

Eastham Dog Owners' Association

Special Members' Meeting, March 27, 2023

Eastham Town Hall

Board Member Attendees: Tracey Plantier, Beverly Hobbs, Kerry Reid, Ed Daniels, Cindy Nicholson, Tony Cantore, Karie Miller, John Shaw, Ruth Bentsen, Ellen Lapriore

A special meeting of the EDOA members was called to address the issue of dogs off leash at Wiley Park. The Conservation Committee (CC) and Open Space Committee (OSC) have expressed an interest in ending the off-leash bylaw in Eastham for Wiley Park.

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm

### **MINUTES**

1. Tracey opened the meeting with the introduction of the Board Members and an overview of the issue.
2. Ed presented a slideshow that reviewed the history, current concern expressed by the CC and OSC, reasons that we feel the conservation issues are not being caused by off-leash dogs, and potential actions that we can take as a group to keep the bylaw as-is for Wiley Park off-leash dog access.
3. Ed opened the meeting up to questions and comments from the EDOA members. The following is a summary:
  - a. How many people/dogs can be there at a time? There is no limit currently, and there are some times that are busier than other times. The busiest times seemed to be during the height of the Covid pandemic, since people needed a place to get out with their dogs and socialize in the outdoors.
  - b. The CC has also tried to limit boating at Great Pond. It seems to be a larger issue of limiting Great Pond recreational access in general.
  - c. There was a question about having residents-only passes for off-leash dogs.
  - d. There was a suggestion of signage at the park stating that we are helping to be stewards of Wiley Park.
  - e. Ed stated we want to work together as a community to achieve compliance with the bylaw rather than place more restrictions.
  - f. The EDOA has a petition to sign stating that we are not in favor of changing the bylaw. Ed is also putting it on the website for people to print and get additional signatures.
  - g. There are OSC and CC meetings being held April 13 (in person) and April 19 (Zoom only) and they are taking comments until April 21.
  - h. A member suggested that we all send letters to the Select Board expressing our concern with changing the bylaw.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.