

Kittery Dogs

Kyle McIntosh

Thu 8/20/2020 12:01 PM

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

Hi there,

As a Kittery Point resident dog owner I would like to voice my thoughts.

- I believe that 'leashed' restrictions should be in place for the high tourism summer months but should not be in place for the year round residents who rely on both Seapoint and Ft. Foster to keep their pets healthy.
- If extreme restrictions are put on how dog owners recreate on beaches, I am concerned where they will be displaced to. This may bring high traffic to areas such as Kittery Town Forest and other Land trust sites. This displacement is exacerbated by potentially confining individuals into much tighter spaces on single track trails which, given the current social distance guidelines, could be a negative consequence of shutting down beach opportunities.
- It is important to note the amount of revenue that dog owners bring to Kittery businesses. I personally know 6 families that travel from various parts of NH to recreate at Seapoint and Ft. Foster. The majority of whom, visit local spots for food and drink after the beaches.
- I believe that dog waste specific trash cans could resolve some of the problem of neglected bagged waste. This of course would require funding. Given the amount of resident dog owners in Kittery and the general affluent population, I would be happy to begin a 'Go Fund Me' page for waste removal.

Bottom line, put leashed restrictions on the high summer months of June-July but please keep in mind the year-round residents reliance upon keeping their pets (family members) healthy during the low density months.

Thanks for your time,

Kyle

dogs at fort foster

Robin Ell <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/20/2020 3:53 PM

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

- 1) park is for people 1st
 - 2) dogs 2nd, and only if on leash and owner's pick up waste.
 - 3) please consider dogs being leashed year round. last year regularly, there were groups of dogs running around with no owner's managing them - growling or jumping on people & children walking. also seemed to be daily dog walkers with more than 3 to 4 dogs unleashed & not picking up waste.
 - 4) real estate taxes are high &
ft foster is a nice perk for residents to enjoy year round.
 - 5) ft foster is not a dog park
- thank you for reading my view, Robin

Sent from my iPhone

Fort Foster and Dogs

Amy Annable <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:51 PM

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

Dear Town Council,

I am writing to ask you to continue letting dogs and their owners into Fort Foster. We love Kittery and one of the reasons why is that there is a beach that allows dogs all year. We live in NH and we gladly pay the season pass rate and have for the past 15 years. The people who come to the park are friendly and good dog owners. It is like a little community unto itself. The park is full of good people who fully appreciate Fort Foster. If dogs are not allowed, we most likely would not buy a season pass.

My husband and I are approaching retirement age and have seriously considered buying a house and relocating there. We frequent many of the business there, which we have become acquainted with during our visits to Fort Foster, including Chauncey Creek Lobster Piet, Robert's Maine Grill, Yummy's, the farmer's market on Sundays, and The Blue Mermaid.

If dogs are not allowed at Fort Foster, I am sure we would not visit and eat in Kittery anywhere near as often. We enjoy the park all year round.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Annable

Sent from my iPhone

Please allow dogs at Fort Foster

Chuck Annable <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:51 PM

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

Hi,

I am a NH resident that has been coming to Fort Foster for over a decade. My neighbor recommended it as a good place to bring dogs and boy are they right!

My wife and I are on our third set of dogs going to Fort Foster. They all loved it!

Once we turn onto Pocahontas Rd they can barely contain their excitement. It is such a beautiful dog-friendly park and the people and staff are so nice.

We always buy a season pass, it is a bargain. It would be a shame if dogs were no longer allowed at Fort Foster. More often than not, we dine out in Kittery after spending many hours at Fort Foster. We are considering moving to Kittery, ME one day after our working days are over. It would be a shame if Fort Foster no longer allowed dogs as it is one of the few places that still does.

Please still allow dogs at Fort Foster in 2021 and all the years after.

Thank you for reading this email from a non Maine resident,

Chuck Annable

Sent from my iPhone

NO on Title 6 Changes

Jessica Stack <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/20/2020 8:58 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Jessica Stack. I own a home on Central Ave and live there with my husband, my son, and my THREE dogs. Much of the reason why we chose to buy a home here in Kittery AND PAY TAXES is to have access to the beautiful beaches with our entire family. That family includes our dogs who love nothing more than to explore Seapoint Beach, especially our blind dog. Seapoint beach is the only place in town that he can enjoy without crashing into anything. It is his safe space.

We do own a home with a fully fenced in yard that they can play and explore, but there is nothing quite like their excitement when we visit Seapoint in the summer or even the coldest days of winter. In turn, to be a dog owner, having a yard is NOT a requirement. Exercising your dog can be done several ways, including the beach.

Your changes to Title 6 would not only hinder our ability to enjoy the beach together as a family, but it would also make the town less appealing as home owners and even business owners (which my husband is).

I understand there is an issue with dogs who are not under their owners control or with dog poop (the human trash far exceeds dog poop anyway!), but the value of allowing families to enjoy the beach together far outweighs those. There is a solution to those and we just need to come together as a community to solve for it.

I appreciate your time here and I hope that as a town, the decision is made to keep allowing dogs on the beach.

Thank you.

Jessica Stack
978-873-4013

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Jess

Regarding Title 6

Noelle Grattan < >

Fri 8/21/2020 9:34 AM

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

Kittery Town Council,

As a homeowner, business owner, and a voter in our town for over 13 years, I DO NOT support changes to Title 6, regarding banning dogs at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach. With proper and enforced leash laws, dogs should be welcome at both locations. Please do not ban dogs at Fort Foster or Seapoint Beach.

Thank you,

Noelle Grattan

RE: Dog ban

Gregg Dinino <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:46 AM

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

Good morning,

As a frequent visitor to Fort Foster, I object to the initiative to ban dogs. There are so few places where people can bring their dogs to have space to explore, exercise, and socialize with other dogs. These are all important to teach and reinforce socially-appropriate behavior in our companion animals. Rather than take this away from so many of us, perhaps a compromise can be reached? Perhaps limiting dogs to before 9 am and after 5 pm during peak months (say mid-June to mid-September), and allowing them without time restrictions the rest of the year? This is how dog access is handled on the beaches in Kennebunk, where I live, and while it doesn't please everyone, it's an effective compromise.

Several years ago, a group of Kennebunk residents pushed to have dogs banned from our beaches. In considering this, the town polled residents and visitors, and concluded the economic impact of banning dogs from the beach would be significant. Many visitors said that one of the major reasons they chose to vacation in Kennebunk was that they could bring their dog(s) to the beach (during seasonally-appropriate times). Ultimately, the town decided to keep the current dog ordinance in place, allowing them all day long from September 16 to June 14, and before 9am and after 5pm from June 15 to September 15, and placing numerous "doggie bag" dispensers along the beach for proper cleanup.

We love the beauty of Fort Foster, and having a grassy place to bring our dogs when we don't want them to get all sandy at the beach is very important to us. We love to pick up a bite at Beach Pea or Coco Loco, then head over to the Fort for a few hours of fresh air and relaxation, but we're not likely to do so if it means leaving our dogs alone at home; they are alone enough during the work week. Please reconsider your decision to ban dogs from there and other parks in Kittery; it will benefit very few, and displease many. Thank you.

Regards,
Gregg J. Dinino
Kennebunk, Maine
(207)985-0123

dogs at Seapoint & FF

Ame Wren <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/21/2020 10:30 AM

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

Dear town council of Kittery,

I am a resident of Kittery and a lifelong dog owner. I have been bringing dogs to Seapoint and Fort Foster for as long as I can remember. I grew up in Eliot and then moved to Boston for school, but a few years ago I purchased a home in Kittery for my elderly father to live in and began spending a lot more time up here again. My husband and I recently moved back after my father passed away.

Being able to bring my dogs to the beach is a beloved ritual and the main reason why I chose to buy property in Kittery and not somewhere else.

My dogs are both well-behaved and friendly. We obey leash laws and hours restrictions at both parks. We clean up after our dogs and are conscientious to keep them away from anyone who does not want to say hi. We are devastated by the proposition to take these spaces away from dog owners and hope a compromise can be found so that all residents of Kittery--human and canine--can enjoy the natural splendor present here.

We will be at the Zoom meeting Monday and the subsequent in-person one on the 31st, should it take place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Ame Wren
46 Martin Rd**

Fort Foster

DONNA VARALLO 

Fri 8/21/2020 1:23 PM

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

Hi,

We're very distressed to hear that there is a possibility that dogs will be banned from Fort Foster after the current season.

We live in NH and drive 140 miles r/t to Fort Foster 2-3 times a week with our 2 dogs because it's the closest beach that allows dogs. We bought a season pass and really enjoy the beach and park access.

I don't understand why this is being considered...we've never seen a dog off leash or not picked up after. There's a whole beach to the left of the pier for people that don't have dogs.

I believe if dogs are banned, Kittery Point and surrounding areas will lose a lot of business. We dine out at area restaurants before heading home. If we're no longer allowed to bring the dogs, we'll just go to Wallis Sands which is much closer.

Thanks,

Donna Varallo

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Absurd Dog Changes

Kayley McColl < >

Fri 8/21/2020 3:32 PM

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

It is absolutely ridiculous the changes being contemplated about dog rules in Kittery. Dogs should not be banned, and there should be no further restrictions on leashing dogs. Dog owners in Kittery pay for the parks as well, and the vast majority of many park users are there specifically for their dogs. It is ridiculous the amount of control that these people supporting the "dog ban" think there should be on Kittery residents. The government and the police force cannot have rights over every thing that people do, and going as far as dog bans and/or further leashing laws is threatening people's basic rights to freedom.

Dog ban situation

Beth Lindquist <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/21/2020 4:19 PM

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

Hi,

I am writing regarding the upcoming discussion about dog access to the beaches, Fort Foster and Rogers Park. By way of introduction, I am a 20 year resident of Kittery and own two residences as well as a dog. I have been delighted with my time in Kittery and hope that my desire to stay here continues. We have recently been challenged with issues, such as the SRO, double the price of my homes in the recent assessment in one year, and now discussion of banning dogs.

That said, it seems there are many rumors and a bit of uninformed discussions going on regarding "banning dogs of all access". I am not sure that is the case after reading articles and other resources, but I do hope that is not the option that is up for discussion. That is a lazy answer to a complicated question.

I do understand the need to make our public parks/beaches safe and comfortable for all. With that, I encourage you to consider options that allow for times of day that dogs are able to be at the beach and Fort Foster. Certainly, I believe leashes are necessary at Fort Foster as there are many people, picnics and cars there. As for the beach, I would encourage times of the day that dogs are allowed to be off leash under voice control. Our neighbors in York, ME allow this and they have a much bigger population.

The rumor I heard today is all dogs will be banned at Rogers Park as well. I have been going to Rogers Park for 20 years with my dog and I have only seen dog excrement a small number of times. I have picked up numerous pieces of human garbage, such as cans, bottles, etc. There are also set times that the children come for their outdoor activities and all of the dog owners are aware of the time and respectfully avoid the children so no contact with dogs is made.

There is a balance between keeping our wonderful community a beautiful place that provides all with a safe place for recreation. I believe there are options to consider without a full "ban" that are a win-win for the community.

I encourage you to consider the alternatives that will allow for dogs in a responsible manner with specific times for access at heavily populated Seapoint and Fort Foster. I can say from all my years at Rogers Park, dog waste is not an issue. If I go to Rogers Park before 8:30, there are very few people and they are the "regulars".

On another note, I have had increasing frustration with the amount of people at Seapoint Beach parking in the Kittery spots. There is also a new phenomenon of parking further down the road by Rachel Carson and walking down as there are no signs saying no parking. Our town beach has become a hot spot for people from all over...in fact I see more out of state license plates than Maine these days. This should be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration in reaching a good solution for all to enjoy our lovely beaches and parks.

Beth Lindquist

Fort Foster banning dogs

Joop Gilroy van Duren 

Sat 8/22/2020 5:46 AM

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

I would like to express my disappointment with the possibility of the town not allowing dogs in the park next season. Although I understand that lots of people would rather not be bothered by wet dogs shaking the water out of their fur after swimming, it is one of the very few places left within a reasonable driving distance where I can bring my dog to cool off on a 90 degrees (plus) day, and I'm willing to make that about 75 mile drive several times a week for the comfort of my dog. Of course I enjoy a day at beach too, but I can do that with a 40 mile drive, just without my dog. When talking to other people visiting there, lots of them come from far, and as I do, several go out to dinner afterwards in the area.

If the town would decide to close the beach for dogs, the community would not only withhold one of the last options for a dog to swim in the summer, but also take away substantial parking revenue (I'm a season pass holder) for the town, but more importantly takeaway thousands of dollars from local restaurants and gas stations.

Lastly I would like to point out that Fort Foster currently does NOT allow dogs everywhere, only on the righthand side of the pier, leaving a significantly larger area for people who would rather not share their beach day with dogs.

I sincerely hope that next year my dog and me will be welcome at this wonderful site again so he can escape a hot day by a swim in the ocean. Everybody is concerned with a dog left in a hot car, why not with a dog that is not allowed to cool off anywhere?

Thank you in advance for keeping the area open for us in the future.

Dog ban Fort Foster

Beth McQueeney 

Sat 8/22/2020 8:30 PM

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

Hi-

I wanted to say that we are visiting from NY. We were planning a trip somewhere in a Maine. We chose Kittery because Fort Foster allows dogs throughout the day. I think you will lose out of state visitors if you ban dogs. Thank you!

Beth McQueeney
518-441-2756

Fort Foster No to Dog Ban

Jennifer Kiley 

Sun 8/23/2020 11:46 AM

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

Town Council Members,

First I would like to thank the town of Kittery for having such a beautiful park as Fort Foster. We have been season pass holders for 2 years now. I am writing this to say please do not ban dogs at Fort Foster. There are other solutions that would still allow dogs. We would not be purchasing a season pass or visiting at all if a ban is put in place. That would equate to lost revenue for the town of Kittery. I always clean up after my dog and have also cleaned up after others (both dogs and people). I believe we are all stewards of the places we visit and therefore responsible for keeping things clean and beautiful. Banning dogs is not the solution. We need more places where the whole family can be together not less.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kiley

jenniferkiley@yahoo.com

Fort Foster

Susan Alex <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/23/2020 12:55 PM

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

I have lived in the sea coast all of my adult life. I have had 3 labs and taken all of them to Fort Foster. I am respectful and always pick up after my pet. I will be very disappointed if Kittery band dogs fro the Fort as there a fewer and fewer places to go in these challenging times
Please do not ban dogs from Fort Foster

Sent from my iPhone

Comments - Animal Control - banning dogs

Lorene Ulrich <

Sun 8/23/2020 1:55 PM

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

Council Members,

We listened to the discussion during your Title 6 – Animal Control workshop on August 17. We appreciated Ms. Spiller’s effort in trying to make these guidelines fair for both groups, i.e., “dog advocates and “no-dog advocates.” Without question, both groups will have to make concessions.

In looking at your proposed changes for dogs at the town parks/beaches, “dog advocates” received the short shift. They lost the most time. During the October 16 to May 15, we can anticipate inclement weather (cold, rain, ice, and snow) for long period of time. Day light hours range from 11 hours to 8 hours. Some of the colder months, the sun rises after 8 a.m. and the sun sets time at 5 p.m. During these winter months, I have only seen dog walkers in the park. So, “no-dog advocates” have prime daylight time to enjoy the park. Do they pay more in taxes?

In the workshop discussion, Mr. Pelletier wanted to simplify the hours and not make the signs complicated. Well, this issue is complicated.

We certainly respect the previous rule “all dogs on a leash when the park was open” but do not accept “all dogs on a leash at all times.” In looking at the packet for the council meeting, it still indicated “on leash” anytime a dog is allowed in the park or beach. From the discussion, there were council members (Judy Spiller, Matt Brock, Cyrus Clark) who advocated that at the designated times, dogs could be off leash if the pet was under control. Why was this not changed in the packet?

The council has not given specific data of negative or harmful of dog-related incidents other than anecdotal evidence or council members’ own personal opinions. Without question, there are irresponsible dog owners who should be penalized. However, why should most dog owners who are very responsible be penalized for a few? Why cannot we take our well-trained dog off leash in the early morning or other times when there are few and sometimes no others in the park? We are responsible by thoroughly training our dog and picking up after her.

As elected officials, we expect council members to listen to all your constituents and not just two members who do not like dogs. We were appalled at one council member who said that if individuals do not have a sufficient yard space for a dog, they should not have a dog. Such an elitist statement! So, I guess he thinks only well-to do homeowners with land should have a dog.

If there is a problem, come up with alternative solutions other than dictating all dogs must always be on a leash. Look at the active Facebook account (ban the dogs or friends of Fort Foster), and you will see lots of ideas and recommendations including:

1. Allowing for off-leash dogs at both venues at selected and reasonable times;
2. Installing specialized trash containers at appropriate spots;
3. Placing more signs: and
4. Contracting for a disposal pick up.

Three of the recommendations could have an impact on the town’s budget especially with the pickup and disposal. Before you automatically reject this idea, determine the exact cost. We do not think it would add a significant amount to the budget. Again, we and other Facebook contributors have ideas on how to generate possible income to offset the expense.

1. Adding fees or special permits for dog owners (both Kittery and non-Kittery residents). For your current (and unacceptable) options, Kittery would have to enforce those regulations. Having special permits, the same town enforcer could issue hefty fines to dog owners who do not have the special permit.

And/Or

2. Organizing a volunteer group who would work with the appropriate town committee to help resolve the problems. This group could raise funds to pay for added expenses by seeking donations from individuals and sponsorships from individuals and from dog-related businesses in Kittery, e.g., veterinarians or dog-training businesses and local composting businesses. I have learned through my community involvement that Kittery residents are extremely generous with their time and resources. Let the community help.

Cyrus Clark had an excellent recommendation during the workshop that was not discussed further. He said one of the problems is too many dogs. Many individuals who bring their dogs to Fort Foster are non-Kittery residents. Mr. Clarke suggested implementing a Kittery-only parking outside the gate of Fort Foster. This parking restriction could be the same length of road as the town has posted for the pandemic. Non-Kittery violators would be fined and thus generating revenue for the town.

We appreciate your services to Kittery. However, please recognize that these proposed changes will have a significant impact on many residents. Decisions like this require input from multiple groups to formulate a **consensus** as to what is best for Kittery. Kittery residents pay considerable amount of taxes and would certainly appreciate an opportunity to have input to a new rule that could adversely affect their life here in Kittery. Banning all dogs or even banning off-leash dogs all times would change the character of Kittery.

Lorene and Greg Ulrich
8 Barters Creek
Kittery Point
439-2015

Fort Foster No to Dog Ban

l8teru <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/23/2020 3:04 PM

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

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Town Council Members,

We have been season pass holders for 2 years now. I am writing this to say please do not ban dogs at Fort Foster. There are other solutions that would still allow dogs. We would not be purchasing a season pass or visiting at all if a ban is put in place. That would equate to lost revenue for the town of Kittery. Banning dogs is not the solution. We need more places where the whole family can be together not less.

Sincerely,
David Goyette

Dog Ban

Catrina Barb 

Sun 8/23/2020 8:31 PM

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

Please do not ban dogs from Fort Foster! It is one of the only places that still allows our furry friends in the summer and they deserve access to the ocean as well. I hope that you will be open to reconsidering this decision.

Thank you!

Catrina Muolo

131 Haley Road Kittery

Fort foster

Gretchen May



Sun 8/23/2020 10:36 PM

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

I am reaching out in response to the signs I saw at Fort Foster. Please please help to do anything you can to not let the ban happen. It had been so hard to not be able to go in the mornings as is with the parking ban. Fort Foster is our sanctuary and although we don't spend a ton of time here in the busy summer hours it has become our favorite spot to walk our dog in the past few years. We bought a house in kittery in 2012 and I literally only get the pass every year to be able to walk the dog. It would be heart breaking to loose yet another spot. We watched this happen in York where we grew up. So sad. Gretchen May

Sent from my iPhone

Kittery Dog Ban, Kittery Point, ME

Rebecca Crotto 

Mon 8/24/2020 9:21 AM

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

This email is in regards to the Dog Ban that is said may take place and the only way we can stop it is to send in emails to stop it.

I have been a Kittery Point Maine resident for over ten years. I'm not wealthy but I do pay taxes. I love this town, I wanted to live here since I was a little girl. Two years after I moved here, my mother passed and I inherited her dog. We walked fort Foster and Seapoint Beach for 12 years until she also passed at the age of 14. Like many other dog owners, especially local ones, we respected Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach. We cleaned up our dogs poop. We respected the land and other people and their dogs.

I have my second dog now. We walk Fort Foster every day. My friends and I NEVER take this beautiful park for granted. We still clean up after our dogs and respect the land and others.

These walks with my dogs have been filled with sunshine and happiness and comfort during hard times. Like I said, I am not close to as wealthy as many of my neighbors. However, at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach, I have always had peace that I can afford.

Please do not take away access to Fort Foster and Seapoint for owners and their dogs who respect the Town, the land and the people here. It will only add to the misery that Covid-19 has brought us. Stop the ongoing misery of threats to locals and their best friends of loosing our park and beach. We all know this is mainly because of ignorant out of state people and a few locals maybe who are twice as ignorant.

Please find another way to solve the dog problem other than punishing and hurting those who care and respect Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach in Kittery Point, ME.

If I can be of assistance to help the town of Kittery ME find a better outcome than banning dogs access to Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach please contact me at rebeccalcrotto@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Crotto

Dog rules

Alex Dearborn



Mon 8/24/2020 9:27 AM

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

I strongly urge allowing dogs on Town lands - on leash. I also think that we should allow dogs off-leash at certain low-traffic hours and dates, as before.

My family does not have dogs, but they are an important part of community life here.

-Alex

Alex Dearborn
3 Captains Way
Kittery Point, ME 03905
978 590 5079

Proposed Title 6 revisions.

Dan Gipson <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:47 AM

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

To the Town Council, Kittery, Maine

The proposed dog ban is a overblown cure for an ill that doesn't exist, one that serves only a narrow privileged few of the community. It's ironic how the movement even came into existence, with an individual with more inside clout raising a stink because they experienced a negative circumstance. The timing also is ironic, since this year in particular. unpleasant dog and owner behavior has been at an all time low, viewing over the span of the last ten years. Unfortunately the behavior of the entitled in our community cannot claim the same. I've been walking ft Foster with my dog at least twice a day for longer than that, as has a fairly good sized portion of this community. In that time I've had no out of control dog issues that amounted to more than a reprimand necessary, and in perspective, even those amounted to a very small component of the experience of walking ft. Foster. My dogs have always been completely voice trained, with no leash necessary, yet I still to this day walk my dog on a leash, all scary horrifically frightening 5 lbs, 8 inches tall at the shoulders of him. are their individuals who abuse the experience and the setting? Yes. And some of them are dog owners. Some are overly loud overbearing obnoxious humans, but I doubt we'll see a movement to ban them. There are laws on the books that deal with those who get out of line (at least those regarding dog and dog owner behavior), they are sufficient to deal with the size of the problems that actually exist, in a direct on scale ratio to the actual size and amount that such problems exist. This tempest in a teapot amounts to killing a mouse with an incendiary bomb. The collateral damage to this community and it's quality of life is equally unacceptable. You can pander to your cronies and friends, or you can serve this community at large that you were elected to serve. This same community at large will be watching, and take notes, to see just where your interests truly lay exposed for all to see. Some among you have already verbalized your contempt for a portion of this, your own community, your elitism is duly noted, and won't be forgotten, I can assure you. Compound it with an elitists contempt for the community at large, in your actions, and we will respond accordingly, and in direct measure to your failure and shortcomings.

TITLE 6: Animal control

Danna Dearborn <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:51 AM

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

Dear Kittery Town Council,

I'm writing to voice my concern for the proposed Animal Control law for Kittery including Fort Foster and Sea Point. I feel very strongly that people should be able to take their dogs to the various town beaches for fun and exercise. I believe that the law has been that dogs may not enter the beaches until after 5pm. To me, that seems to be a very sensible law whereby the dogs get to run and there's enough time for a change of tide to clean the beach (just in case). A law which makes more sense to me is one whereby the dog owner gets fined for not picking up after his/her dog. Yes, not easy to enforce but it makes a statement and is a deterrent.

I think it would be very very sad if dogs were kept off the Kittery beaches entirely.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danna Dearborn
3 Captain's Way
Kittery Point, ME 03905

Public comment: Town Council meeting- Monday, August 24, 2020

Anne Durgin Gilbert <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 10:52 AM

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

My name is Anne Durgin Gilbert, and I live on Park Avenue in Kittery. I am writing for the second week to publicly request the Town Council begin work to develop a Code of Ethics and a Social Media Use policy for its elected officials.

At your last meeting, Councilor Charles Denault made a comment about releasing 'dirty little secrets' about people in town, implying that these 'secrets' were gleaned while he was employed at the Kittery Police Department as an officer. I can't speak for Councilor Denault's intention with this comment, but it certainly appeared to be a threat in response to his recent insulting social media posts. I cannot fathom, as a public servant myself, breaching the confidentiality code implicit in working as a public servant.

Certainly, our town councilors can all agree that they are able to hold up their First Amendment rights while also representing themselves and our town with propriety, respect, and acceptance for all viewpoints. Isn't that what we should expect from all elected officials?

Please add Code of Ethics and Social Media Use guidelines to your next meeting agenda.

Thank you.

leashes seem reasonable :)

Geneve Hoffman <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 11:52 AM

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

Hello good people of the Town and Council!

I think the current laws we have at Seapoint and Fort Foster are reasonable. I do think they need to be enforced though. Maybe you could pay for the position of this person who will enforce it with the tickets that will be issued? I do think dogs need to be on a leash at all times.

I also like the idea of a huge dog park where dogs can run free off leash. But not on Seapoint or Fort Foster or any town forests.

Dogs on leashes are A-OK by me.

Thank you!

Geneve Hoffman

Dogs on Beaches



Tue 8/11/2020 2:21 PM

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

I fully support the current system (excluding executive orders) of allowing dogs off leash before 10 and after 5 on Seapoint, and always on leash at FF. I do believe that the dog people would be willing to do some kind of patrolling/clean up in order to keep this privilege. The streets of kittery are not safe for walking dogs. The beach is about the only place that dogs can really run.

Lyn

Lyn Rosoff
61 Tilton Avenue
Kittery, Maine 03904
(617) 224-6960 mobile

Dogs at Town Parks

Michael McCarten <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/11/2020 1:42 PM

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

I am a fervent dog lover but I must oppose allowing dogs to Fort Foster and other Kittery beaches. My opposition, and the reason I no longer walk my dogs at Fort Foster, is based the following observaations made at Fort Foster:

- the vast majority of dogs at Fort Foster are unleashed despite a large sign that has been posted at the front gate for many years clearly stating that all dogs must be leashed.
- owners cannot pick up after unleashed dogs thus dog waste can be found throughout the grounds, another infraction of posted guidelines.
- often town employees need to go around Fort Foster collecting bags of dog waste left behind by dog walkers, a chore tax payers should not have to fund and a display of lack of respect for those workers.

My wife and I pick up litter along Pocahontas Road from the bridge over Chauncey Creek to the gate of Fort Foster as part of Kittery's Adopt A Road program. We regularly pick up bags of dog waste discarded into the brush along Pocahontas Road. This doesn't prove the waste was collected during a walk in Fort Foster, but it's a reflection of a prevailing attitude among many relative to caring for the common good.

I wish I could me more optimistic that there will be a public epiphany relative to adhering to the municipal guidelines regarding dog walking at Fort Foster, especially in a world where we are all dependent upon each other for our individual and collective welfare, but the lack of adherence to the posted guidelines makes me inclined to feel nothing will change in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McCarten
23 Pocahontas Road

Kittery Dogs & Roger's Park

Jamie Carver <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/11/2020 7:23 AM

To

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

Good Morning,

I live in the Roger's Park neighborhood and as a dog owner, consider this dog friendly site (as well as Seapoint Beach) to be a significant factor that went into determining where I would purchase a home.

I am very disappointed to hear that the town council is unilaterally considering requiring leashed dogs at all times at both Roger's Park and Seapoint beach.

My issue is that a sign of good governance is the wisdom to only enact rules that;

1. Have been thoroughly investigated and have gathered adequate data.
How many people per day use Roger's Park (or Seapoint beach) and what percentage of them are dog owners? During what times? What percentage let their dogs off leash?
2. Are enforceable.
Does your part time dog cop have the time, willingness and capacity to enforce these rules seven days a week?
3. A majority of residents support it and demand it (backed up by data).
Is this based upon or initiated by one or two vocal supporters, or do the majority of residents support / want this? How do you know?

I thank you for your service, however, my preference would be that as a town council, rather than driving hard to the right or left, or wasting time on the latest hot topic brought up on a whim, that you rather systematically solicit the needs and wishes of the majority of your constituents and work towards reasonable compromise by creating times and opportunities for all to enjoy our beloved local resources.

As well, my preference would be that as a town council, you focus your time on some of the real issues at hand in Kittery - shipyard employees parking on Walker street all day long (with no ticketing)... downtown (and Roger's Park neighborhood) sidewalks that are old and buckling and have caused numerous trips and falls of elderly residents... cars that race over Love Lane on a daily basis... aging sewer lines that collapse and flood downtown residence... etc.

Dogs in parks is not something that should take up much of your time.

Thank you.

Best,

8/12/2020

Kittery Dogs & Roger's Park - town comments

Jamie Carver

Jamie Carver, M.Ed.
9 School Street,
Kittery, Maine 03904
Phone: (603) 953-3851
Email: jamie@jamiecarver.com

Parking

Jason Canty <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 8:31 PM

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

Good evening,

My name is Jason Canty, I have owned Anneke Jans for close to 10 years. I have literally watched our little neighborhood flourish around me in the best way possible. With such growth comes other concerns; traffic flow and parking.

For the past 7 years I have offered complimentary valet parking on Friday and Saturdays, not just for a value added experience for my guests, but also to monitor the use of our parking lot out back of my building and somewhat lighten the parking strain on the neighborhood.

In my opinion, I see the Dineen building as the perfect opportunity to expand the existing municipal parking lot. Not only would we be adding valuable parking spaces, but in the perfect centralized area of the Foreside.

Thank you,
Jason

Comments on Fort Foster dog restriction for August 17 Town Council Workshop

Emily Baer <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 3:08 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

This email is intended to share my comments on the proposals regarding dog restrictions at Fort Foster in advance of the Town Council's August 24th meeting. I am not a Kittery resident (I live in Portsmouth), but I visit Fort Foster multiple times a week and hold a 2020 season pass. I am strongly opposed to restricting dog access altogether to Fort Foster during the day (10am-5pm), as well as limiting off-leash times at night, because they unfairly discriminate against good dog owners and limit the park's unique accessibility to all.

When I first moved to NH, one of the first things I did was find a place I could regularly take my dog for exercise - I ended up at Fort Foster, which we have both grown to love. The park is stunningly beautiful, but it is also accessible for all - an all-too-rare attribute in New England. During my visits, I always take doggie bags with me (at least 3 so I have extra), pick up any refuse produced by my pet, and carry it around with me until I return to my car. And while I have observed the occasional "left behind" dog bag (alongside litter from humans), I have never observed a dog owner who did not pick up after their dog. In my experience, other dog owners are like minded and appreciative of how special and rare Fort Foster is for ourselves and our pets. In fact, one of the things I loved most about visiting Fort Foster (especially as a newcomer to New England) is the introduction it provided to a community of kind and friendly fellow dog owners - people I would never have otherwise met. Over the past several months, safe, affordable activities like this have only become more rare and important for me and many others.

While the Town Council may already be aware of these issues, I want to share my personal perspective on the broader economic and social consequences of both Option A and B. First, to be clear, I will not spend money on day passes or a season pass to Fort Foster if I cannot bring my dog. Especially in these current socially distanced times, my exercise always includes my pet - if I cannot take him, I will seek other locations where I can bring him. For the town of Kittery, lost revenue from fees to Fort Foster is likely to be felt more broadly - indeed, I almost always combine my visits to Fort Foster with a visit to Kittery bakeries, coffee shops and restaurants (Lil's Cafe, Beach Pea Bakery, Tulsi, Anju, Pepperrell Cove, etc. - all locally owned businesses). This is money that I will spend in my own Portsmouth, NH community if I cannot go to Fort Foster. And lastly, I want to note that I am concerned about the heightened public health threat of visits to the few dog friendly places that remain if Fort Foster restricts access. Allowing dogs in Fort Foster undoubtedly encourages their owners to get out and exercise themselves, but it also decreases the density of people in other dog friendly places -- especially important in the current socially distanced times.

I understand the Town Council's concerns and would recommend a few other alternative suggestions to address the issues raised by dogs:

- Install stations with doggie bags and/or small bins for dog refuse at the large parking lots. Fees for the installation of such items would be collected via a "dog season pass" available in the same manner as a normal vehicle-linked season pass.
- I am also not opposed to broadening leash requirements during the on-season (as is practiced right now). In fact, in the two years that I've been going to Fort Foster, I rarely let my dog off-leash because other people (especially families with young children) are often unaware of the rules in the off-season (or before 10am) and I would not want them to be surprised by my very friendly golden retriever. Alternatively, you might consider requiring dog owners to submit a letter from their vet, dog trainer, boarding facility, or other licensed individual who can certify that the dog is non-aggressive. As you are already required to submit a vehicle registration certificate to purchase a season pass, this would not be unreasonable or difficult to institute as part of the online application.

8/12/2020

Comments on Fort Foster dog restriction for August 17 Town ... - town comments

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Best,
Emily Baer
563 Sagamore Avenue, Apt. 20
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Feedback on proposed changes to Fort Foster

Ben Raymond <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 1:59 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern over proposed changes to Fort Foster that I've been made aware of. I stumbled upon the park about 3 years ago and since then it has been our go to summer spot to frequent with my partner and our dogs. We normally grab some food at local businesses and bring it to the park to enjoy.

It's not too clear to me what the options are going forward however I was very concerned to see that Dogs may be banned at all times. This would be an incredible loss for our family as well as many others, we would be devastated to say the least.

If dogs are banned we would have no reason to continue to purchase season passes or visit the park. There are sandier beaches with more space and other positive attributes, the main reason that we visit Fort Foster is because we are able to do so with our dogs. I suspect many others feel the same way. I don't mean any offense by this, but Fort Foster is a rocky beach that is interesting to visit once in a while but it would no longer be a frequent destination for us or other families if dogs are no longer permitted.

I have seen some propose a dog park instead of dogs at fort foster but that simply isnt comparable. There are plenty of dog parks to go to but fort foster is special because of its location on the ocean.

I know others are upset about proposed leash laws and while I think it would be great if a section of the beach was dedicated to off-leash, I personally don't allow our dogs off leash either way so my main concern is that Dogs will be permitted particularly on weekends which is when I and many others are able to visit the park.

If there is no other choice but to only allow dogs after 5pm this would be very disappointing and I'm sure others would no longer visit, however for me this at least would be better than a complete ban.

If a complete ban is on the table I wanted to write to urge you to reconsider this. I do believe now that this issue has been given so much attention the waste and other issues will improve. If there is a way to have a trash can on site this will greatly improve this as well.

To be clear we would not be visiting as frequently if day time visits with dogs were not permitted and I'm sure many others would no longer visit at all. I just wanted to point out that if there is absolutely no other option than a day time ban this would at least be better than a complete ban.

Please consider the loss of revenue that will occur if a ban is put in place (both a complete ban and daytime ban) and also how devastating this will be for residents and visitors for which Fort Foster has been one of the few bright spots during a very tough time.

Thank you,

Ben

ben.r.raymond@gmail.com

774-994-0572

37 Crockett Neck Road
Kittery Point, ME 03905
August 4, 2020

Mr. Jeff Pelletier
Kittery Town Councilor
109 Brave Boat Harbor Road
Kittery Point, ME 03905

Dear Councilman Jeff Pelletier,

I am aware that on August 24th, the Council will be addressing the issue of dogs on town property. I have seen comments on Facebook addressing various options. The purpose of this email is to officially let you know that I am not in favor of banning dogs from Sea Point Beach or Fort Foster. There are many options that I would find acceptable in terms of timing, scheduling, and leash requirements but please don't outright ban dogs on any hours, days, or seasons.

I go to Fort Foster at least once a week year round and several times a week during nice weather. I seldom see dog poop or poop bags around and seldom see dogs out of control. Seeing some of the comments on Facebook, it would seem Fort Foster is covered in debris with dogs running wild jumping on people. I don't know how I could have missed that in all of my trips. I also don't see bags along Pocahontas Road or in people's driveways along the road, which some residents have cited as problems. Perhaps the Council members could take a field trip all together at an unannounced time to walk around Fort Foster and assess the situation.

Today, it was immaculate and beautiful as always except I did see LOTS of goose poop on the beach path near the playground and I saw a gaggle of geese on the other side of the park, where they were probably also pooping. I wonder if people think that's dog poop as it looks the same only there is usually lots of it. Sadly, I recognize it from our yard at the lake.

I thank you for your time and attention to the difficult task of sorting this out.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Peschel
nlpeschel@comcast.net

Proposal for option #3 on the great dog debate

Tamara Jo Corcoran <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/12/2020 1:02 PM

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

After reading both option A and B I don't feel like either one is acceptable to either me or the other dog owners of this town. I would like to add another option before any voting occurs. Can that be done? Here is my idea:

Besides being a dog owner I'm also a surfer and we went through hell with the town of York for years with them trying to ban surfing. (another ludicrous idea). BUT...the way it was resolved was by giving us our own beach. Non-surfers could still go there if they felt like it (even though I felt that was dangerous and somewhat defeated the purpose) but its considered the "surfing beach". Why not give dog owners free reign of Rocky Beach during all hours and then we can still squabble about the rest of the park? I think this idea is a really good one. In this way we can police ourselves. We certainly will not abide anyone not picking up their dog's poop and if there is an errant dog who should be on a leash , we will not have a problem stating such. We will have a high initiative to keep the beach clean and safe so our dogs can continue to stay off-leash and enjoy themselves the way dogs are meant to be; swimming, playing with each other, throwing a ball or frisbee, etc.

In this same line of thought I believe the town of Kittery needs to acknowledge that pets are here to stay and they are part of our families. Someone wrote that FF is "not a dog park."No, its not- it is a FAMILY park and dogs are to many of us, family members. Did you know we spend over a billion dollars a year on our pets?* That alone should prove to you what immense value they have to us. Its like the surfer thing, we are here to stay and anyone living in the real world would see this immediately. We, (dog owners), spend a lot of money in this town and we need to stop letting a bunch of dinosaurs say otherwise. (I can say that, I'm 61 😊)

Remember this too, dogs save lives in the wars, as firefighters, as avalanche rescuers, as cancer detectors, bomb detectors, as real help to people with autism and emotional scars to name just a few of their amazing abilities. We are not discussing pieces of furniture here- These are living beings who experience, grief, affection, loyalty and many other of our "human" emotions. No one has even taken their lives into consideration here. They NEED to burn off energy or they become neurotic and develop bad habits like barking all day or becoming more aggressive because they haven't been socialized with other dogs and people. Becoming socialized is only accomplished by playing and interacting with other dogs so the more you keep them apart, the more problems you actually create.

Lastly, if you are one of those people who doesn't experience even a little joy watching dogs play with one another, running full out with all their heart, jumping into the ocean without a moments hesitation...I would have to call you a bit broken. They are such honest, joyful creatures with such loyalty and unconditional love we humans could only hope to emulate.

In conclusion, I once again ask, can this (Rocky Beach) be considered another option? (You could also do the same with Crescent Beach at Seapoint) I also believe we need to postpone this vote until the first part of October after all the school issues have been resolved and to give dog owners a FAIR chance to organize. Of course you want to be fair, yes? The town council is supposed to be representative of the people of Kittery, not their rulers. Thank you for your time,

Tamara Corcoran

* This is not an exaggeration, do some research if you are skeptical.

Comments to the town council

Jennifer Freeman <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 4:21 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kittervme.org>: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I'm a resident of Kittery and am writing about a possible permanent ordinance that would require dogs be leashed at all times. Our chief of police in late 2019 stated that the number of dog calls and complaints had diminished over the previous few years. Before the town drafts new ordinances making stricter laws against dogs and their owners, shouldn't the town demonstrate a growing problem that needs to be addressed?

But, I do agree that there are a few bad dog owners. And a few vocal people who use this as their justification to push to enact ordinances that would restrict our dogs to leashes at all times. This is an emotional, rather than a logical response. For example, alcohol use creates more societal issues than any benefit it gives. So perhaps we should ban alcohol. While we're at it, ban all teenage drivers, elderly drivers. Ban motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards. My point is that society does not outlaw much that may be problematic and even dangerous. That's where education, clear ordinances with clear and consistent signage, and enforcement would come in.

Fort Foster has been free to walk-in residents and non-residents alike when closed; people often undervalue something they don't have to pay for or put any effort into. There have been so many mornings of twenty plus cars (sometimes many more) parked outside the gate without a Fort Foster sticker, never ticketed. Are they even aware of the rules and that there have been problems? I've had discussions with dog owners who insisted that their dog's poop at the side of the path was fine – that they only had to pick up poop that was actually in the path. A dog pass with a contract spelling out the owner's responsibilities would be a good step toward awareness – the cost of the pass would pay for the cost of implementing such an idea. The fear of the pass being revoked for the season or forever would help with compliance.

So many of us love walking our dogs early mornings on the beach and at the Fort. It's our community and it's a big community. Many, many of us pick up poop bags left behind (and other trash) and scoop poop. Almost all of us have well behaved dogs and and we pay attention. Many of us recognize what we could lose and have actively promoted responsible behavior at the beach and the Fort.

Requiring leashes 24/7 is addressing the issue with a sledgehammer and it penalizes all law-abiding dog owners. There are good solutions out there besides mine, just look at the great suggestions from the Parks Commission, let's consider them. Thanks. –Jenny Freeman

Dog Ordinance

Mary Ingham <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 6:31 PM

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

Seapoint and Ft. Foster Dog Ordinance

I am writing in support of a compromise solution that will allow dogs and their owners designated times at Ft. Foster and Seapoint Beach. I hope a good solution can be reached which will satisfy both groups.

I have been walking at Ft. Foster and Sea Point for 44 years, some people for longer. Our daily walks with our dogs are an important part of our lives. I believe we are all willing to be a part of the solution.

As a first light walker, I know that our group has always been conscientious about picking up after our dogs. We go out of our way to pick up after other people as well be it dog waste or trash.

A large part of the current problem is Internet sites posting us as "dog friendly" or dog parks: *TripAdvisor*, *BringFido*, etc. This has increased the number of people and dogs beyond our community. We have dogs and people coming to Ft. Foster from as far away as Massachusetts.

For the most part, the dog community in this town is made up of thoroughly good people. It is sad to see this issue become so contentious when we all should be seeking a good solution for everyone. The dog community wants to be a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Mary Ingham

31 Bowen Rd.

Kittery, ME 03904

207-439-2499

mmingham@comcast.net

Beach and park access

Laurie Bilby <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/14/2020 7:48 AM

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

Good morning,

I have been a homeowner in Kittery point for just about 20 years, which is a substantial amount of tax paid into the town.

I love living in this community, and all that it has to offer, and chose to leave here in a fairly modest home on a small lot, rather than buy more house and land elsewhere. I've also rescued a couple of dogs. One of the reasons I have not complained about my taxes, is because Kittery has always offered a place for the dogs and myself to get some good exercise and really enjoy our natural surroundings, something that is head and tails over adjoining locals in terms of quality of life.

I'm not sure I would want to live here any more if they were an outright ban on dogs at Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster. They are already dog free spaces in Rachel Carson wildlife preserve, and at Seapoint during the daytime in the summer. These are reasonable compromises for us all to be able to get along. Responsible dog owners like myself should be able to take the animals for an off-leash run early and late in the day.

Any proposal for an outright ban seems petty and vindictive. There is human waste in our public spaces, and yet no ban on humans. There always are a few bad actors, it is up to all of us to enforce what I feel are very good practices currently in place. Perhaps banning all non-residents all the time would be the more effective answer, but I'm not even sure that makes sense.

It seems we can never leave this issue alone, and I can't believe we don't have bigger issues to solve. Maybe that just points out how lucky we are.

Sincerely,
Laurie Bilby

Sent from my iPhone — blame it for all errors! Onward!

Dogs in Kittery

DONALD CRAIG <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/14/2020 1:49 PM

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

August 14, 2020

To: Town Council Kittery Maine

Subject: Dogs in Kittery

From: Don and Merry Craig

2 Follett Lane

Kittery Point, Me 03905

Dear Members,

We have had dogs for our 25 years in Kittery Point. Our dogs are leashed or under voice command at all times. Not only do we clean up our dogs waste we also clean up trash alongside the roads.

We have been happy to have all dogs on leashes at Sea Point and Fort Forster during open hours. But, we miss our early morning and after supper runs in the park and at the beach.

Dogs have saved the sanity of many during the pandemic. Let's let them run free at low volume times.

Regards,

Don and Merry

Proposed Dog Ordinance: Title 6

Celina Adams <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/14/2020 6:50 PM

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

Co

Dear Councilor Spiller, Town Manager Amaral et al.

I am writing to make sure that when the hands are counted on the issue of Kittery remaining a dog-friendly community, that my voice was heard. As a thirty+ year tax-paying citizen of Kittery I am in favor of Kittery remaining a dog-friendly community, as it has always been.

As it is currently written Title 6 is too restrictive and onerous. It was written as if dog owners are the enemy and all dogs are out of control. I would take issue with many components of the ordinance as written. For example, banning dogs from our spaces in summer or requiring them to be leashed at all times as well as the requirement for dogs to always be on leash at Rogers Park. Additionally, provision 6.1.4 D *"No responsible party may have more than 1 dog under voice control at large on public property, at any time."* That is unworkable for those of us with two dogs. Dogs socialized to play together. That is just not reasonable. Other provisions seem to adequately address the challenge of professional dog walkers roaming our parks with packs of dogs. Two dogs are not a pack.

Walking my dogs, off leash, as I too exercise, is one of the greatest joys I have living here. Its been awful since the Covid restrictions have been instituted. I think most other dog owners feel the same and that is why Page Mead, a person I deeply respect once observed that dog owners are "Kittery's NRA". If that means we are increasingly vocal, organized, and committed to the preservation of our privileges, then I think he was spot on.

Dog ownership is an increasing reality of modern family life. Fully 38% of Mainers owned a dog or multiple dogs before the Covid19 crisis and anecdotal data by Maine's animal shelters indicates that number has increased since the crisis began. Businesses that cater to pet owners is a large and growing part of our state and nation's GDP. And realtors know that designating a community as "pet friendly" drives sales. You heard that sentiment from new homeowners in the letters you have already received. Young families have sought to live in Kittery because of our pet friendly amenities. Fully 80% of American mayors surveyed indicate that local availability of pet friendly amenities increases the value of residential properties. Dogs and dog owners are here to stay. We are good neighbors, volunteers, and civic participants. Dog owners on average know more people in their towns than other residents because dog ownership builds social capital among citizens.

I have researched and gathered a lot of data about the benefit of dog ownership (including to the mental and physical well-being of their owners) and have started to review the developing body of case law that challenges municipal ordinances that unfairly penalize law-abiding dog owners. Our town should seek to remain on the right side of this issue and not cause more community distress than we are already experiencing during this pandemic. The balance between public health and safety and the privileged use of public spaces to adequately exercise our pets (and concurrently, ourselves) is our shared concern. If there are recorded incidents of dog attacks, fights, and injuries that warrant pulling back on citizens' privileges I'm sure the community would like to see that data and evaluate the reasonableness of making adjustments. As someone who is at one of Kittery's three public properties on a daily basis I can honestly say I have witnessed or experienced only one or two minor incidents in my thirty years of pet ownership. Are some people jerks who choose not to train or control their pets? Sure. No ordinance will change that. That said, the idea that there is a deep docket of complaints is, I think, over-dramatized. Of course, we can all commit to doing better and my recommendations on this are fairly simple:

First, continue to have hours restrictions in the summer months for off-leash dogs at our Town parks. Because Kittery citizens wish to preserve their privileges, it would be a rare occurrence indeed to find a resident violating these parameters.

Second, post clearly the restricted hours and monetary cost associated with violating our ordinance on signs. Get rid of signs that give conflicting information. Other towns do this successfully. Set the right expectation through clear information with visitors who are dog-adverse so they may knowingly choose different hours to visit our public properties in the summer. Since most of the hours are dedicated to the non-dog cohort, it should be a reasonable compromise.

Third, it is time for the Town to install and service waste receptacles. I pick up my animals' waste and bring it home in a bait bag. However, since there is an indication that waste is an issue, it is time to implement a system to collect it. As a community we can develop innovative ways to generate the revenue necessary to offset costs. To clarify a recent statement made at the August 10th Council meeting, poop in a bag is no more hazardous than other types of waste found in a trashcan. Other communities find a way to provide this service for community health and safety and I know Kittery can too. Having dedicated animal waste receptacles is but one of the criteria used to designate a community as dog-friendly. More information on this can be found on the [Better Cities for Dogs](#) website, a national effort to develop progressive pet policies and planning.

I am all for more strenuous enforcement of our animal control ordinances if they remain reasonable. The current ACO Officer Byrnes is not the town employee to do it. I have formally complained about my three interactions with him to the Town Manager and have been told my complaint was shared with the Chief. I have not had any response to my complaint. I am one of many citizens who has found Officer Byrnes caustic, aggressive, and rude. An ACO, who is a highly visible community liaison, should like both animals and people and treat both with respect. I ask that the Council consider whether any agreeable compromise will be successful if he continues serving as our ACO.

In conclusion, like many dog owners I am alarmed at what I have read in Title 6. I hope the Council will consider the importance of dogs in the lives of its residents and rely on the ample body of best practice in other communities to develop a workable solution with its resident dog owners. We should seek a simplified ordinance that is enforceable and that won't cause broad community resentment nor drive potential residents away. If a citizen working group is needed to explore reasonable and progressive options I would be happy to volunteer for such an effort.

Thank you for taking my thoughts under consideration. Please read my comments into the public record on August 24th, thank you.

Best Regards,



Celina Adams

19 Mendum Avenue

Dogs

Joy McCauley <jjoymccauley@aol.com>

Sat 8/15/2020 11:34 AM

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

 1 attachment

Kittery state of dogs.docx;

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. There is an attachment of this email.

To: The Kittery Town Council

From: Mrs. Joy McCauley

153 Pepperrell Road

Kittery Point, ME 03905

jjoymccauley@aol.com

Dear Town Council,

I am fairly new to this beautiful community, having purchased a home here in 2019. Part of the character of Kittery, and Kittery Point, that attracted me was the value shown to all living creatures who share the area, including dogs.

For example:

I have neighbors who help provide wildlife habitats in a variety of ways- purchasing land tracks, growing pine trees, etc.

A resident posted a sign to slow traffic near Fort McClary. It encouraged slow driving to help provide a safe crossing for a beautiful young fox.

Hunters are respected here for the role they play in keeping a healthy balance for wildlife population.

Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster welcome dogs and their owners to share the beauty of the natural world together, as these partners have done for thousands of years. Our relationship with the natural world, and our appreciation of it, begins with the animal that is the bridge between humans and wildlife. Dogs help shape attitudes that will be of the utmost importance as the Climate Change Crisis charges on. We must keep them close.

I believe the current policy at these parks is the best policy. It is a step in the right direction to have a full time Animal Control Officer; rules are in place, the few who do not follow them should be held accountable.

Please do not change the dog- welcoming atmosphere that is such positive aspect of our unique and wonderful community. I speak in favor of maintaining the current policy for park use.

Sincerely,
Joy E.

McCauley

Dogs at Fort Foster

Jake Urman <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/15/2020 11:57 AM

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

Hello,

My household has had seasons passes to Fort Foster for the last few years. We love bringing our dog there. We also foster dogs often and like to bring them there as well to help socialize them.

I have done some searching around to try to wrap my head around what the new proposals are, but I can't find any official documents outlining the new proposals.

I guess I'll just share my thoughts. I think leashed dogs should be allowed in the park. I hear there are a fair amount of people that are advocating for an area for unleashed dogs. Unless there is a fenced in area (like a dog park) I don't think that is a great idea. But I don't see why leashed dogs are frowned upon.

Maybe make a rule that if you are caught with an unleashed dog you will be asked to leave (along with the other people in your car). If this happens three times your pass will be revoked. But honestly I think the more rules that are made makes the park less enjoyable for all.

I guess I am advocating for dogs to be allowed in the park at all hours provided they are leashed.

Thank you for your time,
Jake Urman

What else? Title 6

Cameron Wake <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/14/2020 6:36 PM

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

Cc: [REDACTED] Kendra Amaral <KAmaral@kitteryme.org>;

Dear members of the Kittery Town Council:

I am writing in response to the proposed Amendments to Title 6 – Animal Control.

As a dog owner, I fully realize that dogs have been a significant concern of Kittery residents, the Town Council, and the Parks Commission for years. I would like to encourage the Council to take a balanced and nuanced approach as it plans to amend Title 6.

A few particulars:

1. I have often noted that the current regulations around dogs are NOT followed by my fellow dog owners. I would therefore suggest that the Town do more to enforce the current laws instead of adopting new, more restrictive laws, as they pertain to dog owners.
2. Dogs need to run. I appreciate the quality of life in Kittery because I can take my dogs to the beach and some parks so they can run free. The Town has created and enforced a policy where dogs are prohibited from Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach from 10 AM to 5 PM. To be fair to dog owners, should we not allow time on the beach for dogs and their owners and ask those people who are afraid of dogs or do not like dogs to NOT go to the beach during those times? By fair I mean providing beach time for the many tax payers in Kittery who want to run their dogs on the beach or in select parks. Several other Towns provide time in the morning for dogs to run on the beach and in parks. For example, York allows dogs to run free on the beach all summer before 8 AM. Durham, NH also allows dogs to run free on Wagon Hill Farm before 10 AM. Signs clearly indicate the policy and it works very well.
3. Section 6.1.4.D in the amended Title 6 (Aug 17, 2020 Draft) states “No responsible party may have more than 1 dog under voice control at large on public property, at any time.” This is idiotic. If I take two dogs to the beach to run, how can they run and play if one of the dogs is on a leash? Short answer is they can’t. The issue of dog walkers taking hoards of dogs for walks in Kittery is clearly dealt with in Section 6.1.4.E. You should at the very least allow any responsible party to have 2 dogs under voice control.

In closing, there is broad research that shows dogs need a place to play and run, dogs promote activity in children and families, dogs strengthen human communities, and dogs help build social capital. Please keep Kittery dog friendly. Please do not adopt the overly restrictive amendments that require us to walk our dogs on leashes in Kittery’s public spaces at all times.

Cameron Wake
19 Mendum Ave.

8/17/2020

What else? Title 6 - town comments

Kittery, Maine

Dogs - Title 6

Chris Jacobson <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 1:16 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kittervme.org>: [REDACTED]

Hello,

My name is Chris Jacobson. I live, work, and play in the wonderful town of Kittery Maine. This note is long overdue.

I am writing to express my deep concern of this ongoing 'dog rule debate' that has flooded social media.

Let me start off by saying the amount of time that has been spent on this 'issue' is very concerning. There are much more troubling matters with this town that should be put into focus. If you would like an example, I would urge you to go stand at the corner of Walker Street and the shipyard entrance around 3pm. You will find aggressive speeding, running of red lights, and a lot of colorful language as angry shipyard workers battle to beat the light.... the behavior is downright dangerous.. Did I mention this is just one issue?

Moving onto the dog debate...It is WILDLY CLEAR that anyone who has been complaining about dogs in both Fort Foster, and at Seapoint beach rarely ever even goes to those places. If they actually did go, they would find very little poop, well behaved dogs, and happy residents that frequent these places. They may actually even have fun.

Is there the occasional missed poop or skirmish... sure. Mistakes happen. For the most part, dogs are friendly, people are responsible, and things are smooth. GO TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF.


1. Dump the Title 6 amendments altogether.
2. Make a plan to effectively enforce the rules we have... It is clear that the very unfriendly 'animal control officer and ticket giver' has already made great progress here... anyone that frequents Seapoint or Fort Foster can attest. Anyone who says otherwise, CLEARLY rarely goes to either spot!!

Overall, do not take away a great part of these wonderful places because of a few *grouchy grumps* that want to ruin a good thing for the majority.

-Chris J

jacobsonpropertygroup@gmail.com

comments on Aug 24 meeting District 3

William Peirce < >

Sat 8/15/2020 9:52 PM

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

Town Council,

In my opinion, the town council should not pursue a tax increment financing agreement. The town's experience with the malls should be instructive. A big giveaway to businesses at the malls did not end up benefiting the town.

Will Peirce

No Changes to the Current Park Rules

Melissa Visentin <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/16/2020 6:33 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kittervme.org>: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Members,

The title 6 amendments would be devastating to all pets and pet owners that use the park!

I am writing to stress that there should be no changes to the current park rules. There should be adjustments that allow better enforcement and dog waste receptacles.

Thank you,

Melissa Visentin

Offer to SPONSOR a Dumpster at Seapoint/Fort Foster/Rogers Park

Ali Goodwin, Realtor® Haven Homes + Lifestyle at KWCLM [REDACTED]

Mon 8/17/2020 11:34 AM

To [REDACTED] town comments
<tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

CC [REDACTED]

Esteemed Kittery Town Council Members and Parks Commission,

I have been following the ongoing conversation about options for managing the dogs, dog waste, and dog owners at Seapoint, Fort Foster and Rogers Park. As a citizen in the community with 3 rescue dogs, Seapoint and Fort Foster have been staples of our healthy lifestyle. After 11 years, I have recently relocated from Kittery to Eliot, and would be devastated if I was unable to enjoy either location with, or without my pups.

To that end, there have been some very positive, thoughtful suggestions on how to better utilize resources and our community at large to manage the issues at hand. One of those suggestions is a \$150/mo dumpster that would not only solve the dog waste issue, it would alleviate the human trash issue as well.

My company, Haven Homes + Lifestyle at Keller Williams Coast Realty would like to SPONSOR a dumpster. I have spoken with several other business owners, and together, we feel that we would be able to easily cover the cost of the entire fee in all 3 locations. This would allow town resources to go towards more ACO hours to enforce the pre-Covid on-leash and off-leash hours that were in place at all locations.

There are many other positive options on the table. Banning dogs is not a positive option. I look forward to working together to solve this!

Warmly,
Ali Goodwin

Ali Goodwin, Realtor®
Haven Homes & Lifestyle | KW Luxury International
Keller Williams Coastal Realty
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6.1.14 Feral Cats, Ignored

Denise Payne <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 11:12 AM

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

Importance: High

Greetings,

If you are attempting to improve the Animal Control ordinance, I request that you please turn your focus away from Dogs for a moment and consider the other Animals in Animal Control. I don't see any attention in your rewrite given to the Feral Cat issue. **Section 6.1.14 is Inadequate.** For too long Animal Control has ignored the growing problem of Feral Cats and left it to citizens to deal with.

The health and safety concern that the growing Feral Cat population is posing is not adequately addressed in the ordinance.

Some desperate parents on Gerrish Island have resorted to shooting and poisoning Feral Cats in order to protect their toddlers.

That is not acceptable and I think you can imagine how terribly wrong that can go.

I ask that you not finalize this section and instead give it the attention it deserves.

The current ordinance only provides a response if someone is feeding them. Well if no one is feeding them and they are instead feeding on our wildlife and coming into contact with our children, what then?

Please refocus some of your attention away from dogs for a moment and address this very serious problem.

When citizens start using guns and poison against an out of control animal population, there is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Denise Payne

Dogs at Fort Foster/Seapoint

Krissy Couch <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 2:15 PM

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

Cc:Kristine Childs Couch <kcouch@alandrealty.com>;

Greetings,

I'm saddened to hear that Kittery is proposing banning dogs at Fort Foster and Seapoint. My husband has been a Kittery resident since he purchased our home in 2009 (Eliot prior to that) and I since 2014. We are frequenters at both Seapoint and Fort Foster, with or without our 2 dogs. There are plenty of parks, trails and beaches locally where dogs are not allowed. Are people too lazy to frequent those if they dislike dogs so much? I agree with a leash law at Fort Foster, especially having 1 dog that isn't good with other dogs, it can be difficult with approaching off-leash dogs.

In no way am I arguing that there aren't irresponsible dog owners out there, just like irresponsible parents but do we shut down playgrounds if we find dirty diapers or snack wrappers? No. That's ridiculous. My parents live on the water in York Harbor and we find fishing gear washing up from fisherman and lobsterman but we don't ban them. Where is the line? As a local realtor, this area is becoming increasingly more expensive for people to purchase homes in and if folks are not able to afford a nice yard for their dogs to run around in, what is the option to let them get some exercise? The dog park in Eliot since Kittery doesn't have a dog park? Furthermore, We frequent Seapoint beach in the morning with our 2.5 year old daughter and we never see waste or waste bags laying around and enjoy the friendly dogs and dog owners.

I think that the town of Kittery needs to seriously consider the impact of this on the community, where a majority are dog lovers and responsible dog owners. Don't let the 10% ruin in for the 90% and those who actively support our local community by volunteering, donating \$ and support each other.

I appreciate your time and do hope you take the words of the community to heart when making a decision on this.

Wishing You a Wonderful Day,

Krissy

Kristine Couch

REALTOR®, Licensed in NH & ME

The Aland Realty Group

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617-895-9135 Call/Text

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discussion of Title 6

Gale Turner <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 11:40 AM

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

The lack of enforcement of the rules allows for problems. It's equivalent to the idea that more people would be inclined to speed on the roads if they knew they wouldn't get a ticket.

The rules we have would work fine if there was better enforcement at the parks.

AND, it would help people dispose of the dog waste if receptacles were provided. Since providing dog waste bags has made a difference, that would be the next step. There are covered receptacles available with small enough openings that the argument that they would get used for all sorts of other trash does not apply, especially if they were clearly marked DOG WASTE ONLY and put in locations where they are needed. Surely the big revenue that these places provide to the Town of Kittery would outweigh the costs of the cans and the disposal of the contents!

Respectfully submitted,
Gale Turner
5 DevonWoods Drive, Kittery

Sent from my iPad

Town meeting dogs on beaches

Beth Reddy

Mon 8/17/2020 3:17 PM

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

Hello!

I have been a resident of South Berwick since 1990. I also am a responsible pet owner, who has had many a delightful trip to Fort Foster, to SeaPoint Beach, and others along the coast, with my very happy dogs. It is a privilege to take dogs to the beach, and it is sad that it is now such an issue. It is pure joy to watch them play in the water, and it will be a very sad day if they are actually no longer allowed.

I understand that the irresponsibility of pet owners is leading to issues with dogs on the beach. The posting of signs, the provision of poop bags, and the fact that there is someone who actually does check the beaches has been appreciated, and I am sure, has been frustrating in that there are people who seemingly disregard the requested rules.

What I believe is that most of us who use the beaches frequently DO care, and make sure that we are responsible with our pets, including beach visits. I know that this is a difficult decision to have to make, and it is my hope that there is a realistic, viable solution to be had other than to simply ban dogs from the beach. The piling of rules and regulations is, in my opinion, almost a waste of resources, in that one simply cannot dictate good behavior and responsible ownership.

Perhaps requiring a separate registration and fee for dogs that use the beach might be an approach? I know that currently, to use Fort Foster, one must purchase a day pass in advance. Maybe something along those lines for anyone bringing their dog? I know it would be tough to monitor, but it may serve as a deterrent to anyone other than the regulars.

Basically, I am writing to support allowing Dogs to use the beaches

Warmly,

Dr Beth Reddy

[Simply Chiropractic Me](#)

4 Vine St, So Berwick, ME 03908

207-200-3113

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Each patient carries his or her own doctor inside him or her. They come to us not knowing that truth. We are at our best when we give the doctor who resides within each patient a chance to go to work.

Albert Schweitzer

Please no dog Ban at the Fort

Emily Car <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 3:26 PM

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

Hi Town of Kittery,

Please continue to allow dogs at Fort Foster and Seapoint.

I have noticed since there is dog poop bags available at the entrance there is way less dog poop in the park.

This is one of the only places on the sea coast that the four legged family member is allowed to join in the fun.

Thank you

Emily

Emily.car7@gmail.com

--

Emily Car

emily.car7@gmail.com

Re: Dogs at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach

Zoe Aldag <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 4:02 PM

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

Hello Town Council,

I would like to add to my previous statement that I live on South Eliot Road where there are no sidewalks and people consistently drive well above the 25mph limit - if I take the dog and head towards Eliot I risk getting hit by a car, and if I walk towards the foreshore I either have to walk near the truck stop on Ranger Drive where the side of the road is littered with bottles filled with urine and other rubbish, and then up onto Route 1 Bypass, which nobody could consider a pleasant stroll, or I have to walk past Sue's Seafood a shop that I adore, but could easily win an award for most putrid dumpster in town as well as Legion Pond, which also smells of sewage.

Some of us aren't fortunate enough to have access to large backyards and beautiful quiet roads... If you take our parks away, what's left? I may not live on Pocahontas Road, but I'm still a resident of this town.

Thank you again for your consideration,
Zoe Aldag

If you take away our parks

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 2:38 PM Zoe Aldag <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Town Council,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the citizens of Kittery to voice their opinions on dogs on our public beaches.

As a Kittery resident and dog owner, I do understand both sides of the argument at hand. I understand that not all dog owners are perfect, that sometimes people are rude and litter no matter what, and that not everyone loves dogs... I also understand the benefits and joy bringing dogs to the beach can provide. Right now, the importance of access to outdoor recreational experiences for both dogs and for humans is simply necessary as indoor activities have been deemed unsafe.

To ban dogs from our public beaches seems to only take one side of the argument into consideration.. the side of those that don't want them there. There are already restrictions on dogs at both beaches... If those of us with dogs can wait until after 5 to take a walk at Seapoint, why can't people who don't enjoy dogs plan to leave by then? It's called planning ahead, compromise, and sharing of public spaces.

If we take away these options what would that leave the dog owners? Would you build a dog park for Kittery residents that don't have backyards or outdoor space at their houses but still pay their taxes in this town? Would there be any alternative provided? Because if there weren't, not only would I not renew my season pass to Fort Foster next year, I would consider leaving this town entirely, as the property prices are already ridiculous and we're inundated by people from Massachusetts every weekend - one of the perks is taking the dog to the beach, if that's gone, I (and others) might be as well.

I know that this has been suggested many times, but simply providing a waste receptacle seems like it would be the most reasonable solution to this "problem" that only affects a small and wealthy portion of Kittery's population (Pocahontas Road Residents.) It is hard for me to understand why this option is not being explored especially after the experimental volunteer driven trash cans were so successful two years ago.

8/20/2020

Re: Dogs at Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach - town comments

I hope that you will make a decision that is fair to all residents of Kittery - not just some of them.

Best,
Zoe Aldag

Dogs

Suzette Turnbull



Mon 8/17/2020 6:26 PM

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

I am writing to vote in favor of banning dogs at town beaches. Me and my husband walk at Fort Foster a lot and he has been charged by dogs on multiple occasions. The owners do not take any responsibility and just laugh when it happens. This spring we went and the grass was full of dog waste. You couldn't even walk without stepping in it. Thank you, Suzette Turnbull. 10 Ridgewood Drive, Kittery, ME. 03904

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Dog laws

Matthew O'Malley <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 6:42 PM

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

Good evening Town Council,

I'd like to express my views on the off leash/dog policy that is currently in discussion.

A little bit of background on me. I grew up at the opposite end of route 1 in Fort Kent. I have family that lives on Pepperrell Cove so I've vacationed here for much of my childhood. After college I purchased my first home in Kittery (263 Haley Rd) in 2013. Four years ago I adopted a rescue pup named Clue. We are an avid user of the beaches, we respect the leash law in Fort Foster and only go to Seapoint during the designated hours. A year ago I purchased a second house, 25 Gerrish Island Ln Kittery Point. One of the main reasons I chose to move to this house was the ability to walk Clue to Seapoint.

I am a pretty simple tax payer. I do not have kids in our school system, I do not utilize many of the amazing town/tax supported functions and I'm willing to keep paying my taxes even as they rise. All I ask is that I am still allowed to walk my dog to the beach and let her play off leash during the designated hours.

Thank you for reading and thank you for serving our town!

Best regards,

Matt

Matthew T. O'Malley, Realtor®
Premiere Plus Realty, Co.
Cell: 603-953-8206
Office: 239-732-7837
Address: 370 12th Ave South Suite 100
Naples FL 34102

Website: <https://www.premiereplusrealty.com>

Fort Foster

Molly O'Donnell <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 7:05 PM

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





Ft Foster

Jeannette Savage <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/17/2020 8:26 PM

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

Please don't close Ft Foster to dogs ...there are many responsible pet owners who would be disappointed.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

No.dog ban

Polly Moak <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 8:44 AM

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

Sent from my iPad

For purposes of mental and physical health we are encouraged to spend time out of doors, exercising and socially distancing. It is damaging our dog owning residents for doing just that—spending time at our beaches with their dogs. Why punish them for doing just that. The leash laws are working and people are more responsible for picking up. There are others who diligently pick up any dog waste or bags that are missed. Many excellent suggestions have already been made and I urge council members to work with the parks commission on trash disposal and to find an acceptable AOC who can work with the community.

The current AOC gives the appearance of hating his job and lacks people and animal skills.

Dogs at Fort Foster & Seapoint & neighborhoods

Matt Rigney 

Tue 8/18/2020 10:56 AM

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

Good morning—

I'm a resident of Kittery Point and wanted to comment on the question of dog restrictions at Fort Foster, etc.

I don't personally have a problem with dogs being present at certain areas of Fort Foster or at Seapoint. But enforcement of the leash requirement at Foster really has to happen (I'm not aware if a similar requirement applies to Seapoint). At Fort Foster, people let their dogs off leash from time to time. Chances are slim that a dog will bite a person, but it will happen. More frequently, dogs will run up to people and jump on them, and this is generally unwanted. That's the reason for the leash requirements.

Far more problematic are the issues of dog waste and barking. There has to be better enforcement of dog waste removal requirements at Seapoint and at Fort Foster. There's no excuse for leaving bags of dog waste lying on our beaches. It's unacceptable. I'm in favor of sharing designated areas with leashed dogs, but if abandoned bags of dog waste continues to be a problem, I will no longer support sharing these spaces with dogs. I love dogs, but removing their waste is respectful of others who share these parks.

The issue of barking is as much a problem as the waste, but in neighborhoods, specifically ours near the Kittery Point Citgo. There are existing statutes against nuisance dog barking, but they are completely unenforced. Area dogs are sometimes allowed to bark for 30 or 40 minutes. It ruins the peace, which is the whole reason for the statute in the first place.

Good relations between dogs, dog owners, and others rely on clear rules, that the rules are followed, and when they are not, that there is enforcement that carries with it meaningful consequences (like fines) to curb the behavior. Otherwise, it's not going to work and these kinds of proposals to restrict dogs are going to carry the day.

Matt Rigney
Kittery Point

Proposal to Prohibit Dogs

Brielle Berman <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 2:41 PM

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

Hello,

I wanted to reach out because I was very upset to see a few signs up around town regarding a proposal to ban dogs at both Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster.

I think that enacting such a ban would not only upset the large dog owner community, but also deter people with dogs from moving to our area! Whoever came up with this proposal is clearly short sighted. We specifically moved here because of the ease of access to dog friendly parks and we truly feel that this creates a better quality of life for us and for our pup.

I would like to be able to be a part of this conversation. I saw on one of the signs that there is a Zoom meeting scheduled for the 24th. Can you please send me the Zoom info/link so that I can join?

Thank you,

Brielle

--

Brielle Berman

Pets on Kittery beach and Fort Foster

David W Kerr <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 2:43 PM

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

My wife and I recently moved into the "family home" and are residents officially on Picott Road although we have spent many years here in the past. For what it's worth we have loved to see dogs romping, leashed or under reasonable voice control by their owners. It never fails to lift our hearts. In these times some heart lifting goes a long way.

We've never had a dog (we're cat people)

Thank you

David

re: pets on Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster

Leslie Mason <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 2:44 PM

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

I haven't had a dog since I was 7 years old. I'm a cat person!

But the joy of watching happy doggies be free, off-leash, to romp together and really run on the beach and into the water, and get some exercise has filled my heart with joy ever since my family moved here in 1983. I LOVE to go to Seapoint when I know the doggies are most likely to be there. I've never seen even a minor kerfuffle among doggies that wasn't resolved immediately and amicably.

I'm all for rules and respecting safety guidelines, but please Kittery, please?? will you keep our beaches welcoming to all?

Thank you for your consideration,
Leslie

--

Leslie Mason
22 Picott Road
413 237 9696 cell

I support dogs at fort foster and kittery beaches

Victoria Sewell < >

Tue 8/18/2020 2:54 PM

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

Thank you for considering my opinion that dogs should continue to be allowed in our favorite local spots.

Victoria Sewell
3 Williams ave.

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Ban

Lauren Welch <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 10:22 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Lauren Welch and I am a Traip Academy Alumni and have lived in kittery my whole life. I am also a dog owner. I take my two labs to fort foster several times a week and they love it. I can't imagine a summer where they cannot go to the beach to walk and swim. I believe it is very unfair to ban dogs from the park completely. It is unfair to those who abide by the leash laws and clean up after their dogs. Speaking for myself and my entire family, we will no longer get passes to fort foster. I imagine a lot of people feel the same way. For many, fort foster may be the only place where their dog can really get outside and run. It is simply unfair to take that away from people and I am positive you will lose visitors from this. I urge you to continue to allow dogs to visit the park, do not turn kittery into an unfavorable place that people no longer want to go to.

Thank you,

Lauren Welch

We need to know more about the public hearing items

SPJ <suzyourage@aol.com>

Wed 8/19/2020 6:35 AM

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

What is TIF ? There is no way we can comment when you don't explain what the hearings or issues are.

Dogs

RORY ROBB <>

Wed 8/19/2020 10:40 AM

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

I want to share my concern that it appears the council is looking to restrict access to dogs at Fort Foster and I am not sure if there are proposed changes to Seapoint Beach. I too am concerned when people do not pick after their dogs or keep them under control. My concern is that there has been little dialogue with the residents of Kittery to collaborate on how to solve these issues. I have been a responsible dog owner and resident for 40+ years. I have always picked up after my dogs and they have been under my control. For me this means, when I am near people my dog is on a leash. However, when I am not near others (often alone on the walk or at the beach area) I want him to enjoy running around off leash or taking a swim (not near others). He is never far from me or out of my control. This occurs most often in the non-summer months. During Covid I understand the need for the leash at all times .

I feel I have a right to access the town beaches with my well behaved dog as a tax paying responsible citizen. I can support penalizing (e.g. tickets, losing their pass, etc.) those who are not responsible. I have picked up others bags. I would be willing to speak with others to remind them of the rules for park employees cannot, nor should have to, do it alone. I am sure some folks are very frustrated that this has been an issue for years. Unfortunately, signs alone do not make people follow the rules. If signs alone worked, police would not need to have to patrol the roads for people speeding. There needs to be consequences, but those do not need to be simply eliminate dog access. I realize the police may not want to take on this issue. I propose that if the police hit the park "hard" (e.g. giving out tickets; telling people to leave; repeat offenders lose their pass) a couple of times a season the message would get out quickly that infringements will not be tolerated. Penalizing the law abiding citizens is not the answer. I look forward to others ideas as well as to how collectively we can solve this problem. Kittery posts signs that we need to work together, so let's do that!

Rory Robb
Kittery Point

Dogs and Kittery

Holly Wren Spaulding <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/19/2020 6:40 PM

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

Hello Public Servants,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I am a resident of Kittery Point and I am almost daily user of both Fort Foster and Seapoint. I wanted to submit comments regarding the presence of dogs and their owners in our public parks and spaces, but also in the neighborhood where I live.

Throughout my life I've had dogs, though not at present due to a recent death, and so I am not unsympathetic to their kind, but I am quite concerned about the amount of dog waste in our parks (even if bagged and waiting on a stone for someone to claim it later). This is unsightly, often smelly in summer, and simply not acceptable. Said another way: it's disgusting. I've never seen as much in any other town as I've seen since moving here.

Of even more concern is the barking. During a recent and very busy Saturday in late July, I took my family to Fort Foster and found there, among the many sunbathers and swimmers, an off-leash dog barking and running rampant along the Divers Beach. The owner and her two adult companions seemed entirely at ease with this situation. I took my kid and moved to another location so that we could have some peace.

I don't mind sharing these beautiful places with responsible dog owners but it's not enjoyable when they flaunt the rules. There needs to be some kind of enforcement when folks don't obey the very clear signs that are posted.

Even more of a problem is the barking I hear every day where I live, on Haley Road, near the Citgo Station. I have read the local ordinances so I know it's okay but where is the enforcement? I have lived here a year and a half and a new resident, decided to see if it would change before calling the police. I don't know many of my neighbors and don't want our first contact to involve a complaint, so it would be nice if local authorities could handle this sort of thing as a way of preserving neighborhood harmony and quality of life.

A trash can at Seapoint might help people dispose of dog waste instead of leaving it on those rocks, to be seen as soon as one arrives at the beach.

And if there isn't an outright ban, what if there were limited hours for dogs? Or loss of privileges when things get too bad?

Thanks for taking up this issue. I would be really happy to see less dog waste in our town, and if there were fewer barking dogs where I live.

Sincerely,

Holly Spaulding
Haley Road, Kittery Point