

Dineen properties

William St. Laurent <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/9/2020 10:12 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To: Town Council

My first impression of the 3 Walker St. property is that an interesting business in an interesting building should occupy the site as an enhancement to the Foreside instead of another missing tooth in the street scape. A parking lot should only be used as a place holder. A parking problem is an indication of the success of an area. There must be better ways to solve the issue than taking down buildings to make the area look more like the Kittery Mall district.

The Legion Pond property would look good as a park in conjunction with regaining the health of the pond. But even a business would work there. That also might be the place for affordable housing, again, with the proper design.

Bill St. Laurent

Proposed Dog Ban

Melissa Visentin <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/9/2020 8:47 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the proposed ban of dogs at town parks. I am a homeowner in the town of Kittery, every year I pay for a Fort Foster pass even though I do not spend time at the park while it is open and that the money from the passes do not go to the park.

I propose that the rules remain the same. Fort Foster: dogs are allowed while the park is open and must be leashed. While the park is closed, dogs are allowed and can be off leash. Seapoint beach: dogs are allowed before 10 am and after 5 pm unleashed June 15 through September 10. Fines imposed for not cleaning up after your dog.

As far as Rogers Park, change the hours dogs can be there. No dogs 8 am to 1 pm, this way the school kids can be kept safe. I have never seen any town employees there to do any kinda of maintenance work to keep the trails free of debris after storms.

Dog owners buy a pass every year from the town to attend these parks with their dogs to help with the cost of the ACO. There needs to be better enforcement of the current rules versus imposing stricter rules. There will always be rule breakers, dont punish those who do follow the rules.

It is well know which members of the council are for and against this ban. Its clear that this proposal is not a representation of the majority taxpayers in this town. It is a shameful abuse of power and infringement of civil liberties.

Melissa Visentin

dogs at Fort Foster

kittery karen <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 11:07 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

First, I would like it be known that I love dogs. If I didn't travel so much, I would have a dog. I think it's critical for them to have a place to run and play off leash.

However, I don't think Fort Foster is an appropriate place for that. I rarely visit Fort Foster, even though I live just up the street, because of the sheer number of dogs that are there before the park opens. When I first moved here, I noticed a large sign proclaiming that the park would be closed to dogs if poop wasn't picked up. It's been an empty threat all these years since I have noticed many dog poop bags left behind, tossed into the woods, and dog poop on trails. In addition, it is common to see dog poop bags on Pocahontas Road that have fallen off the rear windshield wipers of cars.

Dogs in Fort Foster are rarely kept on leashes and it is not unusual to have one come bounding over and leap on you. Owners are quick to say that their dog is friendly. But if one is dog-phobic, that is of little comfort. A dog-loving friend of mine was walking recently (in another state) and reached down to pet a dog (with permission from the owner, who is a veterinarian). The dog mauled her and she required 40 stitches in her face. This is an extreme example, but these types of negative interactions are possible when dealing with animals. There are town residents who would love to walk in the park but don't because of the number of dogs there every morning.

When owners walk their dogs off leash, they often are not in sight of their dogs. The owners are sometimes engaged in conversations with other people or walking ahead of their dog and don't notice that their dog has pooped, therefore the poop doesn't get picked up. It's even worse in winter when snow piles are covered in dog poop. Owners in the winter often don't bag up the poop and it is left to sit on the snow until spring. It's rather disgusting.

Also, dog poop is harmful to waterways. Kittery is the only seacoast town that allows dogs on our beaches. So people from up and down the coast come to Fort Foster to walk their dogs and pollute our beaches.

It would be wonderful to have a dog park in town – perhaps adjacent to the resource recovery facility where there is a large parcel of land.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Saltus
16 Pocahontas Road
Kittery Point

Karen Saltus

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The bicycle is the most civilized conveyance known to man. Other forms of transport grow daily more nightmarish. Only the bicycle remains pure in heart. -Iris Murdoch, writer (15 Jul 1919-1999)

Old Post Road Properties

Hershey Hirschkop <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 10:54 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc:Emily Flinkstrom <executivedirector@fairtide.org>;

Dear Town Council,

I am writing to encourage the Town of Kittery to dispose of tax-liened properties - specifically the Old Post Rd properties - by earmarking them for affordable and supportive housing development.

These types of developments, especially in more rural towns, are often a partnership between the town itself and a non-profit developer. The town's contribution to ensuring they promote and work to build affordable housing is usually in the form of a land donation. This is a simple way for town's to fulfill their own commitment to serving low-income and homeless people from their town, and ensuring that a range of housing options exist. Please note as well, that well-built, well-managed affordable housing has been cited as increasing property values, despite rumors to the contrary.

Thank you,

Hershey Hirschkop
Board Member, Fair Tide

Dogs

Mara Lamstein <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 10:54 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello

I am a resident of Kittery and have lived here for over 20 years. I am not a dog owner but feel strongly that there needs to be places that dogs can walk. I'm in support of allowing dogs at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach before 10 o'clock in the morning and after 5 o'clock in the evening. That feels very reasonable. I agree that during the summer months restricting dogs from 10 AM to 5 PM makes sense. I walk at both of these locations several times a week year round and have never encountered a problem with a dog. People are very respectful about picking up their dog waste and I personally have never encountered any aggressive dog behavior.

I'm not sure what prompted this proposal - but I feel it would make kittery a much less friendly place for families.

Please keep reasonable hours for dog walking!!!

Sincerely

Mara Lamstein
35 Mill Pond Rd
Kittery

42- 44 old post road comment

gina henshaw <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 10:27 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello,

I have been following the former bus depot property situation for years, as we live right up the street and walk by with our dog and our young baby almost every day. I read that there was a thought of possibly making the property into a town park, and I want to express what a wonderful idea I think this would be. I would love to see a small playground, swings, or play structure as part of a green space/park. Currently, Kittery only has one other public playground that I can think of at the recreation center across town (not including fort foster which is not a free access area), and there is NO playground for the area in question, including the neighborhoods close to old post rd, park ave, rice ave, etc. Furthermore, I think the families that attend baseball/football games at the ballfields down the street would be so pleased to be able to walk down with their younger children to the playground while watching a game.

A cute park with a little playground area would look beautiful next to legion pond. It would be nature-inspired, and in line with Kittery's plan to protect and improve our natural resources as well as create scenic areas for even the youngest residents. The park/playground plan would also protect the wildlife and have a positive impact on the many many birds, ducks, and animals that use legion pond as their home.

thank you for your consideration, and we will be watching anxiously to see your decision.

Gina and Jamie Henshaw

Fwd: dogs and kittery beaches

A Swan <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/5/2020 2:20 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

towncouncil@kitteryme.org

doesn't seem to be working...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **A Swan** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 1:11 PM

Subject: dogs and kittery beaches

To: <towncouncil@kitteryme.org>

I moved to Kittery in 2008 for many reasons, but the top reasons were to be close to the beaches so I could bring my dogs. I used to bring my dogs daily, cleaning up after them after other dogs and after all the people who left trash. Due to my schedule, I now bring my dog (one died) once or twice a week to Seapoint or Fort Foster. My dogs never got in fights with other dogs. Once another dog tried to fight with my dog: and the owner was apologetic and stated she would not bring her dog back. I never saw that dog again at the beach, but did see the owner.

I plead with you to allow dogs to go to the beaches. We (as dog owners: for the majority) help to clean the beaches. We, as a majority, have nice dogs. We, as a majority, listen to the rules...

Best,

Anna O. Swan

27 Main St

Kittery

Dog Ban

Craig Maguire 

Wed 8/5/2020 9:04 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To Whom it may concern,

I'm a current NH resident, who just started looking at real estate in Kittery to relocate. I was browsing a Kittery Maine Facebook page and saw you are looking to Ban the off leash areas for dogs? I have visited (while on vacation) Fort Foster and Seaport beach and thought it was great to be able to have dogs off leash in the morning hours. With COVID more people than ever have gotten animals, and are looking for friendly places to bring them. Being labeled a "none friendly" dog town is not a good look these days. More and more people are looking to move out of cites and most have dogs.

I'll be watching the vote closely and hope you make a good decision and let the dog runs in the morning hours. My search for a house in Kittery is now on hold.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, as someone on the outside looking to join your community.

Craig Maguire
(O) 603-319-5106
(C) 603-682-5862
cmaguire@nesc.com
www.nesc.com

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Fostering a healthy Kittery Community - Town Council - Dogs

8/24/20

Cecilia Ford <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/4/2020 3:33 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

"Lets Work Together To Keep Kittery Healthy"

Fiscal year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 taxes \$17.40 per \$1,000.

The majority of my tax bill goes to Kittery Schools....but I have no children.

About 1/3 goes to "Municipal" but I happen to live on a road designated private. It's not so private that traffic of all kinds doesn't use it....but it's private enough that it doesn't qualify for town purposes.

However according to all the Covid signage, and the goodwill that comes from Town Hall employees, the Library, Foreside banding together to make things work, Community Center efforts.... I know that I live in a place that cares about each other and wants to foster community & neighborliness.

That makes my taxes worthwhile.

BUT THERE IS A DOG FIGHT

For the sake of brevity, I will try to educate using bullet points.

- 1) Fact: owners of pets pay their pet's expenses because their pet is part of their "family".
- 2) Just like children, birth and genetics doesn't guarantee positive behavior in public places. Love & training are necessary.
- 3) For those who don't live with young children....a child squealing with glee or having a temper tantrum in public can be irritating.
- 4) A dog being over excited or mean is irritating.
- 5) Children and dogs need to be "socialized".
- 6) Socialization can only happen if said child or dog is not being held back by an adult hand or leash.
- 7) Socialization for children and dogs have a time, place and space for interaction and involves positive progression.
- 8) Lack of a chance for socialization & freedom [while being supervised] is dangerous for society as a whole. Dogs and humans, **even adults need** socialization.

Fort Foster & Sea Point Beach are owned by the citizens of Kittery and Kittery Point.

They are 2 wonderful places for families with children, families with dogs, people who want to be outside socializing or exercising **and** people who periodically want to escape their isolation or find a space to observe the greatness of the ocean and find an inner perspective to interact.

Respectfulness towards others is being neighborly.

For the sake of those who don't want to see a dog, there are wonderful "nooks" at Fort Foster.

No dog anywhere should be out of control of the responsible owner. No child should be left unsupervised on the trails, rocks, or beaches of Fort Foster.

My own dog is afraid of children because of their unpredictability....even with wonderful care givers. So my dog often won't even get out of the car during summer at Fort Foster.

But I still buy my seasonal pass and I don't resent children using the park.

Dogs being leashed while they enjoy the park with their families makes sense.

In the same way there is a beach at Fort Foster reserved for children, maybe there could be a beach reserved for dogs. Or perhaps only at low tide can dogs run on the beach. But they need some designated time or place to be able to interact without a leash. Otherwise, we will have a society of mean/fearful or overly protective dysfunctional dogs.

The trails are too narrow for dogs to enjoy interacting off leash. So mandatory leashing benefits all.

Sea Point could have off leash hours - maybe low tide.

Dog poop pick up has been discussed and vastly improved. If a dog owner is distracted by something - others point out to the owner "your dog just pooped"... "pick it up."

Kittery Land Trust does a great job of picking up Sea Point Beach. Washed up lobster or fishing gear is a far more common sight than a bag of dog poop.

Banning dogs all together from either place only creates an unneighborly, mean spirited community of judgemental resentful people.

It is a proven scientific fact that if isolation or addiction is a problem in your life, then caring for an animal in a wholesome way is part of a solution.

What is Kittery's overall goal for community?

Dog ban

Liz Dupre <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/4/2020 3:28 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Neither of these options is acceptable! We live here because of Fort Foster and our dog! We spend nearly all our free time and lunch breaks at FF with our beloved dog. That is our whole outdoor life! where we exercise and play year round DAILY! She is with us every weekend when we enjoy the park and ocean in the summer! ALL our daily walks are in the park and sometimes at Seapoint.

Why? Why would you do this? What has happened to the rights we have as upstanding tax paying citizens?! What rights do you have to take this gift from us? We live here because of this. I would like to know why, exactly, this is proposed?! Do you have some statistics here? What are you basing these proposals on?

People will always complain but they are not the majority! Sure there are a few noncompliant visitors, such is life, nothing is perfect, but NEARLY ALL others pose no problems. We have a wonderful community of people here that love and enjoy the seaside environs with their dogs.

My dog goes everywhere with me. If she cant come to the park with me our daily walks around the park and beach days are very nearly over. This will destroy our life.

I beg you. Please do not do this. Please leave the rules as they are.

Sincerely, Liz Dupre
207-439-0032

In Favor of Proposed Dog Ban

Barry Schechter <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/4/2020 1:15 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

My wife and I have lived on Pocahontas Road since 2013. Due to our personal experiences living on the road into Fort Foster and inside the park itself for the past seven years, we are strongly in favor of a dog ban at the Fort. There are simply too many irresponsible dog owners who have, in spite of numerous warnings from the town, continually spoiled the situation for responsible dog owners.

Every day we are confronted with drivers racing down Pocahontas at over 50 mph, their dogs baying out their car windows and bags of dog waste attached to their back wiper blade. We are dog owners, and our dog walks only on leash. We have tried walking our dog early in the morning in the Fort (before the current COVID restrictions), and have found it to be impossible - our leashed pup was aggressively approached by unleashed dogs whose owners were many yards away. Even without our dog in tow, we have tried walking in the park at various hours of the day and have often been accosted by unleashed / unattended dogs. In our opinion, dog owners using the park have not been responsible - it is a situation that is out of control and needs to be addressed.

Since there is currently no prohibition on dogs, Fort Foster has essentially been operating as a de facto dog park, with daily visitors from multiple states and local municipalities. If this is what Kittery chooses for a uniquely picturesque and pristine asset then so be it, but we believe that it is simply unfair to the numerous other people who expect to spend time in a beautiful town park without having to worry. We have been sorely disappointed in our town's failure to address these issues - from owners not cleaning up their dogs' messes to problems with aggressive, unruly dogs that are off leash in defiance of the park's rules. We sincerely hope that our community will honor and respect our rights to enjoy this precious landscape safely and without fear of being accosted by pets whose owners fail in their responsibilities to both the pets and their community.

Sincerely,
Barry Schechter (and Gail Norskey)

Dogs on Kittery beaches

Tabatha Hawkins < >

Tue 8/4/2020 7:39 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear Council,

As a life long Mainer who just bought my first home, I am expressing my strong displeasure about the new restrictions on dogs on our public beaches. We respect the time limits during peak season, but having that space was a serious factor in buying a home in Kittery. It is a public space. Should people behave as we do and clean up after their dog and make sure they are under voice control? Yes. Should people make sure they clean up after their children and make sure they are respectful? Yes. But sometimes they won't be. It's the reality of shared space. Public land. Let's remember what we learned in kindergarten and just share and be compassionate. I will be making my voice heard in the next Council election and in town meetings.

All the best,
Tabatha Hawkins

Dog access to public land.

michael varney < >

Tue 8/4/2020 7:36 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Walking your dog at Seapoint and Fort Foster should never be curtailed. People and dogs stay socially distant and are generally very good about cleaning up any mess.

Sent from my iPad

Dog ban

Amy Huelle <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 7:55 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

As a single woman living on a busy road, I feel so relieved to know I can feel very safe walking my dogs at Fort Foster, and I really enjoy that after working. It is the biggest blessing of me living here. I would hate to see you take that away, I do believe that the law should be enforced and the people abuse those laws they should have Be fined, But walking dogs in areas where we all feel safe is an important part of overall health and wellness. Just because the counselor does not like dogs does not mean we should ban them. That's ridiculous, please do not do this it's important for us to have a safe place to be and with dogs on leash, there's no reason why we can't all enjoy town property in harmony.

Thank you 🙏

Sent from my iPhone

Concern for dogs in public spaces.

Quinn Hathaway <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 6:10 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello my name is Quinn Hathaway and I have a few thoughts about the debate on limiting dogs in fort foster and seapoint.

I am a dog owner myself and one of the reasons why I built a new house here in town is because of how dog friendly the area is. I frequent Seapoint, Fort Foster, and Rogers Park with my well trained dog, poop bags in hand.

I share many concerns with those who are wishing to limit dogs in public spaces such as; Seeing dog poop and dog poop bags is downright disgusting and a health hazard. One way I feel that this problem could be alleviated is to set up a poop bag dispenser and trash can. I know this would cost money but I would be willing to pay an added cost for this service as well as most dog owners I know. If there was a way to pay a fee when purchasing a fort foster pass or even to buy a "proud dog owner card" at the town hall that funds the program I think plenty of revenue would be generated to help alleviate both sides concerns.

I think having similar hours for allowing dogs at Seapoint would benefit Fort Foster as well.

I'm sure there are many more ideas out there for a compromise. Unfortunately it seems from what I've seen and heard that what one side wants is no access and the other side wants unrestricted access.

In summary I hope that the town of Kittery, it's residents, and visitors, dog owning or not can come up with a compromise that will make all of the public areas better for everybody. I just don't want to have to vote for or against a complete ban in any area.

Thank you for reading my thoughts.
-Quinn Hathaway.

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Policy Agenda Item

Todd Bailey <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 6:02 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hi -

I'm a property owner and have 2 dogs and love taking them to Seapoint and Fort Foster - year round, and buying passes in the summer. Part of the routine is getting poop bags and doing what we should and bring them home - and keep them on the leash at all times.

It seems things have gotten better since the PD has started patrolling more often this summer (with dogs being on leashes).

When the park is staffed, why can't we get trash cans, and a few more poop bag stations around? Strategically placed these would get used - plus people might pick up other trash - used masks, etc.. I have to pay to license my dogs - where does that money go?

Seems that would be the more sensible thing to do.

Todd Bailey

Dog Ban Proposal 8-24

Rich Buzzell

Mon 8/3/2020 5:46 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello Town Council Members,

My name is Rich Buzzell and I live at 85 Bartlett Rd in Kittery Point. I have been a lifelong resident. I have two young dogs (ages 2 and 5). I would like to comment and be heard at the council meeting on 8-24 concerning the proposed dog ban and leash requirements at Ft Foster even during non-public park hours.

I believe it is unfair that dogs must be leashed at all times (especially during non-public park hours). I can agree that we would have to have dogs leashed while park is open to public. But to completely not offer anytime for dogs to be off leash at a public area that we pay taxes for is a punishment to taxpayers and dog owners. Dogs need to exercise and get their heart rate up through exercise just as people do. Could we agree to have a certain time frame posted in which all people know that this specific time is for dog owners to be in there and there will be dogs off leash. People can choose to come or not come to the park based on these conditions. And then have times when leashes would always be required. For example:

Off Leash~

Sept 15-May 30. 5am-8am and 5pm-8pm dogs would be welcomed off leash/under voice control of owner. (between 8am to 5pm dogs would need to be on leash). This would give options to both sides of the party.

On Leash

June 1-Sept 14th at all times with exception of 5am-10am.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Rich Buzzell

Dog Discrimination

Kimberly Schults <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 4:58 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Good Afternoon,

I am writing because I feel that dog owners need to be heard and allowed to use Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach. We moved to Kittery a little over two years ago and loving walking our dogs at these beaches is part of why we love our community. I understand that not all owners are responsible and follow the rules, this doesn't mean we all don't. As a responsible dog owner and community member I feel they people with dogs on leash or off are viewed negatively. This is not ok! The sings at Fort Foster are not necessary. Restricting the use of these special locations during "Off hours" is unacceptable. Recently with all of the negative finger pointing to the dog owners of our town has created an uncomfortable feeling while attending these parks.

Have we considered setting a set hour or two for dogs to be walked off leash before opening hours and people who don't like dogs to have an hour to walk without dogs? Can we charge a yearly fee(50 bucks) to create revenue from the 100s of dog owners in this community?

Please consider pet/dog owners as part of our community instead of a nuisance. We love our town, our community, and our Dogs!

Thank you,
Kimberly Schults
Sent from my iPhone

Dogs

Ingrid Towle



Mon 8/3/2020 2:48 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I would like to say I have been taking my dog to Fort Foster for 11 yrs. He has spent his whole life there early morning at 6am. Even when it's pouring rain to deep snow My dog will not be around in the next few years and he really loved it there. Just because 1 person hates dogs is not acceptable. Please let our dogs come back in the fall. Thank-you

Sent from my iPad

Sea Point Dog issue

Brienne Cosman <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 1:27 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brienne Cosman, and as a dog and home owner in the town of Kittery I would like to say that I feel dogs should be allowed to be at Sea Point. I understand that there are issues with dog bag pickup, but I also pick up trash from forgetful beachgoers regularly. It feels like we can't lay the blame in one area and we all need to be better at being respectful of the land.

Dogs are social creatures too and I think it is important for them to have a space where they can interact. I miss the days when well behaved dogs could be off leash there and cannot wait for it to go back. I recognize why this is happening in these current circumstances but it does feel like a step in the wrong direction if things proceed the way they seem to be going.

I hope my comments are heard, as well as the many other dog owner's who would like to have some semblance of a normal life where we chose to live, near the beach, with our dogs.

Thank you for your time,

Brienne Cosman

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Ban

Shelley Tamis <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 12:56 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I don't understand why Massachusetts is so dogs friendly yet Kittery Maine can't figure it out. Massachusetts opens more and more lands to off leash dogs while it's the opposite in kittery. Some of Massachusetts most prized lands including the original Proprietors of Nantucket's pasture lands are open to off leash dogs. The more you squeeze the worse the problem gets. Just set separate hours for all to enjoy and post clearly. That's that. Anyone who complains about that is just a complainer. And there is always going to be a little waste left behind with any human use. A stray poop bag is no worse than a diaper or a empty 6 pack.

Sent from Shelley's iPhone

Zoom meeting

Pamela Sandquist <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 12:28 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

This is outrageous!

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Ban

Liz Dupre

Mon 8/3/2020 11:42 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Importance: High

Dog ban or just carving out more of our God-given gorgeous coastline for the canine discriminating elite?

1. The fewer places in town there are to walk dogs, the more everyone gathers to walk their dogs the more problems you will have because of crowding.
2. If you exclude dogs on a piece of PUBLIC PROPERTY the next step will be excluding people from enjoying the property. Wait, this already happened on the Rachel Carson land in York.
3. And we have also already lost our right to bring our dogs to the Rachel Carson land in Kittery. Next? no people, just like York.
4. A member of the Town Council has a personal grudge against dogs. This was clearly stated in an article from Seacoast Online "Dog debate in Kittery: Stink raised over Seapoint, Fort Foster rules". He basically stated a dog scared his wife so now he is leading a crusade to rid the Towns Public Lands of Dogs.
5. The same town councilor stated "If you don't have a home with a piece of property large enough for your dog to run around on your property, and to squat and do his business on your property, then you shouldn't have a dog."

Maybe there should be a law that only land rich people should be allowed to have a dog, Clearly that's what he is saying. This is your councilor. Your impartial Councilor? able to make sound decisions on your behalf? You, the majority. I think NOT.

6. Maybe people shouldn't be allowed to leave their own property. For whatever reason the government thinks. No, that could never happen.
7. We the people, the citizens of this town have been free to enjoy PUBLIC LANDs with our dogs for literally HUNDREDS of years. Now, suddenly we are an intolerable nuisance and will not be allowed?! Where does infringement on personal liberty end? IT DOESN'T, it never does, it gets more and more.

Sincerely,

Liz & Scott Dupre

Dogs at Ft Foster and Seapoint

Kathleen Marra <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 11:34 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

For a decade I walked my dogs at Ft Foster and Seapoint beach at 5AM, I stopped this practice almost 10 years ago. Owners feel their dogs are under voice command which most, if not all, are not, those places are no longer safe for me, or my dogs. I keep my dogs on a leash because one is blind and does not like other dogs and she cannot tolerate the approach of off leash dogs not under voice command. Additionally, I walk without my dogs at Ft Foster most mornings and see dog waste that was not seen by the owners. We also are the family that has adopted Pocahontas Rd and weekly we pick up bags of dog poop that fall off the backs of people's cars. For the safety of our pets, our ability to enjoy our beautiful gown beaches and our health please ban dogs from Seapoint and Ft. Foster.

regarding the proposed dog ban

Liz Dupre <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 10:08 AM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Importance: High

This would be devastating to me and my family. If not for another citizen I would not even have heard this news. I can't even find info on the website. This should be on the Home page of the website, I can't find it anywhere.

Fort Foster is our park. It's the place we go every day for exercise and ocean air with our dog. Our dog is a member of our family. We pay for the park we pay for our dogs to be licensed we pay to live here and WE live here because of this park. I'm serious. We Live Here Because Of This Park! and that we can go there with our beloveds.

Surely there are other ways to resolve and reduce the issues you are having without such barbarian proposals. I have an rough idea why you want to impose restrictions (but can't believe it would spur such a proposal) so what are the issues exactly? The facts, numbers, statistics.

Are beaches closed due to pollution? Is there critical situation after critical situation here?

Then what?

And have we really looked at applicable, forward thinking or distinctive ways can we reduce occurrences, for which I am not clear of the severity, without such drastic measures?

Were there other public meetings on this?

We are already restricted at Seapoint and Crescent but morning and night.

If there WAS a time to gather and discuss options for resolution all the people who have park passes should have had the courtesy of being notified. Thankfully another resident spoke up about it in a public forum.

DO the right thing. DO NOT BAN members of our family from the park. It would mean essentially banning residents from the park. People with dogs vacate and exercise and enjoy life WITH THEIR DOGS.

Other thoughtful, reasonable, creative solutions to issues you have are no doubt at hand.
Don't punish the many for the few.

Sincerely, Liz Dupre

Title 6, Animal Control - Fort Foster

aileen <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 8:33 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear Town Council,

I am a resident of Kittery Point and I am writing to express my opinion on the proposed changes to this policy. I am not in favor of either Option A (banning dogs outright) or Option B (banning dogs between 10am-5pm) - I would like to see the current policy remain in place. I am the owner of a licensed dog, and I enjoy using the park to walk my dog. If dogs were to be banned then I will no longer be purchasing a day pass during the season.

Thank you,
Aileen

Title 6

Lauren Shea <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 7:15 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Good Morning,

I hope this finds you well!

I would like to express my concern over changing Title 6. I do not like either proposed options as bringing my dog to Fort Foster in the Summer is not only my absolute favorite thing to do, but is what helps to keep my mental health and wellness in a great place. It is also what gives my dog the stimulation and exercise she needs to be happy and healthy as well.

I visit the Fort 4-6 times a week year round. My 13lb dog stays on leash and I always pick up here feces. I do not "leave it to pick up on my way out", but secure it to my leash. When I leave the park, I take it with me and dispose of it at home.

I am incredibly grateful the Fort and now Seapoint are requiring leashes, and feel the monitoring of it (along with illegal parking at Seapoint) have been a vast improvement This year. Thank you!

Please do not take away our rights to being our pups to the Fort, whether it be during the day or between Summer holidays. It would sincerely break so many hearts and negatively impact the wellbeing of many people and dogs.

Thank you for all you do.

Lauren Shea
17 Halstead St

Proposed changes to Dog Ordinance at Fort Foster and Seapoint and Crescent beach

claire Gaudissart <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/2/2020 2:30 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc:Judy.spiller@comcast.net <Judy.spiller@comcast.net>;

Dear Kittery Councilors,

As a long time Kittery resident (I've been living here since 1992 and my children went through the Kittery schools) I would like to express my concern regarding the proposed changes to the current "dog laws" that would affect people taking their dogs to Fort Foster, Seapoint and Crescent beach.

I have been walking my dog in these places for years with no incident, and I follow the existing rules asking to pick up and dispose of my dog's poop, and keeping my dog on leash where required.

PLEASE do not pass any more restrictions.

The vast majority of Kittery dog owners are responsible and it just isn't fair to penalize all of us dog owners because a small minority (mostly non-residents) doesn't follow the rules.

Please 1) keep (and find a way to enforce) the existing rules at Fort Foster and Seapoint and Crescent beach and 2) allow dogs to be off leash before and after certain hours at those places.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion on this topic.

Sincerely,

ClaireH Gaudissart

Regarding banning dogs from Fort Foster and Seapoint beach

Drika Overton <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/1/2020 4:40 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To whom it may concern:

Regarding the discussion that dogs may be banned from Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster:

I am concerned by the notion that our previously dog friendly community would take up such a motion. We have always picked up after our dogs and carried out. It's the least we can all do! This has been a dog friendly community since I moved here nearly 30 years ago when Seapoint was referred to as Seapoop Beach. We worked hard to clean it up in those days and have come a long way!

Under the circumstances we are in this summer, I find the large out of town crowds to be a much bigger problem. I understand why everyone wants to be here. It's a beautiful place and why we live here. If I had my druthers, I would definitely limit at least Seapoint to residents. Every time we've gone there resident parking is taken by license plates from many different states. And many are not paying attention our carry in/carry out and leash rules.

For residents I think there should be times before and after certain hours when our dogs can be off leash at FF and Seapoint. If dogs are banned altogether, why would so many of us- dare I say a majority?- want to live here?

Please reconsider banning dogs at two of our most special places.

Regards,

Drika Overton

Anti-dog ban

Kate Harris



Sat 8/1/2020 3:05 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hi Council,

As a Kittery resident who travels so much, I rarely get to Seapoint and Fort Foster, I still very much value the ability to go there with my dog. She is a support dog for me as I have a disability. Taking her to these spots gives me an opportunity to have "her" time, which I cherish, as she does so much for me.

I agree that there are issues currently, however it seems that the concerns are the result of irresponsible humans. Leaving poop, not having control over your dog, littering, or causing other nuisances to the rest of the public seems to be an issue in many open spaces. However, punishing those who are respectful is not a solution and will only result in fewer visiting and enjoying the spaces. I'm sure many have suggested ways to manage the concerns, so I won't throw mine in as I'm not educated enough on resources to know what is reasonable. For instance, installing a poop disposal bin at the gate seems to be a great idea, but I don't know how the town functions to suggest who would be responsible for picking it up.

I hope the council can listen to all voices, and move forward with a way that will bridge the gap and keep Kittery a town offering high quality of living for all. And maybe even set an example for other communities.

Thanks,



Kate Harris

Photographer, [Kate & Keith Photography](#).

Co-Founder, [Sustainable Seacoast](#)

603 370-2879



Aug 24th council meeting: dogs off leash on our beaches

Martha Mason <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 12:25 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello

I understand the town of Kittery is thinking about making Seapoint and Fort Foster Leash only, all the time.

I find that frustrating and unfair. There have been 3 main complaints I hear:

- that some people don't pick up after their pets. true. Some people suck. But it seems to me there are far more people who leave diapers, condoms, coffee cups, beverage containers, half eaten meals in plastic, and cigarette butts. Those last items mentioned are all items that have been in someone's mouth/body - leading to a greater threat of COVID spread, which seems to me is a bigger threat.

- I have heard there is a concern about the spread of COVID via petting a dog, but, according to the CDC:

- At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

- There are also comments about misbehaving dogs. Through my decades of being in public with and around dogs, I have witnessed very few incidents and have found that the dog community is good about self policing those that are ill behaved.

There are fewer and fewer places available for our dogs to really get to RUN. I have a small yard, but to really expend the energy he needs to, my rescue pup needs a good full out sprint. Having other pups to chase and run from are an important part of his socialization, and mental & physical health.

I always pick up after my pup, and sometimes other's pups, for those who may have missed it. It happens. There are loads of other places to go for those who don't like dogs, but precious few where people can be outside with their well behaved dog off leash. We have been sharing these spaces for years with little issue. I don't understand the sudden need to disrupt what has been a mutually beneficial arrangement at Sp and FF. There are dog allowed hours and there are people only hours. Seems fair.

I love living in Kittery. I love my early morning walk with coffee on Seapoint where my pup can run and play with some of his pals, or not. sometimes he just sniffs and runs away from the waves (they are very scary). It would be shameful if we couldn't continue to share this wonderful resource.

Thank you,
Martha Mason
13 Tenney Hill Rd
Full time resident

Dog Ban comments

Duncan Lake 

Thu 8/6/2020 12:44 PM

To: comments@kitteryme.org <comments@kitteryme.org>; town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc: Kenneth Lemont-Personal <klemont@comcast.net>; Judy.spiller@comcast.net <Judy.spiller@comcast.net>; jeffsthomson@gmail.com <jeffsthomson@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pelletier-Personal <braveboat@comcast.net>; Charles Denault-Personal <chdenault2@gmail.com>; Mattbrock1@comcast.net <Mattbrock1@comcast.net>; cyrusclark@gmail.com <cyrusclark@gmail.com>;

Importance: High

Hi,

My name is Duncan Lake. I'm a resident and homeowner in Kittery Point and am absolutely disgusted by the Kittery Town Council's focus on trying to ban dogs. Not only are you trying to ban dogs, but you're trying to do so in the middle of a global pandemic, which is despicable and cowardly, especially considering how many families are simply trying to make ends meet right now. You're trying to ban dogs while we cannot even attend the Town Council meetings in person, which is absolutely spineless and not lost on our community members, many of whom might not be tech savvy enough to figure out how to participate via Zoom.

Not all dog owners are bad, in fact, the majority are respectful and courteous. Respectful dog owners like myself often self-police offending dog owners who do not clean up their dog poop or have unruly dogs. Having a blanket ban like this is outrageous. Jeffrey Thompson's comments in the Seacoast Online article are pompous, disgusting and show that he's only looking out for himself: "If you don't have a home with a piece of property large enough for your dog to run around on your property, and to squat and do his business on your property, then you shouldn't have a dog"

Part of the reason we bought a house in Kittery is because our families' home is about 5 minutes from both Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster. We plan on staying here for a lifetime and raising our kids here but if this is the kind of leadership our town has, we have no problem leaving. Our house, like many in Kittery, is only on a small parcel of land, where we cannot give our dog long ball throws. We visit Fort Foster and Seapoint almost every day to unwind before and after work.

The revenue loss alone from Fort Foster of dog owner visitors to our town should be enough to dissuade the Town Council from moving forward with something like this. I can guarantee that the revenue of visitors that come to the park with dogs easily covers that \$2,000 our town spends on poop bags.

There are **many** good alternatives to banning dogs, such as, leaving the rules the way they were. Another suggestion other than banning dogs outright would be to have limited off-leash hours, much like Wagon Hill in Durham, NH. At Wagon Hill, dogs are allowed off-leash under voice control before 10:00am; between 10:00am-5:00pm dogs must be leashed. It works really well there. That would be a really simple, enforceable solution that would work at both Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach. Also, they have several

8/9/2020

Dog Ban comments - town comments

trash cans throughout the beautiful park and lots of people use them. Empty them once a day and your "problem" is solved.

Please listen to the people, you are not representing our town well in this matter.

Thank you,

Duncan Lake

Proposed Dog Ban at Fort Foster/ Seapoint Beach

Paul Ianiro <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 1:07 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To the Kittery Town Council-

I am writing this email to respectfully express my **OPPOSITION** to a dog ban at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach. My wife, Lauren, and I have been Kittery residents / tax payers for the past year and we have fallen in love with the charm of this little town. One of our favorite after work activities is to bring our chocolate lab, Oakley, to Seapoint Beach and go for a late evening walk along the beach and play fetch.

My wife and I (like many other residents) are responsible dog owners who pick up our dogs waste and dispose of it properly. With that said, I understand the concern some residents (and potentially some of you) may have regarding dogs at either Fort Foster / Seapoint Beach but I believe banning dogs, due to the negligence of a FEW dog owners, would be unfair to the majority of RESPONSIBLE dog owners. There has to be another solution to the issue at hand rather than a full out ban. What if waste bins were located on site to help dispose of any dog waste? That might also help dispose of empty beer bottles, or clothing, or food waste that can get left behind. OR what if we only allowed dogs that are registered in Kittery to be allowed on either Fort Foster or the Beach?

Please consider opposing a total dog ban at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach as it is not fair for those of us that are responsible and respectful dog owners.

Respectfully,

Paul Ianiro

Dog Ban - Fort Foster & Seapoint Beach//proposed title 6 revision(s)

Christina Stackpole <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 2:04 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc:Christina Stackpole <[REDACTED]>;

Importance: High

Please accept this email as my strong objection to limiting and/or completely banning dogs from Ft Foster and Seapoint beach. As a resident of Kittery, I enjoy the ability to bring my dog to these local spots and should not have to worry about losing this right given the taxes I pay as a property owner.

Please do not ban dogs and/or limit their ability to enjoy these areas. Thank you for noting my objection and consideration.



Christina Stackpole
Business Project Manager, Employee Benefits
Office: 855-517-6365 | Fax: 844-287-9499

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DOG HEARING TO BE ENTERED

N Linscott



Thu 8/6/2020 2:12 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Again I would like to emphasize my opinions are based on two years being directly involved with a small crew, we emptied the trash cans every day sometimes more than once a day all four seasons. Trash cans work, carry in carry out when it comes to dog poop does not work!

Nelson Linscott 29 Government Kittery

Dog Leash @ Seapoint and FF

Scott Mason <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 2:17 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I understand the town of Kittery is thinking about making Seapoint and Fort Foster Leash only, all the time.

There have been 2 main complaints I hear:

- that some people don't pick up after their pets. true. Some people suck. But it seems to me there are far more people who leave diapers, condoms, coffee cups, beverage containers, half eaten meals in plastic, and cigarette butts. Those last items mentioned are all items that have been in someone's mouth/body - leading to a greater threat of COVID spread, which seems to me is a bigger threat. People not cleaning up after themselves is sometimes a problem but it is not a dog problem.
- I have heard there is a concern about the spread of COVID via petting a dog, but, according to the CDC:
 - At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

There are fewer and fewer places available for our dogs to really get to RUN. I have a small yard, but to really expend the energy he needs to, my rescue pup needs a good full out sprint. Having other pups to chase and run from are an important part of his socialization, and mental & physical health.

