

Eastham Dog Owners' Association

Special Board Meeting, July 13, 2023

At Eastham Police Station

Attendees: Kathy Herrick, Ruth Bentsen, Cindy Nicholson, Kerry Reid, Tony Cantore, Ellen Lapriore, Chief Adam Bohannon (Eastham PD), Detective Dan Burnham (Eastham PD)

Meeting began at 6:10 pm

MINUTES

A special meeting of the EDOA Board and the Eastham Police Department was called to discuss a Community Resource Dog.

Chief Adam Bohannon introduced Detective Dan Burnham, who also works as the School Resource Officer in Eastham.

Detective Burnham gave a short presentation on the Eastham PD's interest in obtaining a Community Resource Dog. The purpose of the dog would be to bring joy to the community. The dog would be brought to Nauset Regional High and the Eastham Elementary School on a daily basis. The dog would be available for comfort after any type of traumatic event that children or others in the community might suffer. The dog would also be involved in community events. It would be trained as a "friendly find" dog, and have the ability to search for missing people in the area. It would not be used as a traditional K9 to search for bombs, drugs, etc.

Detective Burnham reviewed the projected costs of obtaining the dog. The initial costs, including obtaining the dog, training the dog, veterinary care, and special equipment are estimated to be \$14,500. Ongoing recurring costs, including insurance, food, and veterinary care are estimated to be \$300 per month.

Detective Burnham reviewed the training that the dog would need. There is an intensive 10-day training program given by Charlie Young in Middleboro, MA. Detective Burnham would attend the training with the dog.

The dog would live with Detective Burnham and his family. In the event that Detective Burnham left the Eastham PD, the dog would stay with him and his family. He stated he has no intention of leaving at this time.

Chief Bohannon stated that the plans were still in the preliminary stage, but that they were reaching out to community groups, including the EDOA, for financial support to obtain and keep the dog. There is no budgeted money at the Eastham PD for the dog at this time.

All EDOA attendees at the meeting expressed support for the concept. Chief Bohannon stated that it can be unpredictable as to when a dog might become available, but that he would keep in touch with Cindy Nicholson about the status.

The EDOA Board members agreed to discuss potentially providing some level of financial support for the dog at our next Board Meeting in August.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

The next EDOA Board Meeting will be held on August 17, 2023.