



Eastham Dog Owners' Association
January 15, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Steve Cole, Larry DiBona

The December meeting minutes were approved. (*Motion to accept by Vicki, Per 2nd, passed*).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruth reported that our 2014 income exceeded our 2014 expenses by \$685.75. She distributed a year-to-date Actual vs Budget report, but since we are only three weeks into the new year, there was little to discuss. The QuickBooks class was beneficial, and she will be having a one-on-one session with the instructor to go over specific questions about EDOA's budget structure to maximize our use of QuickBooks. Our account balance is currently \$12,353.77 (\$10173.63 bank balance, \$2034.61 CD, \$145.53 PayPal). *Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Dianne, Tracey 2nd, passed.*

- Budget 2015 – a revised budget was distributed for review in advance of this meeting. Committee chairs can spend up to their approved expense limit without having to come to the board for approval. Any additional expense requests would have to be board approved. Several categories, such as stationery, were grouped into one budget category instead of being allocated to specific committees. Donations were also grouped into one category, and they will be tracked within that category to ensure that we know earmarked funds.
 - Please add the corresponding expense account number to Reimbursement Requests you submit.

CORRESPONDENCE/NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- We had 437 Facebook likes last month compared to 435 the prior month.
- Ed ran into a Natural Resources Officer at Wiley Park recently, and they discussed the use of the park and the issue of dogs and dog owner responsibility. Afterwards, Ed received an email from Officer Dick Hilmer asking if EDOA would participate in discussions of “ways to improve our patrolling of Wiley Park to ensure dogs are under control and solid waste is removed.” Ed responded enthusiastically to the offer. CindyN asked that Claire Branfield be included in those meetings since she oversees our Poop Pickup parties at Wiley.
- We received a thank you from an EDOA member after she was able to save 10% on a recent visit with her two dogs to Eastham Veterinary Clinic.
 - Question: Does the EDOA discount from vets apply to any cats our members might also own? Ed will ask Larry to follow up on this question. Ellen will check with Ark Angel Animal Hospital to see if they might be interested in offering our members the 10% discount we receive from Animal Hospital of Orleans and Eastham Veterinary Clinic.

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

Education – Ellen received a proposal with costs from Vera Wilkinson of The Cooperative Dog regarding the training session we've been discussing. Vera wants the session to be held outside to avoid any problem interactions with dogs that might not interact well with others in a closed room situation. We are still looking at May 17th at Nauset Pet Services and have the okay from owner Kristin Davis to use her enclosed field for the session. We also need to schedule a rain date. Vera agreed to handle registration and payment activities. Board members should read the proposal and comment back to Ellen about whether we should proceed with seeking interest from our membership.

- We should decide upon the guest speaker/topics for the annual meeting by next month's board meeting so that we can move ahead with planning. Topics offered include Search and Rescue, Animal Rescue League operations, Guiding Eyes or Therapy Dog training, etc. Send your ideas to Ellen so that she can research opportunities.



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EDOA Newsletter – CindyN distributed the January newsletter for review. Send her any comments.

Lost Dog Network (LDN) – Tracey had no updates to report. CindyN is the current coordinator with the LDN phone pointed to her. CindyN raised the idea of separating searcher training from coordinator training. She and Karie Miller will plan an upcoming LDN meeting.

Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST) – A Training Refresher session was held on January 10th. Eleven LCAST members and three Provincetown Animal Advisory Committee members attended. This evening, Kathy distributed the training materials to Vicki, Ellen and Dianne, all of whom are LCAST members but were unable to attend the session because of work commitments. We have an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

- Kathy showed a recently written LCAST Operations Manual to the board. It was agreed that she will send it to LCAST members for review before publishing a final version. LCAST members will be asked to review and comment back by February 1st. We will then publish and distribute the document to our active members and to the BCREPC.
- We will plan a training drill in Spring 2015 so that members can simulate what an actual shelter deployment will involve. Ideally this would be held at Nauset High School so that we can access the Conex box equipment and set up in the actual area assigned to the animal shelter. If that is not possible, we will seek a firehouse or other adequate space for the drill.

Chamber of Commerce membership – Ed distributed a draft of our advertisement in the Eastham Guidebook. The purpose of this ad is exposure. CindyN will advise the Chamber that Sandy Meadow should be added to the list of dog friendly areas in town.

- “Taste of Eastham” is a Chamber event planned in June. Tickets will be sold in advance (a minimum of 120 tickets must be sold to make the event worthwhile). Monies raised will be distributed to non-profit organizations in town. Those organizations must make a pitch to the Chamber about why and how they would use the funds and then the Chamber will decide who to fund. The Chamber does not appear to have any guidelines about what/how much/eligibility, etc. and not did they have details about what “Taste of Eastham” involves. However, CindyB is attending a meeting with the Chamber Board on Tuesday, January 20th at 4:30 p.m. to pitch LCAST, the fact that there is no funding from BCREPC, that we have ongoing expenses, and the public safety angle of what we do. Ed agreed to join her.
- Chamber Director Jim Russo approached CindyN about having non-profits host a Chamber meeting next year. According to CindyB, hosting involves getting some snacks and drinks together in a setting where members can mingle and chat about their businesses/organizations. We’ll wait to hear more from Jim about his idea but EDOA would likely be interested in participating.

Membership – We have 79 paid memberships already for 2015. There will be another postcard mailing and maybe another few emails to reminder/encourage people to rejoin/join. All current sponsors renewed, and we are reaching out to a few potential sponsors.

Buddy Scholarship – From a budget perspective, can we collect funds from January to December (our fiscal year), and then award monies received the following May? This approach would make tracking much easier since our budget is January to December but we’ve been tracking Buddy funds from May to May. We received no Buddy donations since our last award in May, meaning that we have no funds collected from which to make an award 4 months from now. Do we skip this May’s award, forget about changing our tracking method and use any funds collected between now and May to make the award, or fund the award this year from general funds? Much discussion ensued. *Motion to make a one-time earmark of \$500 from the general account to fund Buddy Scholarship in May 2015 by Vicki, Tracey 2nd, majority passed with 2 opposed.* We will also change our Buddy donation tracking to match the fiscal year and decide in December how much to award the following May.



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Mutt Mitts – no updates

Merchandise – no updates

OLD BUSINESS

Wiley Park Bulletin Board – Vicki researched costs of bulletin boards but will continue to look at options. Mark Powers from the town's Parks Department said he is willing to help us, and Vicki will clarify exactly what he means (i.e., research, installation, paying for it, etc.). Ellen will discuss with Vicki whether to proceed with asking Cape Associates if they would be willing to donate toward the cause.

NEW BUSINESS

Bow Wow Bash – CindyN received the permit for us to hold the event on Saturday, May 16th.

Board opening – newly elected board member Steve Cole submitted his resignation, stating a lack of time to make the commitment needed to add value to EDOA. He is interested in staying on the Lost Dog search team.

- Karie Miller had expressed an interest in rejoining the board, and Ed will reach out to see if she is interested in filling this open position.

Agenda item for next month's meeting – board/officer nominating committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vicki, Tracey 2nd, passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 19th at 6 p.m. at the Eastham Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary