



## Eastham Dog Owners' Association February 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Vicky Anderson, Per Bentsen, Ruth Bentsen, Cindy Blum, Dianne Cullen, Ed Daniels, Kathy Herrick, Cindy Nicholson, Joanne Baldauf

Absent: Larry DiBona, Ellen Murray, Tracey Plantier

The January meeting minutes were approved. (*Motion to accept by CindyB, Dianne 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed*).

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ruth presented our year-to-date activity against our 2015 budget. Income through today totaled \$1915, with \$1420 in membership dues and \$495 in other contributions to EDOA (Buddy Scholarship \$280, other donations \$215), while expenses totaled \$356. Our account balance is currently \$13,912.70 (\$11,285.76 bank balance, \$2034.61 CD, \$592.33 PayPal). *Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Vicki, CindyB 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.*

- Our CD term is up for renewal. Although the interest rate is low, a motion was made to roll over the funds into another 6-month term. *Motion by Ed, Dianne 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.*

**CORRESPONDENCE/NOTEWORTHY ITEMS** – it was a busy month with correspondence.

- We received a membership with an additional \$20 donation from a member who complimented EDOA on its commitment to animal welfare, including the Lost Dog Network.
- We received a letter from a part-time Orleans resident asking for input on the Kent's Point issues regarding the amount of dog activity there. She likes our collaborative approach and wants to organize dog owners in Orleans.
- In response to an email from President Ed Daniels regarding dog areas under attack, a member wrote back to say that we "need dog owners to pick up and get on others who don't."
- We had another reply to Ed's email saying that Kent's Point is "the Park Avenue for dog walkers" and that "dog owners need to raise the bar of good behavior."
- Yet another response said that responsible dog owners are critical for continued access to areas, that laws should be in place and enforced for owners that don't pick up, and that it would be nice if every Cape town had a group like EDOA.
- We heard from former board member Kathleen Mueller with an update on the health of her two dogs, and to tell us that the "dog beach" in her off-Cape town amounts to a 10'x10' rocky area. We miss you, too, K2!
- Another member wrote to say she was impressed to know that EDOA sponsors the Buddy Scholarship Fund.
- The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Stewardship Committee had a positive impact on lessening some restrictions on dogs at public parks overseen by DCR. Although the revisions are not yet posted to the DCR website, you can read more about DCR at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** (*Motion to accept all committee reports by Dianne, Vicki 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed*)

Education – A revised training proposal from Vera Wilkinson of The Cooperative Dog showed some pricing changes. The board decided that we should send an email to our members to see if there is sufficient interest to actually hold the program. Ed will send the email and we'll see how many are interested. Vera needs a minimum of 20 participants to hold the session.

- Board members tonight donated \$85 toward the Buddy Scholarship in memory of Ellen's mother who passed away recently.
- Remember to send any ideas to Ellen for guest speakers at the annual meeting in October. Tracey reached out to Granite State Dog Recovery regarding the possibility of their speaking at our annual meeting, but has not received a response yet.

EDOA Newsletter – the next newsletter is due in May. Send article ideas to CindyN.



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Lost Dog Network (LDN) – Tracey reported via an email that there has been no recent activity but that Larry helped find a lost dog while on his vacation.

- CindyN and Karie Miller will host a searcher's training on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Location TBD. About 30 members have expressed an interest in getting involved with LDN. Eastham Police Officer/ACO Diana Back has agreed to participate, and Joanne will reach out to former Dennis Animal Control Officer Cheryl Malone to see if she might also be interested.
- We are hoping that Tracey and Larry will hold LDN Coordinator training in the spring since we need to recruit and train more coordinators.

Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST) – Thank you to all volunteers who assisted with the January 26<sup>th</sup> deployment to the Emergency Shelter for Blizzard Juno. It was an impressive commitment by 15 team members who helped with set up, transport, day and night shifts, and breakdown. Special thanks to Per, CindyB, Joanne and Ron who arrived on Monday evening and stayed for the duration. The planning for the night shift, with each overnight volunteer asked to fill one two-hour slot (10-12 pm, 12-2 am, 2-4 am, and 4-6 am) worked well since we were uncertain if and how many clients might show up overnight considering the 36 hour blizzard conditions. CindyB sent a handwritten thank you note to each of our volunteers, and she did a recap to the BCREPC documenting our 209 volunteer hours accumulated over the course of this deployment. Hopefully we can receive reimbursement for this effort.

- We conducted an After Action Review for volunteers involved in the deployment to learn what worked and what needed to be improved. A lively discussion raised many great comments that will be incorporated into our training program and next deployment.
- We will hold a "forms" training session on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 a.m. (location TBD) to better familiarize our volunteers with the forms required for animal intake and animal care. We need to make certain that all of our volunteers can handle intake activities.
- The LCAST Operations Manual is almost ready for publication. Kathy needs to make a minor change to the Animal Care Form before we do the printing.

### Chamber of Commerce membership

- Ed and CindyB make a presentation before the Eastham Chamber of Commerce regarding their interest in funding non-profit organizations via their "Taste of the Lower Cape" event planned later this spring. Since we have no funding from the BCREPC, we are hopeful that LCAST will be a recipient.
- CindyN and Dianne attended the February Chamber event and networked with the small group in attendance. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Vicky is interested in attending.

Membership – We have 131 paid memberships and their 2015 membership cards have been mailed. Vicky suggested that "the gift of EDOA membership" might be a great idea for those people you know who are dog owners but are not yet members or need their memberships renewed. Cape Cod Dog and Nauset Pet Services have been stocked in the past with our EDOA brochures and membership application – are they in need of additional materials?

- Larry confirmed that EDOA discounts at participating vets apply to the member's dog(s) *and* cat(s).

Buddy Scholarship – We will soon start to solicit applicants for this May's award. Nauset High School has the application details, our EDOA website has been updated with the information, and posters were distributed to put up in area locations.

Mutt Mitts – Our volunteer who took care of dispensers at Dyer Prince and Salt Pond has moved off Cape so we are in need of someone to take on this responsibility.



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Merchandise – We need new business cards and more LDN magnets. Ed will order these.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Wiley Park Bulletin Board – Neither DPW nor Parks and Recreation want to fund this board in their town budgets. Vicki was told by DPW Manager Neil Andres to apply for Community Preservation Funds, but then learned that the deadline was December 2014. The town doesn't want a donated board because then it cannot control its use. Perhaps we should just laminate everything we post into the dilapidated board and hope for the best. Vicky will continue to work the issue.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board opening – A motion was made to nominate Karie Miller to the position recently vacated by Steve Cole. *Motion by CindyN, Vicky 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.*

Board Member Nominating Committee – the need for and/or composition of this committee was discussed. A decision was made to ask one board member to draw up a proposal for our review at next month's meeting. CindyN will ask Karie Miller if she would work on this proposal. CindyB agreed to help Karie if necessary.

Ed asked for names of local organizations that could potentially impact the interests of dog owners. We would not want them to make decisions without our input. Off the tops of our heads we came up with the following groups/agencies/departments: Natural Resources, Board of Health, Board of Selectman, Animal Advisory Board, DPW, Conservation Committee, Parks and Recreation, Police, Town Clerk, Town Administrator. How do we engage with these folks to remind them of our interests and to ensure that they involve us when they are faced with issues that affect our members?

**UPCOMING EVENTS** – CindyN presented a list of upcoming EDOA activities.

- March 28, 10 am – Lost Dog Searchers Meeting
- March 28, 2 pm – Wiley Park Poop Pickup Party (rain date March 29 at 2 pm)
- April 18, 9:30 am – LCAST Forms Training
- May 16 – Bow Wow Bash
- May 17 - The Cooperative Dog Training Session (dependent upon member interest)
- May 30 – Paws for Celebration
- June 20 – Hands on the Arts
- September 12-13 – Windmill Weekend

A motion to adjourn was made by CindyB, CindyN 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Eastham Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Herrick, Secretary