



Eastham Dog Owners' Association May 16, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Per Bentsen, Ed Daniels, Larry DiBona, Kathy Herrick, Karie Miller, Kathleen "K2" Mueller, Cindy Nicholson, Tracey Plantier and Lu St. Aubin

Absent: Cindy Blum, Katrina Boucher and Ellen Murray

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

Dog of the Month – Sophie Jo's human is Cindy Nicholson. Sophie Jo is a southern belle Louisiana and was rescued by Cindy on 2/10/08 via PetFinders. Her original name was Deidre but CindyN quickly renamed her to reflect her southern heritage. Although Sophie Jo was found wandering the streets, she could not have been wandering long because she was not covered with ticks. However, she did need to be treated for heartworm since they do not treat for it in the South. She was about a year old when rescued. CindyN considers this beautifully natured black lab her "soul dog," and it is clear that the bond between them is strong. Sophie Jo loves the car, travels well, has been to Canada twice, and does not chase birds but apparently birds go after her! Sophie Jo's lineage as a black lab was questioned at tonight's board meeting because all of us saw her pass up the offer to snack on a piece of pizza crust. None of us know any other labs that'd pass up pizza but Sophie Jo is a girl who knows what she likes!

Treasurer Report – balance is \$11,504.73 which includes \$9196.57 bank statement, \$281.06 PayPal, and \$2027.10 Certificate of Deposit. This balance includes funds allocated to the Buddy Scholarship. (*Motion to accept report by K2, Tracey 2nd, passed*)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (*Motion to accept committee reports by K2, Tracey 2nd, passed*)

Lost Dog Network (LDN) – No lost dog reports have been received. CindyN will relinquish the LDN Coordinator role to Larry. Tracey will take over as LDN Chairperson, and she and Kathy will work together over the next few weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

Emergency Shelter – CCDART conducted its annual training drill at Barnstable Fire Department last week. A group of 20-30 new and experienced CCDART members participated. Registration remains the biggest challenge in trying to get pets and their owners registered in a timely manner but the team continues to address this issue. Because these volunteers work at different shelters, and each shelter is different in the space allocated for the pet shelter, members were able to offer different opinions and different solutions to challenges experienced in the drill.

Buddy Scholarship – The 2013 award will be presented to Kaitlin Flanagan at Saturday's Bow Wow Bash. A suggestion was made to require the recipient to sign an agreement stating that they confirm receipt of the award, that they meet the qualifications set forth for scholarship candidates, and that they will continue in their pet-related field for at least a year or relinquish the award. An opinion was offered that it seemed too late in the process to now ask this year's awardee to sign such an agreement without prior notice, and instead, this suggestion will be considered for next year's awardee.

Membership – A few new memberships are being processed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bow Wow Bash (Saturday, May 18th, Rain Date May 19th) – CindyN distributed a list of detailed plans and responsibilities and reviewed last minute items. Some posters advertising the event are already up. Ed submitted a short article to the Cape Codder. Volunteers who can help with setup are asked to arrive at 10:30 a.m. The goal for the day is for dogs and their humans to have fun!



Eastham Dog Owners' Association May 16, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

Hands on the Arts (Saturday, June 15) – Although this is a two-day event, EDOA is participating only on Saturday. CindyB is coordinating with assistance from Tracey.

Paws for Celebration (Saturday, June 22nd) – CindyB will lead the planning. The event is scheduled from 11 am to 4 pm but will require setup and takedown before and after. We've just learned that Eastham's special town meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on this Saturday which will pose challenges for setup and staffing. Ed will solicit our membership for volunteers who are either part-time residents or who otherwise cannot vote at the town meeting.

Windmill Weekend (September) – CindyN has already reserved our space on the green.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mutt Mitts – the Town of Eastham Recreation Department is restocking mutt mitts at three sites, and members Al Sette and Fran Webster are restocking those at First Encounter, Salt Pond, and Hemenway.

Dog Park Survey – Tracey and Ed discussed results of the survey. 48 EDOA members responded (40 full-time residents and 8 part-time residents). This was a successful survey from the viewpoint of response rate and input and reactions from our membership. Special thanks to Tracey for overseeing this survey effort. Ed will post the detailed results on our website. Highlights include:

- The location where members currently walk their dogs was pretty evenly distributed among categories of roads, parks, trails and beaches.
- Off leash options and fenced dog parks were evenly preferred. The responses depended a lot on individual needs of the owner and the dog.
- Those who were in favor of a dog park were also heavily in favor of a fenced area and also ranked high on "no concerns."
- The overall perception of Eastham is "dog friendly."
- The median score for "want a dog park" was 5.5 on a 10-point scale. In effect, slightly more than half of respondents were in favor of a dog park in town.
- Almost every respondent included comments. Tracey responded to every direct question asked.

Newsletter – K2 will send this out next week. Highlights include photos, announcing the Buddy Scholarship winner, and articles on flea and ticks, May is Lyme awareness month, pets left in hot cars, therapy/comfort dogs, kids and pets, and information on upcoming events. The electronic version of this newsletter will include links to additional articles on these subjects.

Advertising for Vendors – we need a general policy on how we will address this ongoing concern. It is a difficult and complicated issue that we've discussed numerous times with no resolution. Kathy offered to write up a general policy and forward it to the board/officers for discussion at the August meeting.

Animal Control Bylaws – a change to these bylaws was approved at Town Meeting on May 6th, meaning that violations of any provision of the bylaw will have a \$50 first offense fine versus the original wording which set the first offense as a written warning (no fine).

Proposed warrant item in Somerville, MA – Tracey has learned that an item on the town warrant in Somerville will provide voters an opportunity to consider off-leash hours in all town parks so that dog owners don't have to drive to a fenced dog park in another part of town. Somerville already has fenced dog parks. Massachusetts General Law



Eastham Dog Owners' Association
May 16, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

states that a dog owner is liable for actions of its dog, and that the town or property owner where an incident occurs is not liable (obviously dependent upon the exact circumstance).

Brewster Dog Park Issue – Tracey reached out to the author of recent news stories regarding the ongoing issues around dogs at Drummer Boy Park and elsewhere in Brewster. Her thought is to have this same writer do an article on how a town can positively deal with dogs issues as Eastham has (e.g., EDOA, Animal Control Bylaws, Animal Advisory Board, cooperation between local police/organizations/dog owners, etc.)

EDOA Board Meetings for Summer 2013 – this is the last meeting Ed will chair before he leaves on his annual summer travels. There will be no July board meeting. CindyN will step up to host the August meeting and will fill in for Ed this summer.

Next month's Dog of the Month will be Priscilla, Larry's Shitszu.

A motion to adjourn was received from Tracey with Larry 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 15th at 6 p.m. at Willy's Gym on Route 6 in Eastham. NO JULY MEETING.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary