



TOWN OF KITTERY

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KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting Public Hearing
Kittery Community Center Star Theatre
September 9, 2020
5:00PM

Masks must be worn while in the Kittery Community Center. There will be a limited number of seats available in the theater, distanced in accordance with State CDC guidelines. Queueing space within the building and outside of the building will be marked out for proper social distancing. Staff will disinfect the lectern and microphone after each speaker.

The public may submit public comments via email, US Mail, or by dropping written comments in the Drop Box outside the Town Hall entrance. Emailed comments should be sent to TownComments@kitteryme.org. Comments received by **noon on the day of the meeting** will become part of the public record and may be read in whole or in summary by the Council Chair.

1. Call to Order
2. Introductory
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - a. (090120-1) The Kittery Town Council moves to hold a public hearing on Title 6 – Animal Control.
6. ADJOURNMENT

Posted: September 3, 2020

Due to the Declaration of a State of Emergency for the State of Maine and Town of Kittery, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with LD 2167. The meeting will be broadcast on Channel 22, Facebook, and live broadcast from the Town's website.

Control of Dogs at Public Parks

Limits the number of dogs one person is responsible for at a time, and the number of dogs one person can have off leash and under voice control at a time, while on public property. It is expected these limitations should help reduce the number of incidents of unwanted dog contact and uncollected dog waste at our parks.

Prohibition/Restrictions of dogs at various parks

Multiple options were given for the Council to consider regarding dog access at popular parks. They ranged in impact/restrictiveness and were proposed to facilitate discussion.

The proposal includes requiring dogs to be leashed at all times at Rogers Park which is the site of our outdoor preschool program. The proposal expressly prohibits dogs on all playing fields in Kittery.

The staff recommend having consistent regulations for Fort Foster and Seapoint and Crescent beaches to avoid confusion.

The current version represents edits agreed to at the Council Workshop on August 17, 2020. An additional edit was made to try to ensure clarity that a dog under Voice Control as defined in the ordinance is not “at large”.

Welfare

ACO Byrnes has noted that state statute already grants him authority to address animal welfare relative to prolonged tethering and animals exposed to prolonged weather conditions. However, two Councilors expressed interest in having the ordinance cover animal welfare/cruelty.

Fines

Focuses on a single rate for the fine rather than a graduated approach for all violation except disturbing the peace. The ACO would also like codified that he can issue a No Trespass order to address repeat offenders.

Other Titles

Refers animal control back to Title 6 for Fort Foster, Seapoint and Crescent Beaches, and Town Farm. Rogers Park already refers directly back to Title 6.1. The proposed also corrects the Title of Town Farm to Town Farm Forest (unrelated to animal control).

Public Comment

Due to COVID related precautions on in-person Council meetings, the Town has been receiving written public comment for Council meetings and public hearings through its “Town Comments” email. Attached are the comments received from June through September 3. Any additional comments received by noon of September 9 will be uploaded to the online packet prior to the public hearing.

In reviewing the comments, a few patterns appear to emerge. Based on a high-level scan of the comments, approximately:

-
- 33% are solely expressing opposition to “banning dogs” at Seapoint and/or Fort Foster. Generally, there was no reference in the comments to Kittery’s existing animal control ordinances or the proposed ordinance amendments being considered.
 - 28% oppose “banning dogs” at Seapoint and/or Fort Foster and recommend existing ordinances remain unchanged.
 - 37% oppose “banning dogs” at Seapoint and/or Fort Foster and encourage the Council look at enacting “other” restrictions instead. The specific comments ranged from proposing:
 - o restrictions currently in place
 - o the restrictions currently being considered by the Council
 - o different restrictions than currently being considered by the Council
 - o waste receptacles
 - 2% vary including supporting “banning dogs” at Seapoint and/or Fort Foster, and other related or unrelated animal control topics.

The comment analysis was not in depth and involved scanning the text of the comments and attempting to sort them into a few broad categories:

- General “don’t ban dogs”
- Keep Current Restrictions
- Consider Different Restrictions
- Other

The purpose of the analysis was simply to provide some at-a-glance info that may be useful as the Council considers each comment specifically.

PROPOSED SOLUTION/RECOMMENDATION

Hold a public hearing on the amendments and determine which amendments proposed are acceptable to the community for approval.

ATTACHMENTS

- Existing Animal Control Ordinances
- Proposed Title 6 – Animal Control
- Written Comments received from June to Sep 2 (any additional written comments received will be added to the online materials before the meeting).

Title 6 Animal Control

AMEND Title 6 as follows:

1 **Title 6.1 ~~Dogs~~Animal Control**

2 § 6.1.0-1 **Conflict with other laws.**

3 ~~If in conflict with any section of this chapter, the provisions of Chapter 12.4 (Seapoint/Crescent~~
4 ~~Beaches) or Chapter 12.5 (Fort Foster) will apply.~~ In the event of any conflict in the provisions of this
5 article with the provisions of any present or future statute relating thereto, the most restrictive or that
6 imposing the higher standards governs.

7 § 6.1.1-2 **Definitions.**

8 For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this
9 section.

10 **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER** Includes municipal police officer.

11 **AT LARGE** Off the premises of the owner, unless:

12 A. Controlled by a leash, ~~cord or chain of not more than eight feet in length;~~

13 B. Within a vehicle or under restraint in an open vehicle being driven or parked on a public way; or

14 C. ~~Under the control of a person whose personal presence and attention would control the conduct of~~
15 ~~the dog.~~ Voice Control.

16 **LEASH** A cord or chain not more than 10 feet in length.

17 **OWNER** Any person keeping or harboring a dog or other animal.

18 **PET** Any animal domesticated to serve as a companion, excluding service dogs.

19 **RESPONSIBLE PARTY** Any person who has possession, custody, or control of an animal.

20 **VOICE CONTROL** An animal under control of the responsible party by voice command such that the
21 animal returns immediately to the responsible party upon calling, and remains by their side and in sight.

22 § 6.1.2-3 **~~Applicability to visiting nonresidents~~License required.**

23 No dog may be kept within the Town unless licensed by its owners in accordance with applicable state
24 statutes. ~~The licensing provisions of this chapter do not apply to any dog belonging to a nonresident~~
25 ~~visiting within the Town without the intention of becoming a resident, but the owner of such dog must~~
26 ~~comply with the remaining provisions of this chapter.~~

27 Proof of current dog license must be provided to the animal control officer upon request.

28 **§6.1.4. Control of pets on public property.**

29 A. No pet is allowed to be at large, as defined above, on any public property, or on private property
30 without the consent of the property owner. This section does not prohibit the owner from using a

- 31 dog for hunting, where hunting is permitted, provided the dog is under the voice control of its owner.
- 32 B. No dog is allowed to ~~approach within ten (10) feet or~~ have contact with of any person other than the
33 owner or responsible party unless such person has communicated to the owner or responsible party,
34 by word or gesture, their consent to be approached by the dog.
- 35 C. Owners must immediately collect and properly dispose of or secure feces left by their **pet**(s) on any
36 improved portion of public ways or sidewalks, and in public parks. Owners or responsible parties
37 must maintain possession of their **pet**'s feces while on public property.
- 38 D. No ~~person~~ responsible party may have more than 1 dog under voice control on public property, at any
39 time.
- 40 E. No person may be a responsible party for more than 3 dogs at any time while in a Town park.
- 41 F. Dogs must be on a leash at all times when on public ways or sidewalks.
- 42 **G. Fort Foster**
- 43 1. Dogs are prohibited, between the hours of 10AM and **4:30PM**.
- 44 2. Dogs must be on a leash between the hours of **4:30PM until the park closes May 15 and October 15,**
45 **inclusive.**
- 46 **H. Seapoint and Crescent Beaches**
- 47 1. Dogs are prohibited, between the hours of **10AM and 4:30PM, between May 15 and October 15**
48 inclusive.
- 49 2. Dogs must be on a leash between the hours of **4:30PM and 11PM between May 15 and October 15,**
50 inclusive.
- 51 **I. Rogers Park**
- 52 1. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- 53 **J. John Paul Jones Park**
- 54 1. Dogs are prohibited at all times.
- 55 **K. All Playing Fields in Kittery**
- 56 1. Dogs are prohibited at all times.
- 57 **§ 6.1.5 Menacing activity.**
- 58 The owner of the animal not confined on private property or not in a vehicle may not permit that animal
59 to menace or bite any person.
- 60 **§ 6.1.3-6 Right of entry to inspect ~~license, dog.~~**
- 61 For the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this chapter and to enforce the provisions of this
62 chapter, ~~any~~ the animal control officer is empowered, with the consent of the owner or occupant thereof,
63 to enter upon any premises on which an ~~dog~~ animal is kept or harbored, and to demand the exhibition by

64 the owner ~~of the dog and~~of the license ~~of such~~if the animal is a dog.

65 § 6.1.4-7 **Hindering officers, improperly releasing dogs prohibited.**

66 No person may interfere with, hinder or molest ~~any the~~ animal control officer in the performance of the
67 officer's duty or seek to release any ~~dog-pet~~ in the custody of ~~an the~~ animal control authority, except as
68 provided in this chapter.

69 § 6.1.5-8 **Record to be kept by animal control officer; contents.**

70 It is the duty of ~~an the~~ animal control officer to keep, or cause to be kept, an accurate and detailed record
71 of the licensing, impoundment and disposition of all ~~dogs-animals~~ coming into the officer's custody.

72 ~~§ 6.1.6 License required.~~

73 ~~No dog may be kept within the limits of the Town unless such dog has been licensed by its owner in~~
74 ~~accordance with the statutes of the state.~~

75 § 6.1.7-9 **Impoundment authorized.**

76 Unlicensed dogs, wherever found, or dogs and other pets found running at large ~~will may~~ be taken by ~~an~~
77 the animal control officer and impounded in an animal shelter. Such animal may be confined for a period
78 of not fewer than 10 days unless earlier reclaimed under the provisions of § 6.1.911.

79 § 6.1.8-10 **Impoundment fees.**

80 Any ~~dog-pet~~ impounded in accordance with this chapter may be reclaimed upon payment of the total fees
81 for board. This fee is paid to the keeper of the animal.

82 § 6.1.9-11 **Disposition of impounded ~~dogpet~~, notification of impoundment.**

83 A. A ~~dog-pet~~ owner may reclaim an impounded ~~dog-pet~~ upon compliance with ~~§ 6.1.6 and~~licensing as
84 applicable, upon payment of assessed fines and the boarding fees set forth in § 6.1.810. Any ~~dog-~~
85 pet impounded under the provisions of this chapter and not claimed by the owner within the ten-day
86 period is considered abandoned by the owner and the property of the animal shelter. The ~~dog-animal~~
87 may be given, after consultation with the Humane Society and/or the Animal Refuge League, to the
88 Humane Society or the Animal Refuge League, any no kill shelter, or to any person deemed to be
89 responsible and a suitable owner, who will agree to comply with the provisions of this chapter or
90 humanely destroy the animal.

91 B. Where the ownership of an impounded ~~dog-pet~~ is known, or can be reasonably ascertained by ~~an the~~
92 animal control officer, such officer shall, if possible, notify the owner within three days of such
93 impoundment, but failure to give such notice does not impose any liability upon the Town for the
94 destruction or transfer to another of any ~~dog-pet~~ so impounded and not reclaimed within the
95 required period.

96 C. Where the ownership of an impounded pet cannot be reasonably ascertained, the animal control
97 officer shall post in the Town Hall, on the Town website, and at the Kittery Community Center, for
98 seven (7) days, a notice giving a description of the pet, where it was impounded, and how it may be
99 recovered.

100 § 6.1.10-12 **Disposition of dog biting person.**

101 Whenever any dog bites a person, the owner of such dog must immediately notify ~~an the~~ animal control

102 officer, who may order the dog held on the owner's premises or have it impounded for a period of ~~two~~2
103 weeks. The dog must be examined immediately after it has bitten any person and again at the end of the
104 two-week period. If at the end of the ~~two~~2 weeks a veterinarian is convinced that the dog is then free
105 from rabies, the dog is released from quarantine or from the pound, as the case may be. If the dog dies
106 within the period, ~~its head must be sent to~~ the State Department of Health must be notified to perform a
107 ~~for~~ rabies examination.

108 ~~§ 6.1.11-13~~ **Disturbing the peace.**

109 No owner or responsible party may keep or maintain a pet which creates a nuisance by continued or
110 repeated barking, howling, yelping, or making of other loud or unusual noises for a half hour or
111 intermittently for two hours, and can be heard at or beyond the boundary of the property on which the
112 pet is located. ~~No person owning any dog may suffer or permit such dog to disturb the peace and quiet of~~
113 ~~the neighborhood by continuous barking, by making other loud or unusual noises, or by running through~~
114 ~~or across cultivated gardens or fields.~~

115 ~~§ 6.1.12~~ **Running at large prohibited.**

116 ~~No dog is permitted to run at large within the limits of the Town; however, this section does not prohibit~~
117 ~~the owner of a dog from using such dog for hunting, provided the dog is under the control of its owner.~~

118 ~~§ 6.1.13~~ **Animal waste.**

119 ~~It is a violation of this chapter for any owner of a dog to fail to remove and properly dispose of feces left~~
120 ~~by his or her dog(s) on any improved portion of public ways or sidewalks.~~

121 § 6.1.14 Proper shelter, protection from the weather and humanely clean conditions.

122 A. Dogs may not be tethered for periods of time exceeding 24 hours, unless otherwise permitted by state
123 law.

124 B. Dogs may not be tethered outside without proper shelter in temperatures 32 degrees Fahrenheit or
125 lower, or 95 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, for more than 30 minutes, unless otherwise permitted by state
126 law.

127 § 6.1.14 Feral Cats

128 No person may feed or shelter a feral cat or feral cat colony.

129 A person found providing food or shelter for a feral cat will be deemed the responsible party of that cat
130 and/or that cat's colony. The responsible party for feral cats and cat colonies will be required to trap and
131 spay or neuter the cat(s).

132 ~~§ 6.1.14-15~~ **Violations and penalties.**

133 Any violation of this chapter will be assessed a penalty ~~under Title 1, Chapter 1.3~~ of \$50.00, except
134 violations of §16.1.13 Disturbing the Peace will be assessed a penalty of \$50.00 for the first offense,
135 \$100.00 for the second offense, and \$200.00 for each offense thereafter.

136 Repeat offenders and/or those who fail to pay fines in accordance with this Title may be issued a NO
137 TRESPASS order for town parks **for one year.**

138 **§6.1.16 Review of ordinance.**

139 No later than one year from the date of enacting amendments, the Kittery Town Council will receive a
140 report from the Town Manager on the status of compliance with the ordinance, to determine if additional
141 amendments are necessary.

142 **AMEND Title 12.4.8 Animals at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches as follows:**

143 § 12.4.8 **Animals.**

144 A. With the exception of dogs, no domestic animals are allowed on Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.
145 Dogs are subject to Town Code 6.1 Animal Control. ~~No domestic animal is allowed within~~
146 Seapoint or Crescent Beaches, except that dogs, while under the control of their owner or keeper,
147 are allowed on Crescent and Seapoint Beaches at times other than between the hours of 10:00 a.m.
148 to 5:00 p.m. from June 15 through September 10 of each year. This limitation does not apply to
149 guide or seeing eye dogs when used as such. At no time may the owner or keeper of any dog allow
150 that dog to run at large on Crescent or Seapoint Beaches or enter upon any publicly owned salt
151 marsh immediately adjacent to Seapoint or Crescent Beach. From May 15 to September 30,
152 inclusive, only dogs licensed to Town residents are allowed on Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.

153 ~~B. A pooper scooper rule is in effect for dogs. Owners and keepers must properly dispose of animal~~
154 ~~waste either by placing it in supplied receptacle(s) or, if one is not supplied, by taking it with them~~
155 ~~when leaving the beaches.~~

156 **AMEND Title 12.5.1 Animals at Fort Foster as follows:**

157 § 12.5.1 **Animals.**

158 With the exception of dogs, no domestic animals are allowed in Fort Foster Park, and dogs are subject to
159 Town Code 6.1 Animal Control, the following conditions:

160 ~~A. Dogs must be leashed at all times during park hours (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) on weekends in May~~
161 ~~and September and every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day, inclusive. A maximum leash of~~
162 ~~eight feet is allowed.~~

163 ~~B. While under control of the owner or keeper, dogs are also allowed in the park during the following~~
164 ~~days and times:~~

165 ~~(1) During weekdays, prior to Memorial Day in May;~~

166 ~~(2) Before park opening (sunrise to 10:00 a.m.) between Memorial Day and Labor Day;~~

167 ~~(3) During weekdays, after Labor Day in September; and~~

168 ~~(4) Between sunrise and sunset from October 1 to April 30, inclusive.~~

169 ~~C. A "pooper scooper" rule is in effect for dogs. Owners or keepers must take their dogs' solid waste~~
170 ~~with them when leaving the park.~~

171 **AMEND Title 12.7 Section 3.C Dogs and correct name of the site to "Town Farm Forest"**
172 **throughout:**

173 **Title 12.7 Town Farm Forest**

174 § 12.7.1 **Title.**

175 The ordinance codified in this chapter is called the "Town Farm Forest Ordinance."

176 B. "Town Farm Forest" means the site of the former Town farm at 77 Haley Road (see Kittery Tax
177 Map No. 48, Lot No. 7] and includes all land bounded within the following: on the north and west
178 by the land now or formerly of David E. and Ann E. Blake, Harold L. Durgin Trust, Hilda M.
179 Wilson and Brenda E. Lawrence and Lynda W. Clark and Jefferson L. Wilson; on the south and
180 east by land now or formerly of Eugene and Hildred C. Lewis and the estate of Marion F. Lewis;
181 excepting the Central Maine Power Company power line easement going through the property.

182 § 12.7.3 **Restrictions.**

183 A. No person may remove, injure or otherwise damage or deface any thing, plant material, sign,
184 marker, bench or structure within the Town Farm Forest. Use of metal detectors or similar devices
185 is prohibited. "Paint-ball" activities and materials are prohibited.

186 C. ~~Control of dogs is governed by Chapter 6.1. Dogs must be on a leash at all times unless under the~~
187 ~~control of the owner or keeper. This limitation does not apply to service dogs when used as~~
188 ~~such~~ Dogs are subject to Town Code 6.1 Animal Control.

189 D. No person may start or allow to burn any fire within the bounds of the Town Farm Forest.

190 F. No person may engage in indecent conduct within the Town Farm Forest. As used in this section,
191 "public indecency" is defined as put forth in Title 17-A, § 854 of the Maine Criminal Code.^[1]

192 G. No person may drink or consume any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic
193 beverage, or combination of liquors and mix liquors within the bounds of the Town Farm Forest.

194 § 12.7.5 **Enforcement.**

195 This chapter is enforced by the Police Department. The Conservation Commission is responsible for the
196 management of the Town Farm ~~forest~~ Forest in accordance with the Town Farm ~~forest~~ Forest
197 management plan duly adopted by the Town Council.

Chapter 6.1

DOGS

§ 6.1.0. Conflict with other laws.

If in conflict with any section of this chapter, the provisions of Chapter 12.4 (Seapoint/Crescent Beaches) or Chapter 12.5 (Fort Foster) will apply.

§ 6.1.1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER — Includes municipal police officer.

AT LARGE — Off the premises of the owner, unless:

- A. Controlled by a leash, cord or chain of not more than eight feet in length;
- B. Within a vehicle or under restraint in an open vehicle being driven or parked on a public way; or
- C. Under the control of a person whose personal presence and attention would control the conduct of the dog.

OWNER — Any person keeping or harboring a dog.

§ 6.1.2. Applicability to visiting nonresidents.

The licensing provisions of this chapter do not apply to any dog belonging to a nonresident visiting within the Town without the intention of becoming a resident, but the owner of such dog must comply with the remaining provisions of this chapter.

§ 6.1.3. Right of entry to inspect license, dog.

For the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this chapter and to enforce the provisions of this chapter, any animal control officer is empowered, with the consent of the owner or occupant thereof, to enter upon any premises on which a dog is kept or harbored and demand the exhibition by the owner of the dog and the license of such dog.

§ 6.1.4. Hindering officers, improperly releasing dogs prohibited.

No person may interfere with, hinder or molest any animal control officer in the performance of the officer's duty or seek to release any dog in the custody of an animal control authority, except as provided in this chapter.

§ 6.1.5. Record to be kept by animal control officer; contents.

It is the duty of an animal control officer to keep, or cause to be kept, an accurate and detailed record of the licensing, impoundment and disposition of all dogs coming into the officer's custody.

§ 6.1.6. License required.

No dog may be kept within the limits of the Town unless such dog has been licensed by its owner in accordance with the statutes of the state.

§ 6.1.7. Impoundment authorized.

Unlicensed dogs, wherever found, or dogs found running at large will be taken by an animal control officer and impounded in an animal shelter. Such animal may be confined for a period of not fewer than 10 days unless earlier reclaimed under the provisions of § 6.1.9.

§ 6.1.8. Impoundment fees.

Any dog impounded in accordance with this chapter may be reclaimed upon payment of the total fees for board. This fee is paid to the keeper of the animal.

§ 6.1.9. Disposition of impounded dog, notification of impoundment.

- A. A dog owner may reclaim an impounded dog upon compliance with § 6.1.6 and upon payment of the boarding fees set forth in § 6.1.8. Any dog impounded under the provisions of this chapter and not claimed by the owner within the ten-day period is considered abandoned by the owner and the property of the animal shelter. The dog may be given, after consultation with the Humane Society and/or the Animal Refuge League, to the Humane Society or the Animal Refuge League or to any person deemed to be responsible and a suitable owner, who will agree to comply with the provisions of this chapter or humanely destroy the animal.
- B. Where the ownership of an impounded dog is known, or can be reasonably ascertained by an animal control officer, such officer shall, if possible, notify the owner within three days of such impoundment, but failure to give such notice does not impose any liability upon the Town for the destruction or transfer to another of any dog so impounded and not reclaimed within the required period.

§ 6.1.10. Disposition of dog biting person.

Whenever any dog bites a person, the owner of such dog must immediately notify an animal control officer, who may order the dog held on the owner's premises or have it impounded for a period of two weeks. The dog must be examined immediately after it has bitten any person and again at the

end of the two-week period. If at the end of the two weeks a veterinarian is convinced that the dog is then free from rabies, the dog is released from quarantine or from the pound, as the case may be. If the dog dies within the period, its head must be sent to the State Department of Health for rabies examination.

§ 6.1.11. Disturbing the peace.

No person owning any dog may suffer or permit such dog to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood by continuous barking, by making other loud or unusual noises, or by running through or across cultivated gardens or fields.

§ 6.1.12. Running at large prohibited.

No dog is permitted to run at large within the limits of the Town; however, this section does not prohibit the owner of a dog from using such dog for hunting, provided the dog is under the control of its owner.

§ 6.1.13. Animal waste.

It is a violation of this chapter for any owner of a dog to fail to remove and properly dispose of feces left by his or her dog(s) on any improved portion of public ways or sidewalks.

§ 6.1.14. Violations and penalties.

Any violation of this chapter will be assessed a penalty under Title 1, Chapter 1.3.

Chapter 12.3

ROGERS PARK

§ 12.3.1. Title.

The ordinance codified in this chapter is known as "Rogers Park."

§ 12.3.2. Purpose.

- A. It is the purpose of this chapter to preserve the natural character and beauty of Rogers Park. Let it be known henceforth and forever that the people of Kittery set aside this parcel of land as an area to enjoy nature and promote the protection of wildlife and unique species of vegetation that inhabit the area, to be preserved for future generations for the common good.
- B. Rogers Park means the two plots of land, consisting of approximately 27 acres and known today as "Rogers Park," that were deeded September 30, 1958, to the "Inhabitants of the Town of Kittery" for the

consideration of \$1 by Richard J. Rogers, Esther F. Hibbard, Helen W. Johnson, and Charlotte S. McClintock.

§ 12.3.3. Restrictions.

- A. No person may remove, injure or otherwise damage or deface any thing, plant material, sign, marker, bench or structure within Rogers Park. The disposition of any artifact found within the park is determined by the Town Council. Use of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited. "Paint-ball" activities and materials are prohibited.
- B. Littering is prohibited. A carry-in, carry-out policy is in effect.
- C. Control of dogs is governed by Chapter 6.1 of the Code.
- D. No person may start or allow to burn any fire within the bounds of Rogers Park.
- E. Excepting the designated area, no motor vehicles are allowed except in conformance with Chapter 12.8.
- F. No person may engage in indecent conduct within Rogers Park. As used in this section, "indecent conduct" is defined as set forth in Title 17-A, § 854 of the Maine Criminal Code.¹
- G. No person may drink or consume any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mix liquors within the bounds of Rogers Park. No person may possess or consume any illegal drug within Rogers Park.
- H. Camping is prohibited from 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., unless permitted by the Town Council.

§ 12.3.4. Enforcement.

This chapter is enforced by the Police Department. The Kittery Conservation Commission is responsible for the management of Rogers Park.

§ 12.3.5. Violations and penalties.²

Any violation of this chapter will be assessed a penalty under Title 1, Chapter 1.3. All penalties recovered accrue to the benefit of the Town.

Chapter 12.4

SEAPOINT AND CRESCENT BEACHES

1. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).

2. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).

§ 12.4.1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CRESCENT BEACH — Includes all land bounded within the following: south and east by the Atlantic Ocean, northerly by the salt marsh and Seapoint Beach and westerly by other owners.

SEAPOINT BEACH — Includes all land bounded within the following: on the south and east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by the land now or formerly of Albert Kerr, on the west by the salt marsh, other owners and the easterly edge of Cutts Island Road. Seapoint Beach includes that area known as Thaxter's Point.

§ 12.4.2. Disorderly conduct.

No person may engage in disorderly conduct within Seapoint or Crescent Beach. Disorderly conduct as used herein includes but is not limited to the making of loud and unreasonable noises; the activating of any device or explosive substance which releases noxious or offensive odors; knowingly accosting, insulting, taunting or challenging any person with offensive, derisive or annoying words or gestures, or other physical conduct which would in fact have a direct tendency to cause a violent response by an ordinary person in the situation of a person so accosted, insulted, taunted or challenged.

§ 12.4.3. Vehicular use; parking restrictions. [Amended 9-26-2011 by Ord. No. 11-12; 10-23-2017 by Ord. No. 17-15]

No person may drive or park any motor vehicle other than an authorized vehicle on Seapoint or Crescent Beaches, shore or bank. No bus may be operated, driven or parked anywhere within the area defined as Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.

- A. Parking in all designated parking areas for Seapoint and Crescent Beaches is available for Town residents and nonresidents in accordance with Title 10 of Town Code.

§ 12.4.4. Indecent conduct.³

No person may engage in indecent conduct within Seapoint or Crescent Beaches. As used in this chapter, "indecent conduct" is defined as set forth in Title 17-A, § 854 of the Maine Criminal Code.

§ 12.4.5. Littering.

No person may throw, drop, deposit, discard or otherwise dispose of litter within Seapoint and Crescent Beaches except in a litter receptacle.

3. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).

§ 12.4.6. Disturbing topography.

No person may remove, molest, injure or otherwise damage anything natural or physical within Seapoint and Crescent Beaches. This provision is not intended to regulate the removal of seashells and driftwood, seaweed and scientific samples.

§ 12.4.7. Drinking.

No person may drink or consume any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mix liquors upon Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.

§ 12.4.8. Animals.

- A. No domestic animal is allowed within Seapoint or Crescent Beaches, except that dogs, while under the control of their owner or keeper, are allowed on Crescent and Seapoint Beaches at times other than between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from June 15 through September 10 of each year. This limitation does not apply to guide or seeing eye dogs when used as such. At no time may the owner or keeper of any dog allow that dog to run at large on Crescent or Seapoint Beaches or enter upon any publicly owned salt marsh immediately adjacent to Seapoint or Crescent Beach. From May 15 to September 30, inclusive, only dogs licensed to Town residents are allowed on Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.
- B. A pooper-scooper rule is in effect for dogs. Owners and keepers must properly dispose of animal waste either by placing it in supplied receptacle(s) or, if one is not supplied, by taking it with them when leaving the beaches.

§ 12.4.9. Fires.

No person may start or allow any fire to burn within Seapoint or Crescent Beaches except in suitable facilities provided by the municipality or where permission has been obtained from the municipal Fire Chief, Town Forest Fire Warden. A permit will not be required for the use of portable stoves which are fueled by propane gas, sterno or briquettes. In the event that any cooking or other fire or burning herein allowed is undertaken by any person, said person before leaving such fire must totally extinguish the same.

§ 12.4.10. Entering upon salt marsh.

- A. No person may trespass or enter upon the publicly owned salt marsh immediately adjacent to Seapoint or Crescent Beaches except for educational or scientific purposes and only after approval is granted by the Town Council or its duly designated agent(s). Requests may be made to the Town Clerk, who is to refer all such requests to the Town Council or its duly designated agent(s).

- B. Public notice is to be given by locating signs conspicuously along the salt marsh, notifying the public of this limitation.

§ 12.4.11. Windsurfers prohibited.

No person may engage in windsurfing in the waters of Crescent and Seapoint Beaches between June 15 and September 10 of each year except in those areas duly authorized and designated by the Town Council. Public notice of such designated areas is to be conspicuously posted in the beach parking lot or other conspicuous place or places.

§ 12.4.12. Jet skis prohibited.

Jet skis are prohibited on the shore or in the waters of Crescent and Seapoint Beaches.

§ 12.4.13. Selling prohibited.

The selling of merchandise or services is prohibited at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.

§ 12.4.14. Camping prohibited.

Camping is prohibited from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

§ 12.4.15. Hours of operation.

- A. Seapoint and Crescent Beaches and all parking areas are closed to the general public between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., with the exception of vehicles used in their official capacity by agents or employees of:
- (1) The Town;
 - (2) Public utilities;
 - (3) Emergency services; and
 - (4) Contractors providing service to or on behalf of the above.
- B. The owners or operators of any motor vehicles found in violation of this section will be summoned, and the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense, as provided in § 10.3.11.

§ 12.4.16. Beach closure.

The Town Manager is authorized to close the beaches to bathing when quality testing determines the water to be unhealthy for humans. The enforcement and penalty portion of this chapter does not apply to this section.

§ 12.4.17. Enforcement; violations and penalties.

This chapter is enforced by the Police Department. Any violation of this chapter will be assessed a penalty under Title 1, Chapter 1.3. All penalties recovered accrue to the benefit of the Town.

Chapter 12.5**FORT FOSTER****§ 12.5.1. Animals.**

With the exception of dogs, no domestic animals are allowed in Fort Foster Park, and dogs are subject to the following conditions:

- A. Dogs must be leashed at all times during park hours (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) on weekends in May and September and every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day, inclusive. A maximum leash of eight feet is allowed.
- B. While under control of the owner or keeper, dogs are also allowed in the park during the following days and times:
 - (1) During weekdays, prior to Memorial Day in May;
 - (2) Before park opening (sunrise to 10:00 a.m.) between Memorial Day and Labor Day;
 - (3) During weekdays, after Labor Day in September; and
 - (4) Between sunrise and sunset from October 1 to April 30, inclusive.
- C. A "pooper scooper" rule is in effect for dogs. Owners or keepers must take their dogs' solid waste with them when leaving the park.

§ 12.5.2. Beach closure.

The Town Manager is authorized to close the beaches to bathing when quality testing determines the water to be unhealthy for humans. The enforcement and penalty portion of this chapter does not apply to this section.

§ 12.5.3. Enforcement; violations and penalties.⁴

This chapter is enforced by the Police Department. Any violation of this chapter will be assessed a penalty under Title 1, Chapter 1.3. All penalties recovered accrue to the benefit of the Town.

Chapter 12.7**TOWN FARM**

4. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).

§ 12.7.1. Title.⁵

The ordinance codified in this chapter is called the "Town Farm Ordinance."

§ 12.7.2. Purpose.

- A. It is the purpose of this chapter to preserve the natural character and beauty of the forest at the site of the former Town farm. It is also the intent that John R. Haley's gift to the people be used for the good of all in his honor, as his will's intent to do good for the people is evident. Let it be known that henceforth and forever the people of Kittery set aside this parcel of land as an area to enjoy nature, to be preserved for future generations for the common good.
- B. "Town Farm" means the site of the former Town farm at 77 Haley Road (see Kittery Tax Map No. 48, Lot No. 7] and includes all land bounded within the following: on the north and west by the land now or formerly of David E. and Ann E. Blake, Harold L. Durgin Trust, Hilda M. Wilson and Brenda E. Lawrence and Lynda W. Clark and Jefferson L. Wilson; on the south and east by land now or formerly of Eugene and Hildred C. Lewis and the estate of Marion F. Lewis; excepting the Central Maine Power Company power line easement going through the property.

§ 12.7.3. Restrictions.

- A. No person may remove, injure or otherwise damage or deface any thing, plant material, sign, marker, bench or structure within the Town Farm. Use of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited. "Paint-ball" activities and materials are prohibited.
- B. Littering is prohibited. A carry-in, carry-out policy is in effect.
- C. Control of dogs is governed by Chapter 6.1. Dogs must be on a leash at all times unless under the control of the owner or keeper. This limitation does not apply to service dogs when used as such.
- D. No person may start or allow to burn any fire within the bounds of the Town Farm.
- E. No motor vehicles are allowed except in conformance with Chapter 12.8.
- F. No person may engage in indecent conduct within the Town Farm. As used in this section, "public indecency" is defined as put forth in Title 17-A, § 854 of the Maine Criminal Code.⁶
- G. No person may drink or consume any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mix liquors within the bounds of the Town Farm.

5. **Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).**

6. **Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).**

H. Camping is prohibited from 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., unless permitted by the Town Council.

§ 12.7.4. Hunting.

Signage will be posted at the entrances, stating that hunting is allowed.

§ 12.7.5. Enforcement.

This chapter is enforced by the Police Department. The Conservation Commission is responsible for the management of the Town Farm forest in accordance with the Town Farm forest management plan duly adopted by the Town Council.

§ 12.7.6. Violations and penalties.⁷

Any violation of this chapter will be assessed a penalty under Title 1, Chapter 1.3. All penalties recovered accrue to the benefit of the Town.

7. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1.1, Code Adoption).

Dog comments

Kristine Catalogna <[REDACTED]>

Wed 9/2/2020 7:22 PM

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

Dear Town Council Members,

First and foremost, thank you for your work on so many of the happenings and things that come up here in Kittery. Next, as a Kittery resident and dog owner I am going to respectfully ask that you do not make any changes to the current dog/ leash laws/ restrictions that exist here in Kittery. Please do not take this bit of joy from our dogs and for my family when we get to watch our dogs having the time of their lives.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Best Regards,

Kristine Catalogna
2 Lemont Ln,
Kittery, ME 03904

--

Kristine M. Catalogna, MSW, LICSW
pronouns: she / her / hers

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No new leash requirements

Molly Jacobson <[REDACTED]>

Wed 9/2/2020 5:08 PM

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

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern and discontentment over the proposed new leash requirements and "dog ban" at Fort Foster. I am a Kittery resident and I love enjoying all of the public areas that this town has to offer. This town has a great sense of community and part of that is owed to the free spaces where people enjoy exercising, relaxing, socializing, etc with their dogs. We are sometimes at Rogers Park twice a day with our dog. We love taking our dog to Fort Foster And Seapoint Beach. Losing access or being "patrolled" due to increased restrictions would be a major disappointment. Keep Kittery dog-friendly!!!!!!

Thank you,

Molly Jacobson

(413)210-6001

Park - re:dogs

Jennifer Sullivan <[REDACTED]>

Wed 9/2/2020 7:51 AM

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

Good morning,

I wanted to write as a dog owner and someone who walks almost daily at the woods. We really appreciate having these words especially with water access which is so rare and guarded in New Hampshire and Maine often not allowed for dogs. This park also allows for social distancing some thing that not all of us are able to do at dog parks and as someone with a sensitive system I need to be able to stay away from people while also walking my dog. I have never encountered a problem in this park with an off leash dog, I have encountered a problem With children not paying attention and running up and grabbing my dog with no parental supervision, this is much more concerning. I really let my dog off leash because I'm concerned about breaking the law, I would very much like to be able to let her off the leash so she can stretch your legs.

I also see a lot of older residents utilizing the park with their dogs, able to keep distance with their friends, this is incredibly important and even more so now given the pandemic and the ensuing mental trauma that can happen from being isolated from your friends.

Thank you for your time have a wonderful day please stay safe.

Jennifer Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

NO DOG BAN!

Samuel Wiese <[REDACTED]>

Tue 9/1/2020 9:57 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

Don't ban our dogs. Dogs are family to those who care for them. Studies show that they increase happiness and a sense of connection with those in their family. Sociologists are theorizing that dog owners are managing stress better during the covid pandemic than non dog owners because of the extra outside time. Dogs need spaces to run free and be happy, they need to socialize the same way we do.

If there are legitimate concerns, we can solve them through communication and education, not through polarizing and ostracizing bans.

Don't ban our dogs, don't diminish the scope of their lives, or ours. We're better than this, I have to believe. Our town has always loved and accepted dogs, don't stop now.

Sincerely,

A concerned, Kittery citizen

Dog ban

Clinton Wotton



Tue 9/1/2020 6:10 PM

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

We do not support dog ban.

Clint and Elaine Wotton
555 Haley Road

Sent from my iPhone

Fort Foster

Brianne Findlan <>

Tue 9/1/2020 4:05 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

Please consider allowing dogs to come to Fort Foster next year. We enjoy bringing our dog as one of the family, and have for many generations. Our dog enjoys being part of the beach adventure and getting time to swim with the children. The children enjoy it immensely and take pictures every visit, posting on social media. We purchase the Fort Foster pass to enjoy this beloved spot as a family. My spouse remembers the days when a pass wasn't necessary and he climbed throughout the tunnels as a child. He remembers all the great stories from 3 generations living in Kittery Point. It is quite disheartening to consider a time without our family friend. We enjoy the other dogs playing and enjoying their time. We want to continue this family tradition for generations to come. If you may please reconsider our beloved furry family.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Greg and Brie Findlan

Dog ordinance

Patricia Lynch <[REDACTED]>

Tue 9/1/2020 3:43 PM

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

Dear Town Council, please do not change the current ordinance that allows Dogs at certain hours during the summer season and more freely during the rest of the season at Fort Foster and Seapoint. As a tax-paying resident for the last 16 years I have seen that people have generally improved their behavior, not the opposite, picking up poop and leashing their dogs. I would be fine with an increased town pass for dog owners at Fort Foster but these parks are great for everybody including our canine friends who have been even more important during this time of COVID. I think this is tone-deaf to alter at this time. Consider stiffer fines, or passes for non-residents but don't reduce hours or ban dogs from the beach.

Sincerely

Patricia Lynch and Kent Stephens
61 Crockett Neck Road
Kittery Point, ME

Animal Control

Rich Stevens <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/31/2020 10:53 PM

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

Good evening,

I am commenting on the proposed changes to the animal control regulations in Kittery. I have lived here for five years upon retiring. While I am an animal lover, I do favor a restriction on permitting animals at recreation areas during the prime hours of use. One of my primary reasons for selecting Kittery was its beautiful beach and park areas.

My concerns are twofold. First, the requirement that animals be kept on a leash at all times is not always followed. As someone who has been bitten by dogs many times, I find myself becoming very fearful when I see an off leash dog in the area. The actual size of the animal is not my concern; it is simply the fact that animals may react to sounds or sights and attack without provocation, even if they normally are not prone to do so. Animals are animals and we cannot predict or manage their innate behaviour.

My second concern is a health and safety issue. It is very disheartening to see the feces very often left behind by animals. Owners at a beach or park typically do not even attempt to clean up waste, leaving it for others to deal with. There are many pictures on local community group pages showing the efforts of volunteers to clean up waste which should not have been permitted in the first place.

Having our animal control officers constantly cleaning and patrolling is a waste of our tax dollars. It is best to eliminate the problem at the start.

I suggest that dog parks are the most appropriate places for dogs to be allowed off leash. This is the most common protocol in most communities. It removes the risk of animal attacks, as well as limiting the area of waste to be remediated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Stevens
Kittery, ME

Please keep dogs on the beach in Kittery!

Sarah Graham <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/31/2020 8:11 PM

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

Hello Town of Kittery,

My family and I are residents in Kittery Point. We are writing to strongly urge the town to vote in favor of keeping dogs allowed on Seapoint Beach, Fort Foster and Rogers Park. It is such a huge benefit to our town, where we live and why we choose to live here.

We are in favor of whatever it takes to keep it that way, stricter leash laws, stricter waste rules (and fines!) and even paying for dog fees to have our pets in these spaces. I know a lot of other dog owners who feel the same way.

Thank you!

Sarah Owens
101 Pepperrell Road
Kittery Point

Sent from my iPhone

Keep Access for Dogs

Phyllis Ford



Mon 8/31/2020 3:37 PM

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

Dear Councillors-

I am not a dog owner, nor do I walk dogs for others. But my two 10-year-olds and I do enjoy seeing them play and visit our beaches. We have not had issues with aggressive dogs or bites, nor have we seen evidence of neglecting to clean up after pets.

Please keep access on our beaches for those dog owners - and DOGS! - who enjoy our natural resources responsibly.

Thanks,
Phyllis Ford
19 Bond Rd, Kittery Point ME 03905
phyllis@metaphorical.com

comments for the animal control hearing on 9/9

Holly Wren Spaulding 

Mon 8/31/2020 3:01 PM

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

Hello City Workers,

Thank you for taking time to consider public comments on the important issue of dogs in Kittery.

I want to suggest that more than a dog ban at the beaches, we need to address the ongoing and very daily problem of dogs barking in our residential neighborhoods.

I live near Lewis Square and wake to dogs barking every day. Throughout the day I hear barking coming from every direction and it will sometimes go on for 30 minutes or more, unattended. This is unacceptable.

It is stressful and absolutely a nuisance. I know that there are ordinances that forbid this sort of thing but where is the enforcement? I have spoken to neighbors about this issue in the past, at another address, and was verbally abused and chased from their driveway so I am not going to make the approach again, on my own. I would like the animal control officers to do that for us. It would be a wonderful use of our (increasing) tax dollars if they made it known that unattended barking is not acceptable, full stop. There must be some kind of consequence for this.

I realize that some people don't hear this sort of thing, or mind it, perhaps because they don't open their windows or have become accustomed to the noise, but I've listened to it every single day since I moved to Kittery Point and it remains unpleasant and unacceptable. Please include this issue in your discussion at the Star Theater. I understand that there are a lot of dog owners up in arms about access to the beaches and parks and I would love to see them clean up their own (and each other's dog waste, if need be) and control the barking, if they that privilege means so much to them.

I've owned dogs my whole life and have enjoyed their companionship; I also understand this comes with responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Holly Spaulding
Haley Rd.

dog ban

Peggo Horstmann Hodes <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/31/2020 8:48 AM

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

To the Town Council,

For 3 decades, I have been coming to Seapoint beach, walking out to the Point, sitting on the rocks there, and breathing in the salt waves and sparkling ocean. Every time, I would feel restored. My husband and I moved to Kittery Pt to be closer to this heaven. Part of what we loved and still love is the friendly dog community. I couldn't wait to get a dog and walk him on the beach in the mornings or at the end of the day. In the off-season, we walk our dog on a leash at Fort Foster and marvel at the beauty of the light houses, ever-changing ocean and the Isles of Shoals. At both Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster, people are friendly and helpful and when appropriate, the dogs get to play.

I have heard that one of the issues is the dog waste. We have always picked up the dog waste, Some people have picked up ours before we have finished our walk. We pick up other bags. We in the dog community look out for each other and for the necessity to keep the beach clean. I also pick up trash left on the beach or washed up.

The beach is a communal space, bringing people together in nature. It makes people happy just being there and brings out the best in people. Please don't take away our right to bring dogs. The current time restrictions are perfectly reasonable, leaving the beach dog-free during the day for families to enjoy. It is unreasonable to ban dogs altogether. Being able to walk our dog at Seapoint is a large part of why we moved here. This is a friendly, open town. Let's keep it that way.

Sincerely hoping you will not adopt this ban on dogs,
Peggo and Paul Hodes
36 Goose Pt.

Untitled

Douglas Edmunds 

Sun 8/30/2020 3:59 PM

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

To the Town Council Members and the Town Manager,

I am writing to say that I am opposed to the proposed changes to the dog leash laws and access to the Kittery public parks. The proposed changes are, IN EFFECT, a ban on dogs.

A good dog owner will take his dog for a walk once a day and if he is excluded at that time from Fort Foster, Rogers Park, Seapoint beach and John Paul Jones Park the owner is unlikely to bring the dog back home, then take a second walk, without the dog, at any of the aforementioned parks. It's sort of like saying young children are only allowed in town parks after midnight.

Both the insurance industry and the legal profession are doing yeoman's work weeding out aggressive dogs and irresponsible owners and over the last 10 years most dog owners have gotten the message and cleaned up their act. In this year of traditional regulations on citizens, one more set of discriminatory laws passed by the Town Council may feel like one too many.

Thank you,

Douglas and Cynthia Edmunds
14 Island Avenue
Kittery, Maine

Dogs on Beaches

Lincoln Fairchild <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/30/2020 9:17 AM

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

Members of the Town Council:

Before Kittery acquired Ft. Foster, Seapoint was the only town beach. As there were no parking restrictions, residents and non-residents flocked to Seapoint. Yet, despite its popularity, there were no dog restrictions. Eventually some complained about dogs. The Town Council listened to both sides of the debate and wisely and fairly established the existing regulations. A balance was reached.

Now we are at the crossroads again, revisiting a well-resolved issue. While the focus is “dogs on the beach”, the issue is much broader. One group would like to impose its will to the exclusion of others who do not share their view. The existing regulations give each group an opportunity to share what they feel is wonderful about Kittery beaches.

Please reject any changes the current regulations concerning dogs on Kittery beaches.

Lincoln Fairchild
8 Pocahontas Road

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dog leash laws

Jennifer Cornwell 

Sat 8/29/2020 11:41 AM

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

I have lived on the seacoast for 40 years and have frequented fort Foster (before it was "discovered"), Rogers Park, or Seapoint beach...and Urban forestry Center on nearly a daily basis.

There is NOT a problem with off leash dogs.

My dog is now 17 and senile and grumpy. She will not run up to people or dogs. She cannot run. I put a leash on her if I see someone coming with their dog off leash...they ALWAYS respond by asking if it's ok to have their dog off, and I explain ...and we quickly move by each other with or without leashes...all very civil!!!!

There are so few places to take dogs and let them explore, and play, and run....if they are able. Please do not take this away....Especially during a pandemic when we are all stressed and need to have these outdoor places to enjoy.

Thank you

Jennifer Cornwell

Portsmouth (formerly of kittery point)

Sent from my iPhone

Proposed Dog Ban at Seapoint

jim karlovich <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/29/2020 10:55 AM

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

Dear Council members,

We are residents of Kittery, having arrived a year and a half ago. We decided to live in Kittery for a variety of reasons.....but.....an important one for us was the existence of Seapoint with it's dog friendly beach.

We visit the beach between 3 and 6 times each week, year round. Our dog loves to run along the water on it. Even now with a leash he still loves it. Prior to the current covid experience we would see easily 10 or more dogs on the beach every visit, none of which was ever aggressive towards people or our smaller dog. We also have noted that dog owners are quite good at picking up after their pets. I think we may have picked up after other dogs no more than 2 or 3 times in a year and a half.

So, I am left wondering why? Why do people want to take away what is clearly well appreciated and used by so many residents. We aren't aware of any history of concerns or complaints but I expect if there are specific complaints all of us dog owners would happily deal with them if it meant preservation of this beach for dog and human use.

Thank you for considering our input.

Jim Karlovich and Kate Robinson of Shepard's Cove

Dog Ban

LA Pace <>

Fri 8/28/2020 5:22 PM

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

For many years I have walked my dogs on Seapoint Beach and in Fort Foster and Rogers Park. I would say that for the most part, people I have observed are conscientious about cleaning up after their pets, often more than beach goers, as witnessed by the trash left behind by them.

I have seen up to 20 dogs loose on the beach, playing together or with their owners and are not a threat to anyone. In fact, dogs tend to be less aggressive when not on a leash.

It seems fair that there are specific hours for dogs during the summer, when there are more folks spending the day at these locations.

There are a lot of dog owners in Kittery and we have been fortunate to have these places available to let our dogs run and play, which in turns helps their help and well-being. It also gives us dog owners a sense of community because I have met and spoken to more people at these venues than anywhere else in Kittery.

Someone suggested having a trash can available, which would be helpful. Sometimes people pick up after their dogs and forget to pick up that poo bag on the path on the return trip. I have done that myself, once or twice, I have picked up poop bags left on the path or the beach and I know others have done it for me. With all due respect, I feel that the dog issue is a non-issue. They are not hurting anything.

Laurie Pace

Dog rules

Zoe Rice <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/28/2020 2:56 PM

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

Hello, my name is Zoe Rice and I have a 3 year old Australian Shepherd who has a crazy amount of energy. I am writing in regards to the current issue surrounding dogs allowed off leash at Rogers Park, Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster. There are so few places left around here that dogs are allowed to roam free and get out their energy. If you get rid of these places too, where else will we go? You could definitely lose some tourism from this because I know a lot of people come visit with their dogs here and love the beaches. Families, bikers, joggers and others have already taken over these places that used to be a sanctuary for dog owners and now we get yelled at even if our dog is ON a leash!! So many people have dogs- and high-energy dogs like mine need to be off leash to ever get any true exercise. There will be more dog fights if leash laws are put in place because many dogs are leash aggressive and actually do better off leash. Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider what I have said.

- Zoe Rice

Sent from my iPhone

Leash Laws

Ally Brytz <a [REDACTED]>

Fri 8/28/2020 2:01 PM

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

I am writing to you today to request that the leash laws remain as they are in the town of Kittery, Maine. I understand people can find dogs a nuisance, but responsible dog owners are already so limited in where we can take our dogs, please don't take away the few times and places we can go with our dogs off leash. Walking your dog off leash in the woods or at the beach is one of the greatest pleasures in these strange times we are facing for so many seacoast residents. Please don't make Kittery any less dog friendly. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Alexandra Brytz

New rules for Dogs

cynthia smith <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/28/2020 1:50 PM

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

Salutations!

I am not in favor of modifying the dog rules in Kittery. I think Rogers should remain off leash with dogs under voice command. As I walked Rogers Park the other day, I made a special point to look for dog poop, I did not see any !

I think the currents rules for Ft Foster and Seapoint Beach are fair. It's really nice to be able to use both during the off season. There are so few places left where dogs and their owners are free. Please don't reduce our axis, or require leashes.

Thank you,
Cynthia Smith

Sent from my iPad

dog ordinance

Susan Antal <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/28/2020 11:44 AM

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

I am not a dog owner and frequent Fort Foster often. In the past, it has been early morning before the park opened but now around 10am.

I am a senior and live alone. One of the highlights of my day is chatting with dog owners and oftentimes petting their four legged buddies. As we are not allowed pets where I live, I find this to be an amazing calming free therapy. Please consider allowing pets off leash, under owner's command when the park is not officially open.

Sincerely,
Susan Antal
Kittery, ME

Dog Ban for Parks

Rosaleen Moore < >

Thu 8/27/2020 8:33 AM

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

I disagree with banning dogs from the parks. I am an animal lover and find dogs especially endearing and enjoyable. Please reconsider this idea as it deprives all of us of the interaction with these loving creatures and takes away another pleasant venue where owners can enjoy time with their dogs.

Rosaleen Moore

Petition to prevent dog ban

Sarah Brunt <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/26/2020 10:50 AM

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

To whom it may concern:

Dogs are not the problem!

The top reason for banning dogs from beaches is because of the owner's disregard for laws and etiquette. Let's not punish our pooches for poor performance by owners. Let's propose that a set of reasonable rules be established and that owners must adhere. Each dog owner must agree to the rules in place. Everyone must be respectful or be fined and leave. Leash Violation is a hot topic and park officials are forced to monitor dog owners. Thanks to many local dog advocates, Fort Foster has been a wonderful experience for people and their four-legged friends.

Can we establish a dog committee to assist park officials in forming pet friendly, people respectful laws and enforcing them? At the dog beach, dogs will have the freedom to run off-leash, but must be well-behaved around other dogs and people, and must listen to verbal commands. Owners need to clean up after their pet. Many people have moved to this area because of Fort Foster's dog beach. Many are also willing to assist in setting up specific off-leash areas. Local people and local pet-related businesses should be the ones funding the fencing, poop bags and dispensers and personnel for a dog beach.. And once a month, volunteers should get together to help pick up dog waste that not-so-responsible dog owners failed to pick up.

Together we can help save our remaining dog-friendly beach. In order to do this, we must all be responsible dog owners. Follow the leash laws and always clean up after your pets. Let us hope that enough dog owners do in fact listen to the rules and regulations, so we and our best friends can continue to play on the beach for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheers!

-Sarah

FW: Form submission from: Questions / Comments

Suzanne Esposito

Wed 8/26/2020 7:30 AM

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

Suzanne Esposito
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
Office Manager
Town of Kittery
207-475-1309
200 Rogers Road
Kittery, ME 03904
Visit us on the web!
Follow Us on Twitter

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Causey <ACausey@kitteryme.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Suzanne Esposito <SEsposito@kitteryme.org>
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Questions / Comments

Thank you,

Adam Causey, AICP
Director of Planning & Development

Town of Kittery
200 Rogers Road
Kittery, ME 03904
Phone (207) 475-1307
acausey@kitteryme.org

-----Original Message-----

From: cmsmailer@civicplus.com <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:10 PM
To: Adam Causey <ACausey@kitteryme.org>
Subject: Form submission from: Questions / Comments

Submitted on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 - 9:10pm Submitted by anonymous user: 70.16.221.46 Submitted values are:

Subject: Contact the Director of Planning and Development

Message: I don't know if your department handles this, but I am upset by the plan to ban dogs from the parks in town. I am an animal lover and feel it is unnecessary to do this. I love to see dogs, and am sure owners would keep

them on leash. Please reconsider this idea.

==Please provide the following information==

Your Name: Rosaleen Moore

Your E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Organization: none

Phone Number: 4 [REDACTED]

==Address==

Street: 168 Woodbridge Road, Unit 2

City: York

State: Maine

Zipcode: 03909

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.kitteryme.gov/node/2/submission/10006>

Dog ordinance

eric boyan <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/26/2020 12:34 AM

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

CC: [REDACTED]

As a resident of Kittery Point, I feel if dogs are to continue to be allowed at Fort Foster/Seapoint significant fines should be imposed on dog owners who blatantly ignore the clearly posted rules. Make the fines steep enough that word spreads quickly that this town is seriously enforcing the rules. Also enough that it offsets the cost of enforcing the rules. Start with 500.00 for an off leash offense. These are the easiest to catch... How about 300.00 for failure to pickup after your dog. Maybe 500.00 for picking up but leaving the bag behind.... Send a strong serious message. Let the dogs enjoy the parks and beaches. Make the dog owner pay for there irresponsible actions.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Boyan
Kittery Point

Sent from my iPhone

Doggies

Nathan Mullen <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/25/2020 7:12 PM

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

The Dogs are not the problem!

The top reason for banning dogs from beaches is because of owner's disregard for laws and etiquette. Let's not punish our pooches for poor performance by owners. Let's propose that a set of reasonable rules be established and that owners must adhere. Each dog owner must agree to the rules in place. Everyone must be respectful or be fined and leave. Leash Violation is a hot topic and park officials are forced to monitor dog owners. Thanks to many local dog advocates, Fort Foster has been a wonderful experience for people and their four-legged friends.

Can we establish a dog committee to assist park officials in forming pet friendly, people respectful laws and enforcing them? At the dog beach, dogs will have the freedom to run off-leash, but must be well-behaved around other dogs and people, and must listen to verbal commands. Owners need to clean up after their pet. Many people have moved to this area because of Fort Foster's dog beach. Many are also willing to assist in setting up specific off-leash areas. Local people and local pet-related businesses should be the ones funding the fencing, poop bags and dispensers and personnel for a dog beach.. And once a month, volunteers should get together to help pick up dog waste that not-so-responsible dog owners failed to pick up.

Together we can help save our remaining dog-friendly beach. In order to do this, we must all be responsible dog owners. Follow the leash laws and always clean up after your pets. Let us hope that enough dog owners do in fact listen to the rules and regulations, so we and our best friends can continue to play on the beach for generations to come.

Sent from my iPhone

Doggies

Burke, Bonnie

Tue 8/25/2020 7:09 PM

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

The Dogs are not the problem!

The top reason for banning dogs from beaches is because of owner's disregard for laws and etiquette. Let's not punish our pooches for poor performance by owners. Let's propose that a set of reasonable rules be established and that owners must adhere. Each dog owner must agree to the rules in place. Everyone must be respectful or be fined and leave. Leash Violation is a hot topic and park officials are forced to monitor dog owners. Thanks to many local dog advocates, Fort Foster has been a wonderful experience for people and their four-legged friends.

Can we establish a dog committee to assist park officials in forming pet friendly, people respectful laws and enforcing them? At the dog beach, dogs will have the freedom to run off-leash, but must be well-behaved around other dogs and people, and must listen to verbal commands. Owners need to clean up after their pet. Many people have moved to this area because of Fort Foster's dog beach. Many are also willing to assist in setting up specific off-leash areas. Local people and local pet-related businesses should be the ones funding the fencing, poop bags and dispensers and personnel for a dog beach.. And once a month, volunteers should get together to help pick up dog waste that not-so-responsible dog owners failed to pick up.

Together we can help save our remaining dog-friendly beach. In order to do this, we must all be responsible dog owners. Follow the leash laws and always clean up after your pets. Let us hope that enough dog owners do in fact listen to the rules and regulations, so we and our best friends can continue to play on the beach for generations to come.

Please allow dogs on beaches still!

monica geisler <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/25/2020 4:21 PM

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

Please allow dogs on beaches still, they are not the problem!

The top reason for banning dogs from beaches is because of an owner's disregard for laws and etiquette. Let's not punish our pooches for poor performance by owners. Let's propose that a set of reasonable rules be established and that owners must adhere. Each dog owner must agree to the rules in place. Everyone must be respectful or be fined and leave. Leash Violation is a hot topic and park officials are forced to monitor dog owners. Thanks to many local dog advocates, Fort Foster has been a wonderful experience for people and their four-legged friends.

Can we establish a dog committee to assist park officials in forming pet friendly, people respectful laws and enforcing them? At the dog beach, dogs will have the freedom to run off-leash, but must be well-behaved around other dogs and people, and must listen to verbal commands. Owners need to clean up after their pet. Many people have moved to this area because of Fort Foster's dog beach. Many are also willing to assist in setting up specific off-leash areas. Local people and local pet-related businesses should be the ones funding the fencing, poop bags and dispensers and personnel for a dog beach.. And once a month, volunteers should get together to help pick up dog waste that not-so-responsible dog owners failed to pick up.

Together we can help save our remaining dog-friendly beach. In order to do this, we must all be responsible dog owners. Follow the leash laws and always clean up after your pets. Let us hope that enough dog owners do in fact listen to the rules and regulations, so we and our best friends can continue to play on the beach for generations to come.

Kind regards from a family who often visits the Kittery beaches.
The Arnolds

Dog Ban Fort Foster

Otto Frankowski <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/25/2020 4:07 PM

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

Afternoon Kittery,

My brother and I both regularly make day trips to Kittery with our dogs. It is one of our favorite summer pastimes. We are Somersworth residents and always make a point to clean up, keep our dogs leashed and under control. Under normal circumstances we buy a seasons pass for the beach and spend significant parts of the summer at Fort Foster because it is The Best beach for the dogs. We would be happy to pay an extra fee for dogs.

- Otto Frankowski

Re: Fort Foster No to Dog Ban

Jennifer Kiley <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/25/2020 2:15 PM

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

Town Council Members,

I watched the meeting that was held on 8/17 and feel that perhaps a more clarifying email than the one I sent below may be in order. I realize you are not banning dogs all the time but what is being proposed is essentially still a "ban" in that it will be "banning" dogs during the prime daylight hours. If this were to take effect I, as well as my family, would not be purchasing passes. We love Fort Foster because it is one of the few places where the entire family can go for the whole day. There are many beaches to choose from in Maine but the fact that the whole family can be together for the day at Fort Foster makes it stand head and shoulders above the other options. I'm a firm believer in if it ain't broke don't fix it. There's so many issues going on currently that it is disheartening that this one joy of a beautiful place to visit for the day could be taken away. Please reconsider making changes to the current ordinance for Fort Foster. If that is not possible, I, and my family, would greatly appreciate a different solution such as one of the beaches remains accessible all day for families with dogs. Or dogs must be on leash from 10-4:30. This would be completely feasible with signs. I don't think the dog lovers should be pushed out of the best part of the day and consigned to the colder, darker parts. That seems wrong. I truly hope you continue to make this favorite place our "whole" family, full day, go to for years to come...

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kiley

On Sunday, August 23, 2020, 11:45:56 AM EDT, Jennifer Kiley <jenniferkiley@yahoo.com> wrote:

Town Council Members,

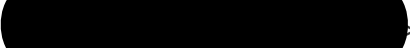
First I would like to thank the town of Kittery for having such a beautiful park as Fort Foster. We have been season pass holders for 2 years now. I am writing this to say please do not ban dogs at Fort Foster. There are other solutions that would still allow dogs. We would not be purchasing a season 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

Dogs

Lindsay Kunz < >

Tue 8/25/2020 1:24 PM

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

The Dogs are not the problem!

The top reason for banning dogs from beaches is because of owner's disregard for laws and etiquette. Let's not punish our pooches for poor performance by owners. Let's propose that a set of reasonable rules be established and that owners must adhere. Each dog owner must agree to the rules in place. Everyone must be respectful or be fined and leave. Leash Violation is a hot topic and park officials are forced to monitor dog owners. Thanks to many local dog advocates, Fort Foster has been a wonderful experience for people and their four-legged friends.

Can we establish a dog committee to assist park officials in forming pet friendly, people respectful laws and enforcing them? At the dog beach, dogs will have the freedom to run off-leash, but must be well-behaved around other dogs and people, and must listen to verbal commands. Owners need to clean up after their pet. Many people have moved to this area because of Fort Foster's dog beach. Many are also willing to assist in setting up specific off-leash areas. Local people and local pet-related businesses should be the ones funding the fencing, poop bags and dispensers and personnel for a dog beach.. And once a month, volunteers should get together to help pick up dog waste that not-so-responsible dog owners failed to pick up.

