

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, November 6, 2020

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting held via Zoom:

<https://nashuanh.webex.com/nashuanh/j.php?MTID=m6233e91ee88b795f5d9d65654ebb2340>

Meeting ID: 843 5579 0611

Passcode: 955378

Minutes

Attendees	
Committee Members	
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen	
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate	✓
Kathy Abel, Community Member	✓
June Lemen, Community Member (Vice-Chair)	✓
Amber Logue, Community Member (Chair)	✓
Megan Villacis, Community Member	✓
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	✓
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society	✓
Staff	
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager	✓
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner	✓
Mike Harris, Parks & Recreation Ops Manager	✓
Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff	
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director	
Cecilia Ulibarri, Mayor's Liaison	✓

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 participating virtually via Zoom or 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. Introduction of New Committee Member Kathy Abel

Kathy Abel introduced herself to the Committee and shared a little bit about herself: she moved to Nashua in 1986 and loves the City. She is a homeowner in Ward 3 and is the chair of that Ward's Democratic City Committee. She heard about the Committee from June several months ago and

became interested in joining to provide perspective as a non-dog owner. Kathy was officially appointed to the ADPAC in October.

2. Adoption of the [October 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

- Motion: Bob Langis
- Second: June Lemen
- Yea: Bob Langis, Becky Longval, June Lemen, Amber Logue, Megan Villacis
- Nay: None
- Abstained: Alderwoman Klee, Kathy Abel

3. Follow-up on City Ordinances

- [O-20-031](#): Prohibiting Pets in Fenced-In Tot Lots

Julie referred to the minutes of the October 13th Board of Aldermen meeting that documented the adoption of O-20-031, as amended with the suggestions made by the ADPAC. Alderwoman Klee said the Committee did a good job with the amendments and was happy they were added. Bob asked when new signs would be put up. Alderwoman Klee thought probably next spring.

Next Steps:

- Email the sign specs to Mike and he will help get the signs ordered and posted. (Julie)
- [§93-14](#): Violations and Penalties – proposed change in fines for dog violations

Bob summarized his proposal to change the fines for dog violations by striking “except that violation of an ordinance relating to dogs shall be punished by a fine of \$25.” from the current rule. His current process is to educate and warn owners before fining them. The current fine process is very paperwork and time intensive and the low fine does not deter repeat offenders.

Alderwoman Klee expressed concern with the burden of time to dog owners who have to go to court if there aren’t set fines but does like allowing the courts to have some leeway. She also was concerned with not having a maximum fine because under [§1-12](#), the fine could be up to \$1,000, though that would be unlikely to happen with dog violations. Becky suggested language be added to §93-14 stating a minimum and maximum for all animals, not just dogs. While dogs have the highest number of at large offences, other animals, such as chickens, may also be repeat offenders. A tiered approach that pre-set fines based on violation frequency was also discussed.

Next Steps:

- Find examples from other cities of fine structures. (Julie)
- Check with legal to see if fine can be paid without going to court. (Bob)

4. Dog waste cleanup campaign

Amber led a discussion on a Dog Waste Clean-Up campaign. From now until April, snowmelt run-off fouled with dog waste quickly becomes a problem. There are several “high volume” problem areas

in the City that the campaign could target. Bob and Aldermen Klee will put together a list and also ask Alderman Lopez for locations. If anyone knows of sites, please email them to Bob and/or Julie. Julie suggested using social media sites to ask people where there are problem areas.

Ideas for the campaign include:

- “Take a bag/Leave a bag” dispensers made from PVC tubes and trash receptacles at problem areas
 - Need to make sure locations are accessible for trash pick-up
 - Need effective signage to encourage picking up after pets
 - Need to check with Director Bagley about safety of used plastic bags re: COVID-19
- Funding ideas?
 - Could potentially get unused bag donations from PetSmart, Petco, Pet Supplies Plus, etc. – good advertising for the store and no worries about used bags and COVID.
 - Local vet sponsorships
 - Main Street is an issue – may be able to get business sponsors. The Methodist Church on Main Street put out a dispenser and may have info on cost and volume of bags used.

Next Steps:

- List known problem areas (Bob, Ald. Klee, Ald. Lopez)
- Use FB and Instagram to ask followers where problem areas are (Megan)
- Reach out to UM Church about their dispenser (Ald. Klee)
- Check with Dir. Bagley on safety of reusing plastic bags (Ald. Klee)

5. Potential Dog Park Sites

- Millyard Dog Park Site & Feasibility Study

Julie is actively working on the RFQ for the Millyard Dog Park feasibility study and hopes to have it completed by the end of the month. Amber said Absolute Broadcasting has not provided any information on the underground infrastructure for the radio tower.

- Other Potential Sites?

Julie asked how big do we really need? [Manchester’s Bass Island dog park](#) is 10,000 sq feet. A smaller park may be more feasible if the radio tower is an issue. Two alternate sites were discussed:

- Millyard - Lot 77-8 (1.25 acres)
This is a City-owned lot near the existing Millyard site with City-owned parking on the adjacent lot to the north (Lot 77-3). It’s located close to the pedestrian bridge off Ledge Street and is a mix of trees and pavement with an existing building that needs to be demo’d. This site could potentially include in Millyard Feasibility Study.

Deb and Mike were both recently at the site. Deb said the Mine Falls Park Committee is looking at that area as many people currently use that lot and adjacent lots to access the Park trail instead of using the steep staircase by the pedestrian bridge. Mike was there in response to a call about the homeless encampments along the existing trail.

- Mine Falls –121-93 (3.2 acres)

This is also a City-owned lot adjacent to but not actually part of Mine Falls Park. The lot is located off Positive Place, near the Boys and Girls Club. It has a ball field on the west side of the lot and the rest is primarily tree-covered; some trees would need to be cleared to make space for the dog park. In addition to Positive Place and North Seventh Ave, there is easy access to existing trails and ped bridge in Mine Falls Park. One concern is proximity to residential properties, however current uses include a ball field and the dog park could be situated as far from the residences as possible and a good tree buffer would be maintained. Amber noted that the proximity to the residential properties and tree buffer were similar to Crown Street. Becky added that the dog park wouldn't be open 24/7 and the existing ball field makes noise as well.

Next Steps:

- Explore adding second Millyard lot to Feasibility Study RFQ (Julie)
- Visit both sites (Julie and anyone else who wants to!)

6. Animal Shelter and ACO Updates

Bob said wildlife calls were up due to the nice weather but otherwise, the call volumes were typical (report attached).

Becky said things are pretty much normal at the shelter as well. She suggested a campaign to reduce the number of loose dogs in the winter. Snowbanks up against fences allow dogs to jump over so a campaign encouraging people to shovel their fence lines could be launched through social media. Many dog owners just don't think about dogs using snowbanks to escape so a little education and advice could really help.

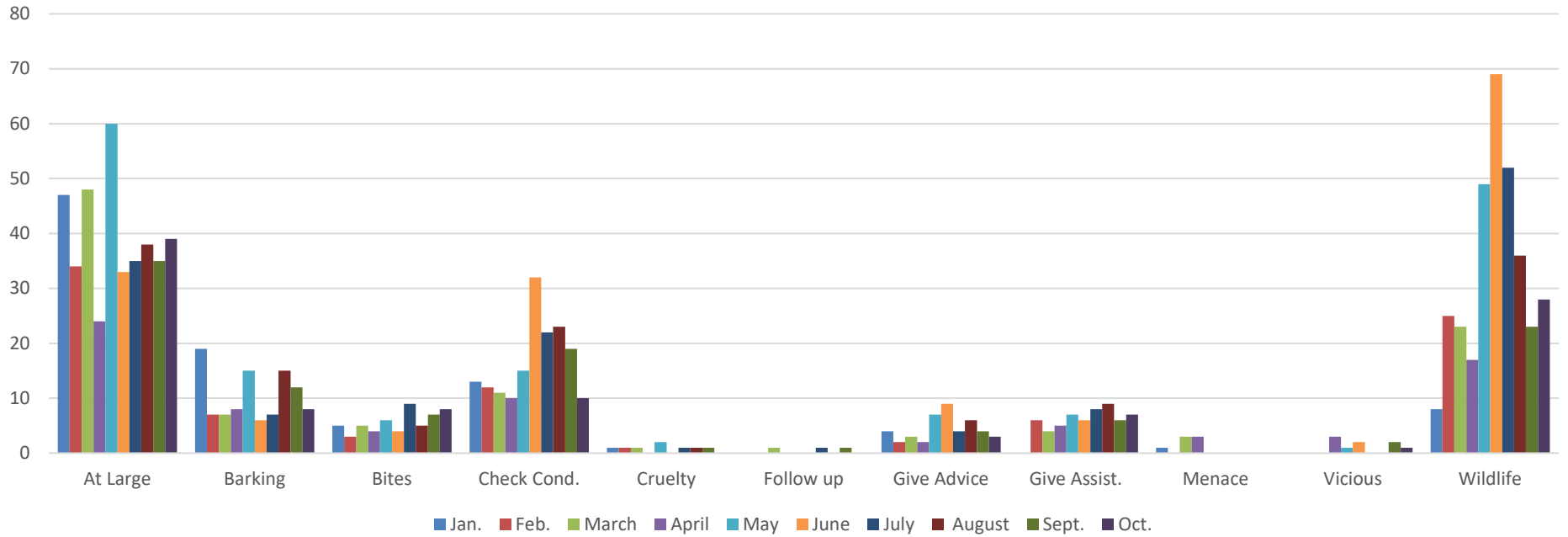
Becky also shared a great story about a dog that went missing 7 months ago in Peabody MA. The dog was found as a stray in Nashua and brought into the shelter. Luckily, she was microchipped and her owner was contacted immediately and reunited with his dog. This is a great story for a social media post to help encourage microchipping.

Motion made to adjourn (Amber Logue) and seconded (Alderwoman Klee). All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 9:03am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, December 4th at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM via Zoom

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas

City of Nashua - ACO Calls by Month



Type/Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year to Date
At Large	47	34	48	24	60	33	35	38	35	39			393
Barking	19	7	7	8	15	6	7	15	12	8			104
Bites	5	3	5	4	6	4	9	5	7	8			56
Check Cond.	13	12	11	10	15	32	22	23	19	10			167
Cruelty	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0			8
Follow up	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0			3
Give Advice	4	2	3	2	7	9	4	6	4	3			44
Give Assist.	0	6	4	5	7	6	8	9	6	7			58
Menace	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0			7
Vicious	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	2	1			9
Wildlife	8	25	23	17	49	69	52	36	23	28			330
Monthly	98	90	106	76	162	161	139	133	110	104	0	0	1179