



## Eastham Dog Owners' Association November 20, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Vicky Anderson, Per Bentsen, Ruth Bentsen, Dianne Cullen, Ed Daniels, Larry DiBona, Kathy Herrick, Cindy Nicholson, Ellen Murray

Absent: Cindy Blum, Steve Cole, Tracey Plantier

The October Annual Meeting minutes were approved. (*Motion to accept by Larry, Dianne 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed*)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ruth distributed a report showing our actual income/expenses through November 20<sup>th</sup> versus what we budgeted for the year. This information will be helpful for planning our 2015 budget, a discussion that will be a major topic in our December meeting.

- Our account balance is currently \$11, 523.78 (\$9394.80 bank balance, \$2033.26 CD, \$95.72 PayPal).
- We were approved by the state to receive a Certificate of Exemption that will not only preclude our having to pay tax on purchases, but will also allow us to get a non-profit rate on mailings. The certificate is good for ten years (i.e., expires October 2024).

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- We received letters from several members who liked the annual meeting.
- We received a letter from a new member who is enjoying her membership and the opportunity to help at various events.
- A part-time resident asked us to consider holding our annual meeting on a weekend so that part-time residents can attend.
- We received a letter from the Massachusetts Secretary of State asking us to update our Change of Directors form. The update (i.e., adding zip codes to addresses) was made and resubmitted.
- We received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service alerting us that it was time to file Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax). We filed electronically and have already received confirmation of the submission.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS** (*Motion to accept all committee reports by Vicki, CindyN 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed*)

Education – Ellen reported that our guest Vera Wilkinson was happy to speak with EDOA members at our annual meeting. We are going to check with Vera about her dog training programs to find out capacity, topics, costs, etc. to see if there might be something of interest to our members.

Lost Dog Network – It has been quiet but there were two calls into the LDN phone in the last week. Larry was out of town but he was able to reach Kathy to follow up with the callers. In both cases, the dogs returned home on their own before a search was needed, but not before both Kathy and Vicki got involved as coordinators.

- Per learned of the Eastham Police Department's use of a thermal gun on a lost dog search a month or so ago. This technology allowed the police to see the location of the dog (i.e., its heat image) in the dark. Can LDN ask EPD to use this technology on our searches? Larry will mention it to Police Chief Kulhawik and get back to us.

### Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST)

- In response to a request from Fire Chief Mark Foley, CindyB and Kathy met last week with members of the Provincetown Animal Advisory Committee. This town committee is responsible for staffing the emergency pet shelter at the Provincetown Elementary School. It was clear that both teams share a lot of the same challenges, and we agreed to stay in touch and share information.
- A review/orientation meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 p.m. at the Wellfleet Fire Department. CindyB and Kathy will coordinate content. The intent is to review shelter plans with our current members and to provide an opportunity for new volunteers to hear about our team, all in anticipation of a potential need to open the shelter with winter storms. CindyB created posters advertising the session, and



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board members took them to post them around the area after the Thanksgiving holiday. Kathy will make certain that our current team members are advised of the session in advance of the postings, and members of the Provincetown team mentioned above will also be invited to join us.

Membership – Our annual membership drive is coming up soon. Ed has the necessary supplies ready to go. We currently have 157 members, our highest number ever, and got 9 new members in 2014.

- CindyN will verify continued sponsorship/discounts with local vendors. If you know of additional businesses that might offer discounts to EDOA members, let CindyN know.

Buddy Scholarship – Vicki is now sending acknowledgement letters. Per wants to discuss guaranteeing \$1000 per year in scholarship awards, but he will discuss with the team and bring forward a recommendation during our budget planning discussions next month. No other updates were available.

Mutt Mitts – no updates. Can we think of a different name for this activity?

### OLD BUSINESS

Chamber of Commerce – it is again time to discuss whether we want to renew our membership and also whether to submit an ad for the Eastham Guide Book. Membership costs \$150 and the ad costs \$175, although we are not required to submit an ad. There are varying opinions about whether we get much benefit from this membership, but it was also mentioned that involvement and attendance at meetings is something we can increase if board members are willing to participate. *Motion to renew membership and submit an ad for guidebook by Kathy, Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.* Suggestions to modify/improve our ad should be sent to CindyN.

### NEW BUSINESS

Committee Chairs and Members – Ed distributed a list of all EDOA committees with their current leadership and membership. We reviewed the information and updated as we could.

- It is suggested that committees meet and discuss their plans for 2015 in advance of the December meeting so that we can expedite budget discussions next month. Committee chairs are responsible for presenting their budget proposals for 2015 at next month's meeting. Ed will send a link to our 2014 budget to all committee chairs to assist in their planning for 2015.
- Annual Meeting Review – what did board members think about how it went? Everyone agreed that keeping the meeting to two hours was a good idea, but several people commented that we should add back the committee reports so that attendees understand what we've accomplished or are working on. There was good interaction between our guest speaker and the audience but at times, her discussion was hard to follow.
  - If we have a speaker from off-Cape again, it might be nice to take them to dinner. Depending upon the distance traveled, we might also want to see if a board member is willing to invite the speaker to stay at their home overnight.
- Eastham's Turnip Festival is scheduled for this coming Saturday, November 22 from 1-4 at Nauset High School. CindyN is coordinating our booth and needs volunteers. Setup starts at 11:30. Several board members agreed to assist.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Eastham Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Herrick, Secretary