



Hi Ed & Nancy,

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Issue 113, March 11, 2023

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## Rules Changes at Wiley Park Update

EDOA has steadfastly maintained that dogs being allowed off leash is a recreational activity of great value to many citizens and needs to be continued. We

have been squeezed off beaches in the Summer, squeezed off Dyer Prince / Rock Harbor to limited access (on leash) by abutters complaints. Enough.

It seems that consensus means that dogs owners activities are the rights that get denied and restricted. It seems that every perceived issue must be solved by some compromise that further limits dog owners. Enough.

EDOA so far has taken the position that issues that the Conservation Committee has with recreational use of Wiley Park can be solved by measures short of banning or limiting the off-leash option.

I walked the park areas in question with three Open Space Committee members last week. I left with the impression that these were reasonable people with great concern for the environment. We differed on the matter of certain changes to rules concerning dogs and agreed on the need for mitigation measures, many temporary.

The EDOA Board believes that an amenable, cooperative, educational approach will be effective. This would benefit both groups since our support and ed-

ucational reach can bring cooperation rather than attempting to dictate compliance and then trying to enforce it.

After reviewing recent Open Space and Cons Com meeting video it is apparent that some members are receiving reports of issues laced with hyperbole. There is a posture of conflict by some members, while others clearly want consensus.

[You have to see the Open Space Cmte meeting for yourself.](#) (link)

There are ConsCom public comment sessions that should be scheduled in the next couple of months. By then the Cons Com will have become organized and set in their position. It is in our best interest to be organized in ours.

The first step is to reflect on the reasons you like Wiley Park when walking with your dog. How you enjoy the shaded trails, water access, and nature of the area. Consider the positive interactions with dog /dog, dog / people, and people / people that enrich your experiences. Aggression and exaggeration are not productive for this discussion. Accentuate the positive.

Don't let more rules and limits become another faux solution to problems which can be mitigated in other ways.

**"I think Cons Com is ready to put in leash requirements."**

Karen Strauss, Open Space Committee liaison to the Conservation Commission.  
2/15/23.

## Special EDOA Meeting on Attempts to Change Leash Law

There will be a live, members only meeting on the topic of responding to Conservation Committee plans to restrict dogs in Wiley Park. There we can discuss your opinions, ideas, and questions as we formulate a response. We also want to hear if there are ways that you can get involved.

This is at the heart of the EDOA mission.

All around us we see other towns attempting and succeeding at restricting dog owner's access. Eastham is protected from much of that by a by-law (sponsored by EDOA) that allows dogs under voice control to be off lead. But that is not enough. We must be vigilant and together. This meeting will be our next step.

We will let you know when and where as soon as we have secured a venue.

## Last Call for a "Real" Membership Card?

We can do that.

If you would like to receive an actual card via USPS please let us know and we will send one out. So that we can do this with a bulk printing and mailing, please make your request by March 12th and we will send it out to the mailing address you have on file with us.

[CLICK HERE to send a request e-mail.](#)



## EDOA Offers Support to 1651

We have all seen the fencing in the area north of the bridge near the pond. 1651 project workers are planting native species to protect and repair damage from storms, erosion, invasive species and overuse. While no one likes to see the fences, they are temporary and necessary to give the plantings a good start.

EDOA supports that effort. The groups Noteworthy is that dogs were not ruled have been subject to tree falls but not model for future mitigation efforts.

**Let's use this as a model for future mitigation efforts.**

involved did leave a path to the water. to be restrained on leashes. The plantings foot /paw traffic. Great. Let's use this as a

To that end, EDOA has made an offer to assist 1651 if they would like our help. At very least we can use our reach to educate and encourage compliance with trail boundaries that preserve the nature of the park and recreational access for all.

## Top Dog Drawing Friday

- Cindy Nicholson

The Town Clerk will hold the drawing for Eastham's Top Dog 3 /17.

Your dog registration by 3/15/23 contains your raffle ticket. So, if your dog is legal, you have a chance at BIG prizes.

1. Nauset Canine Club, Eastham - \$150 Gift Card (Services OR Store goods)
2. The #1 DOG TAG for 2023!
3. Agway of Cape Cod - \$100 Gift Card.
4. Eastham Dog Owners' Association - \$100 basket.
5. Rebecca Marquise Pet Sitter and Walker – dog

walking Gift Certificates.

6. Helen Kosinski, PCC, CPP, CEGE, MBA, Professional Certified Coach & Certified Soul Level Animal Communicator®: 25 minutes soul level animal communication reading gift certificate.

Wow!

Can't be there? Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8892577786?pwd=bXB0YThOSGd3M3hoVm9BdU80S0FVdz09>

Meeting ID: 889 2577 7786

Passcode: 085726

FLYER: <https://ma-eastham.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/1933/2023-Top-Dog-Contest>

## Repair Approved by Conservation Committee Completed

Last week Keith Johnson, Conservation Agent, and I set off with rakes and shovel to repair damage in Wiley Park. Seems that some dogs had been allowed to dig into ground along the trail near the bench closest to the bridge. The repair took about 10 minutes of our hour long meeting. We agreed that the dogs' behavior was inappropriate at best and illegal at worst. It resulted in damage that has been pointed out by Cons Com as evidence that dogs should be restricted to a leash.

That is an unfortunate reflection on the dozens of visitors to Wiley with their dogs. The real damage was to ourselves. And it was such a small thing. 10 minutes was all it took for Keith to declare the repair completed. The holes paled in comparison to the machine tracks recently made while doing storm cleanup by DPW. Still, the digging dogs should never have been allowed to do that and the cleanup equipment was necessary work.

Please keep picking up, staying on the trails, and respecting others using the park.

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