



Eastham Dog Owners' Association January 21, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

DOG OF THE MONTH: Police Dog Ella and her handler Officer Steve Raneo of the Truro Police Department.

- Ella is a 2-year old Labrador Retriever. She and Officer Raneo are certified in narcotics search, and last week was their first formal week on the job. The Police Academy narcotics training is an 11-week/400 hour program. Ella and Officer Raneo are a team, and that means that if Ella or Officer Raneo are ill or otherwise unable to work, neither of them works narcotics searches. Although they are based in Truro, they are readily available to any Lower Cape town. In the future, Ella and Officer Raneo may pursue tracking certification.
- Prior to Ella's arrival in Truro, local police might have had to wait 2+ hours for a certified narcotics dog from another area to conduct searches. This was problematic. Officer Raneo pitched the Truro Police Chief about the possibility of getting a trained dog in the department, and he was given the okay to research the idea. His effort took two years, researching the how/what/why/costs/benefits associated with securing and training the dog. Once his results were presented to Truro officials, Officer Raneo was given the green light to proceed.
- Ella is trained to find 17 different drugs. Officer Raneo discussed their extensive training and demonstrated a search where Ella found the evidence planted in the room (e.g., pseudo-drug find). A special collar and a food pouch signal Ella that she is to work, and when these two items are not shown to her, she is a regular dog, as she showed us while playing with a ball as Officer Raneo answered the many questions we had for him.
- We hope to have Officer Raneo and Ella at our annual meeting in October, and were very pleased that they took the time to educate us about this valuable resource here on the Lower Cape.

NEXT DOG OF THE MONTH: Susie will bring Jake and Maizy

CORRESPONDENCE/NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- Per distributed two articles: one about a woman interested in getting a dog park in Orleans, and the other about new guidelines for groups using the Windmill Green in Eastham.
- We received a note from Tobey (e.g., a cute note as if written by Tobey himself), the golden retriever rescued last month from First Encounter marsh by our Lost Dog Network volunteers. He and his owners are happy that he is back home and doing well. They made a donation to EDOA to thank us for our assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruth distributed several reports this evening: a corrected October 2015 Actual versus Budget, the 2016 Actual versus Budget, and the Statement of Financial position for the year ending 12/31/15.

- The Lost Dog Network actual 2015 expense was significantly over budget and Ruth advised what expenses led to this situation. Overall, for the year ending 12/31/15, EDOA had a net income of \$4046.
- Our bank balance is \$16,400.41 (\$13,582.88 checking, \$2039.64 CD, \$777.89.49 PayPal). We also have inventory valued at \$2551, making our total assets \$18,951.41.
- *Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Vicky, Cindy 2nd, passed.*

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

Education – Ellen sent a note saying that the search and rescue organization she was hoping to get for our annual meeting cannot attend. This evening we asked Officer Raneo if he would be our keynote speaker in October, and we will follow up with him to confirm his attendance with Ella.



Eastham Dog Owners' Association January 21, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

Lost Dog Network (LDN)

- The next Search Team meeting will be held April 23. Tracey has asked ARL if one of their trained searchers can attend.
- Tracey is researching technology that can help find lost pets.
 - 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. However, the owner would need to register the animal with "Finding Rover" and the organization/person who finds the dog would have to be aware of and use the same application to provide a match.
 - 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. Tracey is talking with the company regarding the potential for use with tracking a pet by attaching the device to a collar. Their 2nd generation product is water resistant but not waterproof which would be an issue. However, the company is considering her request to look further into this use including the possibility of our being able to test the functionality with our dogs.
 - A GPS enabled microchip is also in development. It would be recharged by using a special glove and passing over the area where it is implanted in the pet.
 - Dianne told us about her experience with a product called "TAGG" which involves a GPS solution. Again, the cell phone application senses the location of the dog and advises the owner of its location.
 - 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.

Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST)

- Cindy attended a walk through at Nauset High School with our new Fire Chief Farrenkopf. She distributed a document highlighting LCAST job descriptions and protocol for deployment.
- Per is participating in the BCREPC conference calls regarding the upcoming storm. Right now, it is unlikely that shelters will open since snow predictions are 4-6 inches, but if significant power outages result from the anticipated 40-65 mph winds, that decision could be revisited. Per will continue to participate in additional conference calls scheduled later this week and will advise us accordingly. The LCAST team has been apprised and is prepared to staff the shelter if the need arises.

Membership – We have 133 memberships for 2016. Karie is speaking with Brewster Veterinary about the possibility of their offering a discount to our members but there has been no decision yet. Eastham Veterinary has apparently modified the services/supplies for which they will offer our members a discount. Larry has spoken to them and will advise Ed Daniels about the change so that our members are made aware. Our members should understand that EDOA is thankful to have so many generous sponsors but we do not control what they discount.

Buddy Scholarship – Susie will replace Per as a member of this committee. Posters advertising our upcoming 2016 scholarship award are currently in the high school, post offices, Agway, senior center, Sparrow, etc. Several board members took additional posters to place in other locations. This year's award will be \$1000 and we already have an additional \$550 earmarked for the 2017 award.

Mutt Mitts – Claire will schedule another Wiley Park poop pickup party. We will not have to worry about getting this done before Easter since the Easter Bunny will be hosted at the Elks Lodge this year instead of at Wiley Park.

OLD BUSINESS



Eastham Dog Owners' Association January 21, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

Committee Membership – Per distributed a printout of our current committee members. This needs to be updated since we know it is not accurate. Board members should review that printout, email Ed Daniels of where their name should be deleted or added, and copy Per on that email.

Candidate Forum – EDOA co-sponsored this forum with Eastham Chamber of Commerce two years ago so that town residents could meet candidates for town positions. Should we again consider partnering with the Chamber? Town elections are May 17th, and there are currently 3 new candidates for open positions, not yet knowing if the incumbents will run again. *Motion to co-sponsor a 2016 Candidate Forum with the Eastham Chamber of Commerce by Cindy, Tracey 2nd, passed).* Vicky will reach out to her contacts within the Chamber to discuss this further.

Brownie Scouts – a local Brownie Scout Troop is looking for ways to interact with EDOA so that its 2nd grade members can earn their Pet Badge. They would like to do this sometime in the March timeframe. We offered several ideas that Karie will discuss with the Troop Leaders to understand the specifics of their needs and how we may be able to help.

Bow Wow Bash – Cindy Nicholson has already reserved First Encounter Beach for the event. Per will reach out to her about inviting the Companion Animal Program (CAP) to participate.

2016 Schedule of Events – Cindy Nicholson sent a preliminary schedule for our review but we tabled discussion to the February meeting so that she can discuss this with us.

EDOA Newsletter – Susie agreed to lead the effort to continue production of this quarterly newsletter. She will look online at what we've done in prior newsletters and will plan for a March 2016 edition. She asked for assurance that this is a "team effort" and that she can rely on board members and others for contributing ideas and columns. We offered that assurance.

Motion to adjourn by CindyB, Tracey 2nd, passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Clerk