

Eastham Dog Owners' Association October 18, 2012 Annual Meeting

Over 50 members and interested persons attended our annual meeting held this year at the Eastham Council of Aging building. The meeting ran from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Before our guest speakers started, we had the opportunity to discuss some business items:

- Officer Elections – by a verbal vote in the affirmative, Ed Daniels was re-elected President and Kathy Herrick was elected Secretary. They join Vice President Cindy Nicholson and Treasurer Lu St. Aubin as EDOA's Officers.
- Board of Directors – Richard Brezner, Doug Meyers and Noelle Smith are stepping down. By a verbal vote in the affirmative, Larry DiBona, Kathy Mueller, and Tracy Plantier were elected to join Per Bentsen, Cindy Blum, Katrina Boucher, Karie Miller, and Ellen Murray on our Board of Directors.
- Treasurer's Report – majority of income for the year included \$375 Buddy Scholarship, \$2500 membership dues, \$359 raffles, \$805 merchandise sales, \$180 miscellaneous donations. Major expenses included \$1600 merchandise purchases, and \$1000 for operating expenses including Lost Dog Network supplies (2-way radios, vests), supplies, printing, postage, etc. Overall, we have approximately \$9900 in assets (\$7000 checking account, \$2000 CD, \$900 inventory).
- Lost Dog Network Report – so far, we've had 9 lost dog alerts issued, and we've actually been involved in three searches, including one currently underway for a rat terrier missing since 10/20. With the exception of this current lost dog, all have been accounted for (i.e., the majority returned home on their own shortly after being reported lost, neighbors found two others, one found dead by police, etc.). A Lost Dog Network meeting for current members and others interested in learning more will be held Thursday, November 8th at 6 p.m. A notice will be distributed shortly with more details.
- Eastham Police Chief Kulhawik commended EDOA on its efforts and his department's partnership with the organization. He also discussed a new approach his department is using by bringing owners of problem dogs into his office to discuss how they can be assisted rather than just issuing bylaw violations to the owners. This approach has been very successful and he plans to continue it. He reported there have been no problems this year with neighbor complaints about too many dogs/uncontrolled dogs on Dyer Prince Beach. He also clarified a question about whether it is okay for dogs to run loose on private beaches if the property/beach owners give their approval. His response was that there is no exception to the town law prohibiting dogs on bay beaches from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- **Member Martin Haspel reported that** there is a new state law that goes into effect on 10/31/12. The first change is that there can be no breed specific laws implemented by towns in Massachusetts. This prohibits selectmen from banning a specific breed from a town. The second change is that a town can have animal regulations that are more stringent than the state law but not less stringent. For instance, Eastham has a barking dog regulation that considers it a violation to have 15 minutes of unregulated barking. However, the state law states that a "nuisance dog" is one that would disturb a reasonable person. The state law does not mention a specific time period.
- The Cape Cod Kennel Club has some upcoming classes. Several animal organizations have volunteer training opportunities. Flyers describing these opportunities were available.
- The Membership Committee accepted new membership applications and membership renewals this evening. Donations of animal related products and services were raffled off at the end of the evening.

Guest Speakers this evening included Nancy Bishop from the Cape Animal Referral and Emergency Center (CARE) who gave a fun demonstration of dog agility training. Coyote expert Peter Trull discussed his extensive experience studying coyotes, now being referred to as coywolves, as we coexist together here on Cape Cod.