



Eastham Dog Owners' Association March 22, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Per Bentsen, Cindy Blum, Ed Daniels, Kathy Herrick, Karie Miller, Ellen Murray, Cindy Nicholson, Tracey Plantier, Lu St. Aubin

Absent: Katrina Boucher, Larry DiBona, Kathleen "K2" Mueller

Minutes of the February 2013 meeting were approved. (*Motion to accept minutes by Tracey, CindyN 2nd, passed*). Ed will post a link to our minutes on the EDOA website.

Treasurer Report - Balance \$11, 196.60 includes \$2000 CD, \$1356 Buddy Scholarship, and \$194 in PayPal account. (*Motion to accept report by CindyN, CindyB 2nd, passed*)

Budget 2013 – we had one final review of this spreadsheet. Committee chairpersons need to pay attention to the total amount allocated for their use and not necessarily adhere to individual expense categories within that budget. Staying within their allocated total is the focal point. (*Motion to accept with correction of a few typos by CindyB, Karie 2nd, passed*).

Correspondence

- We erroneously received a letter from the IRS stating that our non-profit status had been revoked because of failure to submit paperwork. There was no such failure on our part. Lu called the IRS and they confirmed that this letter was an error, but Lu must await paperwork from the IRS and submit it to reconcile their error.
- A reporter from Cape Cod Today is writing an article about non-profits that have lost their IRS status, and he sent a letter to EDOA asking if we would participate. Ed communicated that our appearing on a list that this reporter saw somewhere was an IRS error. Our federal Forms 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) have been filed timely and accurately. **Our filings with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office are under review** to ensure that they are okay, but we've received no notice from them of any problem.
- The Eastham Police Department is considering a change to the way they enforce the animal bylaws by offering the option of issuing a verbal warning versus a written warning for first offenses. This would eliminate paperwork for the officers, allow the officers discretion, and still uphold the first offense warning as dictated by the bylaws. This would apply to issues such as barking dogs, failure to pick up waste, etc. This item will be on the town warrant for voters to consider at town meeting in May.

GUEST Tracy Plaut from WOOF (Wellfleet Owners of Fido) – this new organization is seeking to emulate EDOA in forming a membership of concerned dog owners in the Town of Wellfleet. Their first meeting was held a few weeks ago to discuss issues of dog ownership within the town. Currently there is no place in Wellfleet to "legally" walk a dog off leash. In addition, there have been five issues of what may be dog poisoning, and a case of rabies in town. There are concerns about irresponsible dog owners not picking up after their dogs, often in very public places like town streets and the town pier. There is discussion of closing all conservation lands to dogs. Some town officials attended the meeting, including the animal control officer, and some members of the Board of Selectmen, Shellfish Advisory Board, and Recreation Department. WOOF wants to focus on responsible dog ownership, and those in attendance support that effort. They need a plan to mesh the interests of dog owners with non-dog owners. Tracy asked if EDOA would be supportive of helping them get started, and of course, we are.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (*Motion to accept committee reports by Tracey, Lu 2nd, passed*)

Lost Dog Network (LDN) - Although we've had lost dog alerts this year, all dogs either returned home or were located soon after the alerts were issued. LDN searches were not started on any of these. Kathy showed Lost Dog Alert lawn signs that CindyB ordered last month. We have 20 signs and stands, and CindyN is storing these for now. Ed received 500 LDN magnets. How we use and distribute the LDN signs and magnets is being determined. The Lost Dog phone is currently pointed to CindyN as coordinator.



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- The next LDN meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th at 6 p.m. at Nauset Baptist Church on Great Pond Road. This will not be a training program but instead will be a refresher of our process so that we are prepared as we anticipate another busy season. Current LDN members and interested others are invited to attend. Representatives from Wellfleet will be invited to attend since their new organization WOOF is interested in starting their own Lost Dog Network. We agreed to assist them and to invite them to any future training.

Emergency Shelter – CCDART has updated its training documents again with new commitment standards, and is also considering an intensive weekend training program as an option to their 7-week training schedule. They are sponsoring a CPR and First Aid for Pets course on Monday, April 1 at 6 p.m. at the Dennis Police Department.

Buddy Scholarship – application deadline is 3/31/13. We have two applications so far. Once the application period has ended, the committee will need to meet to review applications and select an awardee. A suggestion was made to relook at the wording used to define eligibility since there was some confusion on the part of one interested applicant. The committee will also discuss this when they meet.

- The \$210 in donations received at Cape Cod Dog's Easter Bunny event will be added to the Buddy Scholarship. We will send a thank you to Katrina Boucher for giving these funds to the scholarship fund.

Membership – new memberships are dribbling in, and we are still in the 105 member area. CindyB had a suggestion to market EDOA. We might want to create little packets of food samples, along with a LDN magnet and the EDOA business card, etc. These could then be given to local vet offices, animal care businesses and perhaps even Town Clerk to give out to new clients or those with a new dog as a way to increase exposure to EDOA.

Education – Ellen received confirmation from dog trainer Donna Iovanni that she will be a guest speaker at our annual meeting on October 17. Donna is looking for our ideas about what issues we'd like her to discuss, and Ellen will send an email to board members seeking their suggestions. Some ideas mentioned at this meeting were animal cruelty, search and rescue, and the Center for Shelter Dogs. Ellen will also reach out to Kathleen "K2" for more information about the Fairy Dogparents organization.

- CindyB asked if we might have any interest in offering vendors an opportunity to set up a table at our annual meeting. She will speak with Katrina to seek her opinion on this since she deals with vendors regularly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rabies Clinic (Saturday, March 30th) – the Town of Eastham will again sponsor this year's event at the back of the Fire Station. Eastham Veterinary Clinic will supply the medical staff. We need at least two volunteers to maintain order and hand out paperwork to those bringing their dogs and cats to this reduced fee service. Ed and Karie volunteered to participate, and Ed will also notify our membership about the event.

Bow Wow Bash (Saturday, May 18th) – this annual event will again be held at the far end of First Encounter Beach. Karie, Ed, Tracey, CindyN, Lu and Per offered to help with planning.

Hands on the Arts (June 16-17) – EDOA was asked to consider having a booth here. Ed will send out a call for help from our membership, and if the response is strong, we will move forward. There is concern that this event is a week before the Paws event and that support may be difficult.

Paws for Celebration (Saturday, June 22nd) – EDOA will have a booth at this event. We will need board members and others to sign up to staff our booth during the event, and Ed will again give the talking points document to those who sign up to ensure that we have a cohesive message. There is a Walk-A-Thon as part of the event where



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owners can walk with their dogs. Walkers can obtain pledges for donations or people can simply donate, with all funds raised going to the Animal Rescue League of Boston with its Brewster based office. Ed distributed booth and walk sign-up sheets, but will also seek participation from our membership.

Windmill Weekend (September) - CindyN and Karie will again co-chair this event for EDOA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mutt Mitts – CindyN reported that Per installed a new dispenser at Dyer Prince to accommodate the rolled bags that the Town of Eastham is supplying. The rolls seems to last longer than the individual Mutt Mitt bags. Our major donor of bags, Agway, is also considering moving to the rolled bags, and that means that new dispensers will be needed to handle them. We currently have the rolled bag dispensers at the front and back of Wiley Park, but CindyN asked to spend \$276 to buy 2 rolled dispensers, one for Hemenway Landing and another at Salt Pond. This money is in her budget and she will proceed in procuring these dispensers.

Dog Park Survey – a team met before this evening's meeting to review the survey. Some changes were made to the initial draft, and once Tracey makes those changes, she and Ed will work together to post the survey to Survey Monkey and to alert members of the opportunity to offer their opinions via this online forum.

Newsletter – Kudos to K2 again for the March newsletter. K2 did the writing and CindyN did the final review. This will be published at least quarterly and all felt it was a good source of information for our membership. We also gave a copy to WOOOF representative Tracy Plaut to show to her members.

Chamber of Commerce – CindyN and Ed represented EDOA at the March 14th joint chamber event involving Brewster, Harwich, Chatham, Orleans and Eastham chambers. Many people they talked to there were interested in getting exposure to our membership. Tonight we discussed how we can develop a mutually beneficial arrangement. If a business offers a discount to our members, is our providing a link to them on our website adequate? Must the business join EDOA before we would allow them such exposure? Do we want non-local, non-dog owners as EDOA members since membership would give them voting rights and their interests appear different from those of Eastham based dog owners? We are happy with the positive response EDOA has gotten from these chamber meetings, but how we develop those business relationships going forward needs further consideration.

- **The next meeting is at the Penney House in Eastham. Ed will send a reminder to board members.**

Bulletin Board at Wiley Park – CindyB did a great job with her St. Patrick's Day decorating. However, the board frame leaks a little and there is condensation from the glass. She will prepare a new board for April and will post more documents in plastic or with lamination.

Pilgrim Bark Park Event – this Provincetown group is sponsoring a Carnival of Dogs event on June 1st. More information is available at <http://www.provincetowndogpark.org/2013Carnival.html>

A motion to adjourn was received from Kathy, Tracey 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 18th at 6 p.m. at Willy's Gym on Route 6 in Eastham.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary