



Eastham Dog Owners' Association October 17, 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

EDOA's Annual Meeting was held this evening at the Council on Aging in Eastham. Doors opened at 6 p.m. with the meeting started promptly 6:30 p.m. Upon arrival, members and guests had an opportunity to sign in, enjoy refreshments, renew their memberships through 2014, pet our guest dog Mika, and mingle with other dog lovers.

President Ed Daniels began the meeting with a summary of the evening's activities. Elections were the first item. The positions of Vice President and Treasurer were uncontested with Cindy Nicholson and Lu St. Aubin running, respectively, as incumbents in those positions. Six candidates were running for four open board positions, and each candidate was invited to speak before voting. Only members were allowed to cast ballots. Results were announced later in the evening: VP = Cindy Nicholson, Treasurer = Lu St. Aubin, Re-elected Board Members = Per Bentsen and Cindy Blum, New Board members = Vicky Anderson and Dianne Cullen. Officers and Board Members serve two year terms.

Committee reports followed:

- Treasurer (Lu St. Aubin) _ Lu provided an overview of our finances
- Lost Dog Network (Tracey Plantier) – provided a summary of this year's activity including some successful and unsuccessful searches plus many dogs returning home on their own. Tracey and LDN Coordinator Larry DiBona also showed our new approach to posting a picture of the missing dog on our Lost Dog Alert signs that are placed around the neighborhood where a dog is reported to us as missing.
 - Tracey will be organizing a meeting for current LDN coordinators and those interested in learning more about the coordinator role in this fall (perhaps around the same time as the next EDOA Board meeting in November). She will plan a meeting for searchers and those interested in becoming searchers in the spring.
- Emergency Shelter (Cindy Nicholson and Per Bentsen) – Cindy reported that the pet shelter at Nauset High School opened for the first time for the February 26th snowstorm with 26 pets brought by their owners to stay overnight. Cape Cod Disaster Animal Response Team (CCDART) oversees the pet component at emergency shelters, and CCDART/EDOA members Vicky Anderson, Joanne Baldauf and Per Bentsen stayed overnight at the shelter, with daytime assistance from CCDART/EDOA members Dianne Cullen, Betsy Foy and Cindy Nicholson. Shelter managers Wes and Donelle Denery were recruited by EDOA. Per discussed the supplies housed at the shelter as well as details about how animals are cared for, the quiet time hours of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., etc.
 - Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering with CCDART is invited to attend a meeting on December 22, 2013 from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Eastham Police Station.
- Membership (Ed Daniels) - we have 139 active members
- The Buddy Scholarship (Cindy Blum) - this fund was set up in memory of Ed's beloved dog Buddy. People can make donations in memory of pets or people, and donors as well as the owners/honorees are sent acknowledgements. In May, we awarded a \$1000 scholarship to UMass student Katie Flannigan who hopes to become a veterinarian.

Eastham Police Officer/Animal Control Officer Diana Back provided a summary of activity. There were only 6 calls in the last year to the EPD about animal issues. This summer there were no complaints about Rock Harbor and only one complaint about Wiley Park. Calls typically report a dog not under control or that appears aggressive. Officer Back also stressed the need to use a slip lead when restraining or capturing any dog, regardless of how passive they seem or how well you know the dog, because they can easily pull out of loose or poor fitting collars if they are scared. Even dogs in simple situations can surprise trained professionals as well as well-meaning others.



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Our keynote speaker was Dr. Daniella Schutzengel, veterinarian/owner of Ark Angel Animal Hospital in South Wellfleet, along with her trusty 14-year old pointer/greyhound Mica. Dr. Dani talked about first aid kits for dogs, discussed a variety of situations where owners can provide first aid, and demonstrated various techniques with Mica. She also discussed various conditions and how to tell if they were emergencies (i.e., vomiting/diarrhea, respiratory, wounds, eyes, urinary tract, coughing/sneezing, injuries, seizures, etc.). We came away with a lot of useful information.

After the general session disbanded, the EDOA Board held a short business meeting.

- We voted unanimously to spend \$150 to again join the Eastham Chamber of Commerce. This membership allows us to post information at the Eastham Visitors Booth. We need to think about a simple, catchy, useful flyer for use in 2014 (i.e., pets in cars, sand burning feet, other helpful tips). We remain undecided about spending an additional \$250 for an EDOA advertisement in the Eastham Information Book that is published each year by the Chamber. Ed and Lu will check when the money/ad is due, and CindyN will design an ad for review if we decide to move forward with it.
- Eastham Turnip Festival is scheduled for November 23rd from 1-4 p.m. at Nauset High School. Do we want to have a table here to spread the word about EDOA and sell merchandise? (*Motion to attend by Ed, passed*). Ed will send out further information, but someone will need to take the lead on planning, scheduling, etc.
- New board members Vicky Anderson and Dianne Cullen were welcomed to the team.
- Last month a suggestion was made to see if we could get a monthly article in the Cape Codder about dog issues. CindyB reached out to a contact there, but did not hear back. She will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. (*Motion to adjourn by Vicky, 2nd Per, passed*)

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary