

**Kennebunk Dog Advisory Committee  
Minutes 9-12-2018**

Present: ACO Parker, A. Ferran, C. Connors, E. Fagan, P. Hoffman, C. Lederer, R. Levangie

Absent: S. Hennessey, G. Rodriguez, Dianne Trachimowizz, L. Miller-Cleary

Also present: Selectman Ward

**ACO report**

The ACO was requested to prepare a year end report, which she did, collecting information from police reports (this was a police not KDAC request, so the Committee did not receive a copy). Roughly, there were 17-18 complaints, with 7 in writing. Most complaints were verbal to the ACO, and most were that dogs on the beach were not under voice control. There were very few complaints as to dog waste on the beach – just one, regarding Parsons Beach, which is not under KDAC’s jurisdiction. (This is typical – the waste problem occurs off-season). In the ACO’s opinion, the visibility of the monitors was a great asset. While the number of complaints is greater than last year, this is due to the fact that monitors were told this year to report everything, so this increase. There was no particular time period as to which complaints were focused.

Regarding the voice control complaints, Selectman Ward asked whether the ACO had seen anyone get knocked over. She answered in the negative, noting that if that had occurred, there would have been a summons.

Regarding monitor coverage, C. Lederer noted that the morning was covered, but evening coverage could be sparse. The Chair said that the sign up mechanism begun late in the season was useful when instigated, but reminders were needed to keep up monitoring. Twenty-two people went through the monitoring training process this year, but only a handful were regulars in actual monitoring. This has also been the case over the years.

The ACO suggested that monitors continue to wear their vests and be vigilant off-season.

To keep the number of complaints in perspective, the Chair noted that in her monitoring she had been the recipient of many positive remarks. While one man was giving her a hard time, another person came up to her and thanked the monitors for their service.

The ACO noted that next year the monitoring training will be simpler, especially for returning monitors.

C. Lederer volunteered to arrange an end of season event for the monitors, separate from the annual Christmas party with the committee. The Chair said she would be happy to host. C. Lederer noted that the monitors appreciated the town's invitation to volunteer appreciation night.

Selectman Ward asked whether radio communications were needed with the monitors on the beach. The consensus was that phones are sufficient; the problem is that by the time authorities arrive, the violator has left.

When asked by Selectman Ward whether the ACO would do anything differently from the program this year, she responded that every year involved tweaking the program. She liked the sign up system, and whatever could be done to encourage more volunteers spending more time on the beach.

When asked whether getting people off the beach at 9 am had been a problem this year, the ACO stated that this issue had been addressed last year, and so did not arise this year.

When Selectman Ward asked whether things on the beach were overall better this year than last with respect to the dogs, the ACO said absolutely.

## **Minutes**

E. Fagan moved to accept the August minutes; C. Lederer seconded; all present agreed.

## **Bag dispensers**

R. Levangie continues to spearhead keeping the dispensers filled and is doing a great job. The Middle Beach dispenser is still hard to keep locked, which can result in wet bags. Many bags are being used.

## **New business**

The consensus was that a meeting should be held in October, and thereafter absent a pressing need, meetings could resume in April.

R. Levangie noted that the trash cans need to be chained by the beach so they are not tossed in bad weather. She will follow up with the Public Works Department.

## **Cards**

A card was sent to P. Hoffman regarding Homer's passing and all shared condolences with her.

The Chair noted that every day two gentlemen (Steve Ross and Dave Odgen pick up litter off the beach in the morning, leaving tongs and for others to do so. The Chair will follow up seeking addresses to send cards expressing the Committee's appreciation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.