Most people always pick up after their dogs, and sometimes other's pups, for those who may have missed it. It happens. There are loads of other places to go for those who don't like dogs, but precious few where people can be outside with their well behaved dog off leash. We have been sharing these spaces for years with little issue. I don't understand the sudden need to disrupt what has been a mutually beneficial arrangement at Sp and FF. There are dog allowed hours and there are people only hours. People know what these are and can choose accordingly if they wish. Choosing to go to the beach at various times to meet our own wants and needs is normal. I don't go on weekends because I know it will be busy. I go more off season for the same reason. If I did not like dogs, I could go to another beach or choose a time when I know that dogs will be on leashes.

The current rules regarding dogs at Kittery beaches are fair and equitable and do not need changing. What we have in place is working! Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Mason
75 Brave Boat Harbor Rd
Kittery Point
--

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<http://www.nh.gov/nhrec/Brokerage%20Relationship%20Disclosure%20Form%207-19-11.pdf>

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http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/real_estate/pdf/RECform3.pdf

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H Scott Mason

Keller Williams Coastal Realty
750 Lafayette Road, Suite 201
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Cell: 603-557-0801
Office: 603-610-8500

Fwd: DOG BAN

Kerrin Duffy <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 3:06 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc: Kayley McColl <kl.as.d.749@gmail.com>;

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Duffy, Kerrin" <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 6, 2020 at 3:04:41 PM EDT
To: <[REDACTED]>
Subject: DOG BAN

THIS IS ABSURD !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ON WHAT GROUNDS ARE YOU EVEN ENTERTAINING THIS RIDICULOUS SUBJECT ?!

*BEGGING YOU **NOT** TO DO THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE TOWN AND PERSONALLY FOR MY FAMILY !!!*

One of the BEST things in Kittery is the fact that there are so many beautiful places to go with our dogs for all to enjoy ! With ABSOLUTELY NOTHING left to do in this world due to COVID, at least there was this! Even what's available now as far as walking our dogs is a mere fraction of what is used to be before all of this ! DO NOT DO THIS !

The normal volume alone of families, people, friends, etc. with their dogs at Ft Foster, Sea Point, Town Forest, Rogers Park, etc.... should tell you LOUD & CLEAR that you would be making a serious mistake in moving forward with the ban. You would be losing a great deal more than dogs, I can assure you of that.

We have 2 dogs in our family and my daughter, especially, takes extremely great care of them and walks them RELIGIOUSLY every day. It's bad enough already that places are so limited.... not to mention what you are apparently contemplating. After seeing your signs around town regarding this, she has already voiced today wanting to move away from Kittery, as this would be the final straw. I honestly can't say I would blame her, as you would be taking

away something she truly loves to do with her dogs - IT'S GOOD FOR THEM TO WALK AND BE OUTSIDE !!!!!!! I truly believe she would not be alone in the thought of moving away from this town ~ rest assured, as there's hardly anything left of it.

You would be DESTROYING a very beautiful part of Kittery (and hence the town itself and its entire reputation) if this pushes through.

It is CLEAR that Councilors Denault, Thompson and Lemont do not have dogs of their own. NO DOG OWNER would be pushing for restrictions to be increased to leashed at all times or an all out ban. Clearly, they do not understand the scope of this whatsoever.

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dog ban

Katherine Shine Young <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 3:27 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello. I am opposed to the full dog ban at for foster and seapoint beach. There should be an open discussion instead of an outright ban. There could be times that dogs are allowed on the beach. Possibly stiffer fines for those who do not clean up after their dog. Maybe there is an option for a dog park. Dogs are apart of this community and our families. Look at the lovely pup at Maine MEeat. Everyone who has compassion in their hearts loves dogs. Can we compromise on this?

- Katie Shine Young (9 adams rd kittery maine)

Dog ban

SouthernMaine Cheer Owner <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 6:56 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hi I live in kittery and my dog and I go to the kittery beaches all the time. I'm not really sure why this is becoming a thing but it's absolutely ridiculous and shouldn't be a thing. It's not fair to the community we have of dogs in kittery. My dog loves seapoint and fort foster. People who bring their dogs there clean up after them, we all keep it clean. I've met most of my friends at these beaches because of our dogs getting along. I'm not really sure why you think this will be good for our community but it won't be. The dogs love playing at the beaches my dog absolutely loves seapoint because it's the only beach he can swim at and feel safe and have plenty of space to play and meet other dogs. I think this decision is pointless and unfair to our community. The beaches are supposed to be a place where you can take your family and dogs to have fun and enjoy time together not have to leave our dogs at home and not being able to spend time with their family at the beaches. I think you need to rethink your decision because this is unfair to the many dogs and families in our community. You're gonna have a lot of people mad more than you already started with cutting the SRO position at Traip high school. Definitely take what people think of this into consideration because it's not fair to us or the dogs.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Dogs

Libby Moak <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/7/2020 8:35 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I am a responsible dog owner. I pick up after my dogs and take it with me. I carry a bag and pick up after those that do not as well. My dogs are leashed, highly trained by pet standards and only off leash when appropriate with a very strong recall. They approach neither dogs nor humans and are not permitted to harass wildlife. Being left to confront those who do not follow the rules on my own is unfair. Before you make more rules that punish people and dogs who follow the current ones, why not try enforcing what you already have? I have been at Sea Point every morning this week and have yet to see anyone enforcing anything. I walk my dogs separately so I'm there quite a bit before 10. Maybe this because there are only a few of us there? Hardly a huge problem warranting all of this. Unless something occurs directly in front of the parking lot, little attention is paid. Does anyone making the rules actually go to either place and see for themselves?

This is about dogs, but why is all the overnight drinking on the beach and leaving of smoldering piles of pallets and such never addressed? Pallets have nails, where do they go? There is trash everywhere in the morning during the summer months and more fire pits every week.

I really don't understand banning leashed dogs during the day when Fort Foster is open? I enjoy this option of being around other leashed dogs and walking on the trails. Trash receptacles would solve the bag problem that seems to come with this. Stratham Hill Park has trash cans and even recycling bins. Not sure why there is so much resistance to this when other places are able to make it work. I would be okay with paying a few extra bucks to keep Fort Foster as it is with trash cans. If you ban leashed dogs during the day, I won't be paying for any season passes.

Please also consider that when Pierce Island reopens this fall, it will take the some of the burden off of Sea Point and Fort Foster. Since it closed things have been busier around here.

Better enforcement and trash receptacles. Thank you!

Elizabeth Moak

Sent from my iPad

Title 6 Changes - Don't Ban Dogs at Beaches

Jon Parry <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/7/2020 12:26 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello,

My wife and I recently bought a home in Kittery, and are looking to start a family here. The town atmosphere and facility access (including Seapoint Beach, Ft Foster) were two of the many reasons we chose to settle in Kittery after we returned to New England following my military service.

We are dog owners and truly enjoy being able to take our dog on walks around the town, especially Seapoint beach and Ft Foster during the prescribed dog use hours. We would be very disappointed were the Town Council move to amend Title 6 to ban dogs on Seapoint Beach and Ft Foster.

We understand people do not like dog waste left in public spaces, and as responsible dog owners we wholeheartedly agree that people need to clean up after their animals. We are truly outraged when we see dog waste in public spaces because people are too lazy to clean up after their animals. We believe irresponsible owners should be held to account (fines, what have you) vice punishing responsible owners by restricting appropriate use of public spaces.

We do not believe a dog ban will wholly solve the problem of dog waste on the beaches. The same people who don't clean up after their dogs will likely ignore the ban. What about human generated waste (trash, firepit residue, etc)? A ban on litter doesn't stop people from littering. Public waste bins and fine enforcement should be used to help mitigate the impact of negligent use. we urge the Town Council to consider these actions in lieu of an outright ban.

Lastly, we imagine Ft Foster revenue/usage may decrease due to dog owners not being able to visit the beach with their dogs. How much of the nearly \$200,000 in Ft Foster fee revenue comes from dog owners? Or day pass users with their dogs? We would certainly reconsider buying a Ft Foster pass if we could not bring our dog.

Please do not ban dogs on Seapoint Beach and Ft Foster. Instead, please consider alternatives: fine enforcement, waste bins, etc to mitigate the animal waste in public spaces.

Respectfully,

Jonathan & Jessica Parry

jon.h.parry@gmail.com

206-465-6036

Public comment for Monday, August 10

Anne Durgin Gilbert <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/7/2020 5:06 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

My name is Anne Durgin Gilbert, and I live on Park Avenue in Kittery. It should be noted that I am also a member of the Kittery School Committee.

After a recent contentious vote on the School Committee, I began to notice an alarming trend on social media posts made by Councilor Charles Denault regarding the vote. After researching your Town Council Rules, I realized that there are no publicly posted Code of Ethics or Social Media Use requirements for town councilors.

After referencing the numerous examples of social media posts made by Councilor Charles Denault I have sent each of you in a separate email, I hope that councilors can agree that guidance is necessary for elected officials. I am asking that the town council creates a comprehensive Code of Ethics and a Social Media Use procedure for its members. In my separate email, I have attached the School Committee policy examples of each of these.

Finally, I want to make it abundantly clear that I in no way want to censure Councilor Denault or any other councilor in a public or private forum. We are all entitled to the full rights of free speech and freedom of expression. However, I firmly believe the Councilor Denault has the responsibility of any elected official in maintaining a sense of civil discourse and tempering his derision and incitement of anger.

Thank you for providing me with a forum to share my request.

Anne Durgin Gilbert

SRO

firefighter2460 firefighter2460 <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/8/2020 11:02 AM

To:kbedard@kitteryschools.com <kbedard@kitteryschools.com>;

Cc:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I was very disappointed to see your committee vote out the SRO. I wonder what the real reason was. What I believe to see that the committee is starting to listen to the few that want to bring in big city scare tactics. I never heard any stories about the SRO before. So I would like your committee to revisit your vote and bring back the SRO.

Thank you
John D.Mercer111
19 Leach Rd.
Kittery ME. 03904

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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Dogs at Seapoint and Ft. Foster

George Shea <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/8/2020 3:13 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear Members of the Kittery Town Council,

Thanks you for your service to our town.

Establishment of a new municipal ordinance should be driven by data that presents clear evidence of need for that ordinance. It should also point to outcomes that would indicate whether or not a policy met its goals.

I have to say I have not seen the Town Council or others present a concrete set of data indicating a problem with dogs at Seapoint or Fort Foster to warrant the town government to reach in and further regulate these spaces for dog owners. Yes, I have heard the anecdotal tales from Councilors and a few others about bad behavior of dogs on the beaches. My anecdote is that I've taken my dog to Seapoint in the early AM most weekend mornings for the past ten years and I've never had an issue with another dog and would add that there's a lovely community of folks who gather in these early hours to walk and talk while their dogs romp. I bring this up not to be convincing, but just to show my anecdote is equal to those who would use their stories as leverage to capriciously choose to restrict these sites. They're both tiny samples, and they're both useless.

As a taxpayer, I would like my governing body to present evidence of need before treading into regulation. I can't remember to whom to attribute the quote "Without data, you're just another person with an opinion." Thus far I've only seen a lot of opinions and personal anecdotes and I don't believe municipal ordinances should be driven by the dispositions of its leaders.

Yes, sometimes I see dog poop or a bag of it an irresponsible dog owner didn't pick up. I see lots of things on the ground in Kittery proper that I don't want to see. There are fresh empty Fireball nips in the ditch on my street every morning.

Our town has significant matters worthy of the attention of Town Council and town resources. Those resources are stretched and I can't imagine allocating them towards enforcement of something so trivial as dogs on beaches. Again, if there were data presented to support the evidence of a significant issue, I would drop the 'trivial.' Absent data, I have to go with my own observations which don't demonstrate a need for further government regulation beyond the restrictions that already exist.

Counselor Thompson said he would get in trouble for his remarks about how only people with yards should have dogs, and the elitism of his remark is troubling on a number of levels. I'm sure he'll take a substantial amount of heat as he predicted. For me the most disturbing aspect of it is it runs against the grain of what I hope remains culturally a salt of the earth kind of town. I know

living here 20-plus years makes me a relative newcomer, but I value the simplicity, community, and the freedom we have in our beautiful spaces. I worry about the incursion of literal and figurative gates, signs, and barriers to the areas that make this a unique place to live.

There's no need to step into this. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Shea

18 Walker Avenue
ghshea@comcast.net

Dog ban on Seapoint and in Fort Foster

Olbricht,Suzanne (HMFP - Dermatology) 

Sat 8/8/2020 10:05 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Surely there is room for Kittery residents and their dogs in Fort Foster and on Seapoint Beach. I could be in favor of stronger policing and fines but not outright ban. I have found that almost all owners are respectful and their dogs are well mannered. I have noted no bad behavior.

Suzanne Olbricht
34 Goose Point Rd
Kittery ME 03905

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