



Eastham Dog Owners' Association February 18, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors (BoD) Attending: Vicky Anderson, Per Bentsen, Ruth Bentsen, Dianne Cullen, Kathy Herrick, Kimberly Inman, Karie Miller, Ellen Murray, Tracey Plantier, Susie Williams. BoD Absent: Cindy Blum, Barbara Komins. Members Attending: Joanne Baldauf, Ed Daniels, Larry DiBona, Cindy Nicholson.

The January meeting minutes were approved as modified. (*Motion to accept by Dianne, Tracey 2nd, passed*).

DOGS OF THE MONTH: Newly adopted Maizy and her brother Jake joined us this month. Their human Susie filled us in on their history. Jake is a 9 year old Jack Russell Terrier rescue from western Massachusetts and he's been part of the family for 7 years. His new sister is Maizy who we first met at EDOA's annual meeting in October. As you may remember, Maizy was brought to that meeting by our guest speaker from the Animal Rescue League, and it was clear with Maizy fell instantly in love with Susie since she spent much of the meeting resting on Susie's lap. She's a smart little Shiba Inu and Corgi mix with a great personality, and she and Jake are fast friends.

NEXT DOG OF THE MONTH: Vicky will bring Casey

CORRESPONDENCE/NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- We received a letter from board member Dianne Cullen thanking EDOA's Lost Dog Network volunteers for searching for and finding her Boston Terrier Elvis who was spooked by noise and took off over some snow drifts in the bitter cold a few weeks ago. EDOA's Past President Ed Daniels was in the right place at the time that Elvis appeared in the road in Chatham, and he was able to return Elvis to Dianne.
- We received confirmation from Eastham's Parks and Recreation Department of our request to reserve the far end of First Encounter Beach for our annual Bow Wow Bash on May 21 (rain date May 22).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruth discussed several reports this evening including our Year-to-Date Actual versus Budget report and our Profit/Loss YTD Comparison.

- Our bank balance is \$18,596.34 (\$16,108.37 checking, \$2039.64 CD, \$448.33 PayPal).
- *Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Vicky, Karie 2nd, passed.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS (*Motion to approve committee reports by Vicky, Tracey 2nd, passed*)

Education – Because we've received confirmation from Truro Police Officer Steve Raneo about being the keynote speaker at our October annual meeting, Ellen will not continue pursuing a search-and-rescue team speaker. However, a question was raised about whether it might be prudent to find an alternative speaker incase Officer Raneo is called out that evening to respond to an emergency. Tracey will follow up with Massachusetts Vest-A-Dog, an organization that has already provided a bullet proof vest to Officer Raneo's narcotics dog Ella, to see if they might be interested in attending.

- Ellen has reached out to the Companion Animal Program about attending the Bow Wow Bash in May.

Lost Dog Network (LDN)

- Elvis was missing for about five hours but was warm and dry and smelled of perfume when found by Ed Daniels. Dianne suspects that someone picked him up and later reconsidered by dropping him off in the middle of a road. The bottom line is that he is back home but it certainly raises questions about where he spent those five hours and why someone would take him and not file a report with the police about finding a dog. See additional information under Correspondence.
- Tracey presented additional details about various technologies that could help find and identify lost pets. The information below highlights those potential approaches which were also described in last month's meeting minutes.



Eastham Dog Owners' Association February 18, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

- A free application called "Finding Rover" involves facial recognition of the dog, based on a full facial picture of the dog that could then be matched by a picture taken by whoever finds the dog.
- Another application with potential for expanded use is the "Tile" product, a device initially designed to find lost keys by using the cell phone to sense a tracking device attached to the keys. The tile currently costs about \$20 and the battery lasts for a year, but it works only within a maximum 100' radius.
- A GPS enabled microchip is also in development. It would be recharged by using a special glove and passing over the area where the chip is implanted in the pet.
- A final comment: any or all of these technologies could potentially return a lost dog to its home, but the greatest success would be dependent upon an expansive use of a common product. Tracey will continue her research efforts.
- Larry has all the new yellow lost dog alert signs. There has been discussion about loaning out the signs to people outside of Eastham who need help finding their missing pets but there is concern about getting those signs back reliably. There are no guarantees that we get all of them returned even with posting in Eastham since we know some neighbors have taken/destroyed the signs. Per recommended that Tracy and her team think further about this issue, perhaps discuss it at the April 23rd searchers' meeting, and bring any resolution to an upcoming board meeting.

Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST) - the team was on-call and ready to staff the emergency shelter during the snow storm in late January but after 4 conference calls tracking the progress of the storm, the REPC decided to not open any shelters. There were minimal power outages in Eastham in large part because of the tree trimming by NStar.

- CindyB participated in a shelter walk-thru at Nauset High School with Fire Chief Farrenkopf.

Membership – We have 157 memberships for 2016, making this the most successful membership campaign ever. Historically at this time, we've averaged about 110 members. Ed and CindyN are doing a great job managing this effort.

Buddy Scholarship – We currently have sufficient funds to offer a \$1000 scholarship in May. Additional donations will be target toward the 2017 award.

Mutt Mitts – Claire Branfield and Ellen Murray reliably check and restock the dispensers. We received a recommendation to install a dispenser at First Encounter Beach. We have an extra dispenser, thanks to CindyN's husband, but we need approval from Eastham's Parks and Recreation Department to install it. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Promotions – We do not have a formal Promotions committee, but each of us participate by circulating flyers, etc. A local business that Susie uses expressed interested in having our flyers in their shop, and she'll go ahead with bringing them our information.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Membership – An update listing of committee members has been updated and posted to our website.

- Windmill Weekend Committee - We need a co-chair to assist Karie with planning. Between setup, raffles, scheduling volunteers, staffing the booth, merchandise, and breakdown each day of the 2-day event, it is too much for one person to handle. Per will consider filling this position vacated by CindyN.

EDOA Newsletter – Susie and Vicky will lead the newsletter effort. Board members should forward ideas to them.



Eastham Dog Owners' Association February 18, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

2016 Schedule of Events – CindyN presented an updated events schedule. She will add the April 2nd Rabies Clinic, April 23 LDN Searcher Meeting, and May 9 Candidates Forum and forward the revised schedule to Per.

National Park Service –NPS is now allowing dogs on leash on the Nauset Trail leading to Coast Guard Beach.

Candidate Forum – Vicky is working with the Eastham Chamber of Commerce to finalize plans to co-sponsor this forum on Monday, May 9th. Recommendations for a moderator should be sent to Vicky.

NEW BUSINESS

Expenses – Who can authorize spending for each committee? The 2016 budget establishes spending limits, but all agree that the committee chair must be involved in any expenditure decision.

Website update – the editing system we use is very old and unsupported by the vendor. Ed continues to try to “patch” the system but it is difficult. He can usually change an existing feature but adding new features is prohibited. Should we hire a web professional to make the fixes we need or to build a new website? Ed will contact a fellow Eastham Chamber of Commerce member to discuss the possibilities and related costs.

Lifetime Membership – This is a totally new concept and one that is proposed solely for narcotics dog Ella and her human Officer Steve Raneo of the Truro Police Department. *Motion to make Ella and her human lifetime members of EDOA by Vicky, Tracey 2nd, passed.* CindyN will send them a membership card with no expiration date.

Animal Abuse/Cruelty Issues – Through her work on social media, Tracey has become more aware of legislation related to these issues. A Massachusetts representative from Seekonk is sponsoring bill H1385 to create a registry for animal abusers. An initial hearing on this proposed legislation was held in October 2015, and it is back in the appropriate legislative committee for further discussion. The Animal Rescue League recently hired an advocate to follow these kinds of issues and to propose new legislation. Tracey will keep us informed on any progress.

Motion to adjourn by Vicky, Karie 2nd, passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Note: Kathy will not be able to attend this meeting so someone will need to record and publish meeting minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Clerk