

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, August 7, 2020

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting held via Webex

Call-In Number: 1-408-418-9388

Access code: 129 782 7667

Minutes

Attendees	
Committee Members:	
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	✓
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society Representative	✓
June Leman, Community Member (Vice-Chair)	
Amber Logue, Community Member (Chair)	✓
Megan Villacis, Community Member	
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen	
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate Member	
Staff:	
Nick Caggiano, Parks and Recreation Superintendent	✓
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager	
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner	✓
Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff	
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director	
Allison Waite, Mayor's Office (on behalf of Cheryl Lindner)	✓

Prior to beginning the meeting, a "Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency" was read aloud so all committee members and any members of the public listening by phone were aware of the steps that had been taken for the virtual meeting, including:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone.
- b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.
- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

1. Adoption of the [July 10, 2020 meeting minutes](#)

Motion: Bob Langis

Second: Amber Logue

Voting Members in Favor: All

2. Update on Potential Dog Park Locations

Following last month's meeting, Tim Cummings provided a copy of the lease and easement agreement so they could be reviewed for restrictions on the use of the Millyard Associate's property (Lot 77-5). The Easement Area as described is located on the western side of the property and covers approximately 2.4 acres, which is about half of the total area. Two clauses in the Easement Agreement place restrictions on the property:

3. Millyard agrees to restrict its use and others use of the Easement Area so as to: (a) avoid any interference with the radio signal emanating from the radio tower (the "Tower") to be located on the Leased Premises by MVB; and (b) keep open Tenant's access to the Tower and other improvements installed by Tenant pursuant to the Lease.

4. Millyard agrees not to construct any improvements on the Easement Area: (a) within that part of the Easement Area located in the triangle created by the three (3) guy wires' foundations; or (b) which would interfere with Tenant's access to the Tower and other improvements; or (c) which would interfere with the Tower's radio signal. Prior to any construction in the Easement Area, Landlord shall submit construction plans to Tenant for Tenant's review and approval which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. It is understood and agreed that Tenant will be required to cut certain copper radials of the ground system in the location of Landlord's intended improvements and locate copper strips around such improvements to insure that the radio signal will not be interrupted or the radio station be put "off the air" during the construction of the improvements, and Tenant and Landlord agree to cooperate to that effect.

Tim also reached out to the attorney for the Millyard Board of Directors to ask for a meeting and to get the topic on the agenda for the Board's next meeting on August 13th. If the Board supports a dog park being sited on Lot 77-5, then a call/meeting will need to be scheduled with the Tenants to discuss the restrictions on the Easement Area.

It was asked if efforts to develop both the Crown Street and the Millyard site could move forward concurrently and Committee members agreed that would be preferable. Based on previous conversations with Alderwoman Caron, a public meeting is recommended to discuss potential impacts on the abutting neighborhood. Nick was asked to provide estimates for fencing.

At the suggestion of the Committee Chair, a Dog Park Design subcommittee has been formed with Becky, Nick and Amber volunteering to be members. (Note: Cheryl, Deb and Trish, who could not attend the meeting, expressed interest in joining the subcommittee via email)

3. Animal Shelter and ACO updates

The City Clerk's Office reports approximately 5,700 dogs have been licensed as of August 4th. Bob said there are usually closer to 6,000 by this time of year but the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a delay in people getting their dogs licensed due to a variety of reasons, including an inability to get their pets vaccinated. Becky added that the annual Rabies Clinic held in April at City Hall, where they typically administer around 100 rabies shots, was cancelled this year.

Bob shared the attached report on ACO calls through July, noting things look pretty normal for this time of year. Over the last three years, there have been an average of about 1,600 calls and this year looks to be on that same track. Bob was asked about the small uptick in Bites and he said there were a couple of cat bites, one of which he received. He was also asked where heat calls get recorded and said they are recorded as a "Check Conditions" call if the animal(s) is/are okay and if not, they get recorded as a "Cruelty" call. If the temperature inside the vehicle is 90° or higher, the animal(s) is/are taken into custody and vet checked and the owners are warned and educated.

Becky reported that for the first time ever the shelter had no cats available for adoption! The Shelter is open and actively processing adoptions and hosting [trainings](#). The most recent training was very well attended, with attendees wearing masks and social distancing and stanchions put out to help control the dogs. Unfortunately, the annual Wags to Whiskers event at Anheuser Busch has been cancelled, but the Walk for Whiskers fundraiser in Mine Falls Park on October 24th is still happening.

4. Social Media Update

Becky provided flyers on heat stroke and also the Humane Society's training schedule for posting on the [Committee's Facebook page](#). Amber will share her Dog Park and Advisory Committee presentation with Megan so it can be one of the first posts as a way to introduce the Committee. A survey administered through Facebook was suggested. Questions asked could include: How often would you visit a Downtown Dog Park? How far are you willing to walk? What amenities do you think are important?

As suggested by the Committee, Julie will have an ADPAC@nashuanh.gov email address set up by IT. Amber said there would be a Downtown "Top Dog" contest through the Facebook page in the fall.

Amber informed the group that HUD has [updated guidance on reasonable accommodations](#) under the Fair Housing Act relating to assistance animals that can be shared on the Committee website/FB site.

5. Vacant Position on Committee

As discussed at the July meeting, the Mayor would like the remaining vacancy on the Committee filled by a "non-dog" person. June, who could not attend this meeting, has spoken with an interested resident and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Motion made to adjourn (Amber Logue) and seconded (Nick Caggiano). All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:36 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, September 4th at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM via Webex

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas