meeting, she submitted an email saying that she has been in touch with local schools to find out the deadlines for their students to apply for scholarships. This information will drive our selecting a date by which applications will be required for our annual award. A question was also raised about the size and number of scholarships we should issue. In Year 1, we offered one individual a \$1000 scholarship. In Year 2, we offered two \$500 scholarships. What we do this year will depend upon the amount of donations received toward the Buddy Scholarship.

Mutt Mitts – All is okay with bag supply, and although the quality of the bags purchased by the town is still a concern, it is a town budget issue that we cannot control. CindyN read a notice posted to Eastham's Community Space that mentions an observation at Wiley Park, a park that is used by dog owners and non-dog owners alike. The concern is that there is more dog waste not picked up and/or people leaving their bags instead of disposing of them. The writer makes a good point: it is each dog owner's responsibility to pick up after their dog and to dispose properly of the bags. Being able to walk our dogs in Wiley Park is a privilege that needs to be treated as such by dog owners. We do not want to lose this privilege because of people who don't take responsibility.

OLD BUSINESS

Bulletin Board at Wiley Park – The board was vandalized last summer, the Plexiglas is broken, and the backing on which we would post information is ruined. There are politics associated with who is responsible for maintaining the board in good condition (i.e., Conservation or Parks Department), but the fact remains that the board needs to be repaired or replaced. Vicki will get an estimate about what it would cost to replace the board, and Ellen will reach out to Cape Associates to see if they might be willing to build or fund a new board for the park.

Vicki will submit a request to book the Small Meeting Room at Town Hall for our 2015 board meetings which will continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.



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NEW BUSINESS

2015 Budget Planning – Board members reviewed our income and expenses against our 2014 budget, and added an additional \$538 in items for our 2015 budget. Changes were made to budget categories of Membership (increased by \$108 to \$500 annual), Website (increased by \$51 to \$200 annual), Accounting/Treasurer (increased by \$179 to \$400 annual), and Windmill Weekend (increased by \$200 to \$400 annual). All other budget categories will carry forward the same budget allocated in the 2014 budget.

Inventory/Merchandise – CindyN suggested that we might want to consider selling our merchandise at the Wellfleet Flea Market next summer. It is an opportunity to meet with local residents, part-time residents and visitors to let them know more about EDOA.

CindyN reported that dog cookies left over from our booth at the Turnip Festival have been donated to the Brewster Animal Shelter.

Ellen asked for ideas about speakers for next year's annual meeting. Ideas discussed briefly tonight included agility training, police dog demonstration, search and rescue, and how rescue groups find/foster/rehabilitate dogs for adoption. Please email Ellen with other ideas or more detail on those already suggested.

A motion to adjourn was made by CindyN, Vicki 2nd, passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 15th at 6 p.m. at the Eastham Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary