



# EDOA NEWS

Newsletter of the Eastham Dog Owners' Association

## Tonight:

- Vote on Wiley Park Rules changes
- "Attend" (Zoom) the meeting

## Eastham Cons Comm may Vote Tonight on Dogs in Wiley Park

The Eastham Conservation Commission will be discussing and voting on rules changes for Wiley Park tonight. The meeting starts at 6 P.M. (address for Zoom attendance is below). We encourage you to connect to witness the proceedings.

On the agenda is discussion and possibly vote on rules

such as banning dogs off-leash in the Summer and closing off pond access along trails.

Last Spring the Cons Comm set about to change rules at Wiley Park ostensibly to mitigate damage to the park—some of which was perceived to be caused by dogs. These include requiring dogs be kept on leash during the Summer, closing off pond access points along the shoreline, and leashing dogs in the parking lot at all times. Other rules changes regarding activities other than dog usage were also made.

Eastham's dog owners and the EDOA vociferously objected to the characterization that dogs were out of control and causing serious damage. Over 100 citizens objected to the rules changes with letters, calls, and petitions as well as speaking at a citizens input session.

After objecting to restrictions being made without data to show there is a problem or identify the cause, the Cons Com agreed to pause the rules changes until monitoring could be done. With no rules changes, no signage changes, no trail delineation the Cons Com commissioned the Open Space Committee to monitor the park activity in conjunction with Eastham Dog Owners' Association members.

54 hours of usage in the park was monitored and data collected, generally with an EDOA member and OSC member working together. The results were enlightening.

After comparing results, the OSC and EDOA concluded that the mitigating actions supported by EDOA would help the most. It would be unnecessary to ban well-behaved dogs from walking off-leash.

Damage to forest plantings was not occurring with minimal fencing. Off trail use and waste / litter was minor. Currently used and traditional access to the pond was normal recreational use and should largely be allowed. Restrictions on biking, unleashed dogs in the parking lot, watersports access, trail delineation, enforcement of the rules (including dogs under voice control) and signage would address any real issues.

A recap of the monitoring data:

1. Trails were not crowded. About half of trail users were with dogs.
2. The number of persons with more than 3 dogs was 0.
3. A majority (63%) of the dogs on the trails were leashed.
4. More people were sighted off the trails than dogs, but that number was miniscule. (5 and 4).
5. 158 people and 82 dogs were enjoying the pond access away from the public beach during 54 hours of observation.
6. There was minimal dog or human litter on the trails. (less than 1 per session).

Check in on the meeting and see if our efforts to protect the rights of dog owners and the recreation so many cherish were successful.

## Conservation Commission Meeting 6 P.M. Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Zoom attendance only. Public will not be allowed to speak.

[Link to Meeting Agenda](#)

To join by phone, call 1-646-558-8656, then enter the meeting ID# 816 8070 4409.

To join by direct link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81680704409?pwd=YU1JTzQzaW9SaGJDa1dMMTFsQVlkZz09>

To join by One tap mobile +19292056099,,81680704409#,,, \*674299#.

The meeting will be a live broadcast on local access channel 18, and live streaming on the Town Website: <https://www.eastham-ma.gov/653/On-Demand-Video-of-Meetings-Special-Prog>

You are receiving this news blast as a member of Eastham Dog Owner's.

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Comments / Questions

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