Together we can help save our remaining dog-friendly beach. In order to do this, we must all be responsible dog owners. Follow the leash laws and always clean up after your pets. Let us hope that enough dog owners do in fact listen to the rules and regulations, so we and our best friends can continue to play on the beach for generations to come.

Lindsay Kunz

Fwd: Dog ban ft foster

Ron Blum <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/25/2020 1:20 PM

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

FYI

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

From: **Jennifer Blum** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 1:12 PM

Subject: Dog ban ft foster

To: [REDACTED]

Please send to towncomments@kitteryme.org

The Dogs are not the problem!

The top reason for banning dogs from beaches is because of owner's disregard for laws and etiquette. Let's not punish our pooches for poor performance by owners. Let's propose that a set of reasonable rules be established and that owners must adhere. Each dog owner must agree to the rules in place. Everyone must be respectful or be fined and leave. Leash Violation is a hot topic and park officials are forced to monitor dog owners. Thanks to many local dog advocates, Fort Foster has been a wonderful experience for people and their four-legged friends.

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Sent from my iPhone

9/1/2020

Fwd: Dog ban ft foster - town comments

This e-mail may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you suspect that you were not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender as soon as possible.

--

Roni

Ron Blum

APEX Paper Corporation

290 Barrett Hill Rd.

Mahopac, NY 10541

Phone-845 621 2350

Fax-845 628 2834

rblumapexpaper@gmail.com

Fort Foster Dog Resolution



Tue 8/25/2020 8:37 AM

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

I realized I missed the meeting.

If the town is unable to enforce the current rules, why not consider park entry to Kittery residents only? If the park remains open to non residents and dogs are permitted the fee must be increased significantly.

This also should apply to Seapoint as well.

Kittery residents are turned away due to insufficient parking. Limit only to residents.

Thank you for you consideration.

Joe Gasbarro

Sent from my iPhone

Judy spiller's response to the Rocky Beach proposal

Tamara Jo Corcoran <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 8:24 PM

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

Hi, it's me again. I sent the first email off without proof-reading it very well and I must say its quite the convoluted statement. I have edited it some and will now give you the better, updated version. As you may have already surmised, I am not someone who usually communicates through emails so mine are very rough sounding and I apologize for that but I still think the message itself is solid. Thanks for listening.

I believe Chairperson Judy Spiller's retort on why using Rocky Beach as a dog beach during the park's open hours should not be based on what Her dog can and cannot do. First let me address the comment about getting to and from the beach, that's an easy one; dogs will be leashed to and from Rocky Beach. There, one problems solved :) Now on the topic of dogs not staying on the specific beach I also have a solution...those particular dogs should Not be unleashed if the owners cannot keep them at that spot. One of the plus sides to my argument is dog owners would be adamant about policing this beach so they wouldn't lose it. Example, if someone has an aggressive dog we would ask that owner to re-leash the dog. But my main point here and now is I don't believe my proposal for using Rocky Beach as a dog-friendly area should have been negated or decided based on the behavior of the chairperson's own dog. I found it dismissive and unprofessional. Do other issues get decided upon this way? I hope not! This leads me to one of the essential points of this matter- you will still to end up punishing the good owners with the irresponsible owners and I believe we all find that very unfair. How about for just this once we don't lets the jerks decide our action?! After all we pay just as much as anyone else to use that park and have done nothing wrong. What is so difficult in finding a compromise to this problem that doesn't exclude the good guys? So...why not reward the dog owners that have been at the park for 20+ years whose dogs have never been a problem. The owners who have not only picked up after their own dogs but have even picked up poop left behind by the inevitable selfish, lazy people we will Always have in this world. Also, for every complaint you receive from someone about a dog issue are the many many more non-complaints you will never hear as of course no one calls to say, "Gee, what a great day at FF I had - no dogs jumped on me, everyone behaved, etc. "

PS: By the way, I have also seen kids knocked down by people playing sports so why not limit their activities too?

Thank you again for your time,
Tamara Corcoran

Re: dogs at Seapoint & FF

Andrew Hickson <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:50 PM

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

Cc: Ame Wren <[REDACTED]>;

Town Council of Kittery,

Following up on my wife Ame Wren's email I want to **thank Council members** for the following during my first attendance of a Town Council meeting tonight:

- 1- **Clarifying** that dogs are NOT being banned up front and often during the meeting.
- 2- **Deciding** to read the names of those who commented in lieu of all the comments which IMO made a lot of sense to defer to the hearing.
- 3- Not only having had a workshop last week (which we missed) but more importantly **publishing the workshop content** in such an easily accessible fashion on the website (The site was very intuitive and easy to navigate).

We will review to provide more informed comments/suggestions/feedback in advance or at the Sept 9th Hearing as we were working with some misinformation / incomplete information it would seem and want to better understand the proposal.

Lastly wonderful job by the town manager handling the TIF amendment overview and Q&A.

Andrew Hickson

[LinkedIn](#)

978-399-4685

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 10:30 AM Ame Wren <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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

Chairperson Judy Spiller's comment regarding why Rocky Beach is not a viable solution.

Tamara Jo Corcoran <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:43 PM

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

I believe Chairperson Judy Spiller's retort on why using Rocky Beach as a dog beach during the park's open hours should not be based on what Her dog can and cannot do. First let me address the comment about getting to and from the beach, that's an easy one-dogs will be leashed to and from Rocky Beach. There, one problems solved. On the topic of dogs not staying on the specific beach I also have a solution...those particular dogs should not be unleashed if the owner cannot keep them at that spot.One of the plus sides to my argument is the dog owners would definitely be adamant about policing this beach so they wouldn't lose it. But what I really find important is to say I don't believe my proposal for using Rocky Beach as a dog-friendly area should be negated or decided based on the behavior of the chairperson's own dog. This is one of the essential points to this matter- you are still punishing the good owners with the irresponsible owners and we find that very unfair. We pay just as much as anyone else to use that park and have done NOTHING wrong. What is so difficult in finding a compromise to this problem that doesn't exclude the good guys?

So why not reward the dog owners that have been at the park for 20+ years whose dogs have never been a problem. The owners who have not only picked up after their own dogs but have even picked up poop left behind by the inevitable selfish, lazy people we will Always have in this world. Also, for every complaint you receive from someone about a dog issue is the many many more non-complaints you will never hear as of course no one calls to say, "Gee, what a great day at FF I had; no dogs jumped on me, etc."

PS: By the way, I have also seen kids knocked down by people playing sports so why not limit their activities too?

Thank you again for your time,

Tamara Corcoran

Fw: Dogs

cakelly <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 6:21 PM

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

I apologize. I believe the comments about disliking dogs should be attributed to Mr. Tomson, not the town manager.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: cakelly <[REDACTED]>

To: towncomments@kitteryme.org <towncomments@kitteryme.org>

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020, 3:12:10 PM EDT

Subject: Dogs

Hi,

The current system of having dogs on the beach at different times than people and having dogs at fort foster, seems to be working. What is the issue? Can you define the problem you are trying to solve? My concern is that the town manager's dislike for dogs should not be driving these changes, but a public need is. I've not heard of a need.

There are so few places anyone can walk with their dogs, it seems crazy to remove 2 successful ones. The town manager's comments about not having a dog unless you have a large yard, notwithstanding, what is the actual problem here?

Regards,
Christine Kelly

No Dog Ban - mixed use compromise

Angie Littlefield <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 5:08 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing as a new resident of kittery and dog owner to ask my town representatives to please maintain mixed use at Seapoint, Fort Foster & Rogers Park. I also ask that you maintain some area for off leash times for dogs. Clearly post this so that visitors to places know the rules.

Honestly, part of the reason I moved to Kittery is because I have so loved walking my dog on leash in town, and off leash during the appropriate times at Seapoint. I have interacted with other dog owners and dogs who were not so great to be around but as a reasonable and kind human I choose to not allow this to cause me to think we should ban or restrict every dog or human who is problematic. We don't ban drivers who speed (and we certainly have some issues with that on certain roads in this town) and we don't even catch them all. We don't ban humans who J Walk from walking, we don't ban parents who have children who misbehave. We can all be more tolerant and kind while also having clear rules/laws and more effective ways of enforcing them. Also, we could put trash receptacles at these locations to encourage humans to put dog AND human waste into them.

Thank you for your service and for listening to the residents you represent. There is enough space for all of us to share!!!

Sincerely,
Angie Littlefield

Sent from my iPhone

Kittery and dogs - enough space for us all to share

Oceana Brandon <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 4:55 PM

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

Cc:[REDACTED]

Hello - (resending due to some of the emails being incorrect as listed online)

I am writing as a resident of Kittery who was born in Kittery, currently owns two houses here and has convinced 3 of my friends (2 of whom have dogs) to buy homes in Kittery. I am very invested in this town and love it a WHOLE LOT. I am writing to request a couple of simple things. Beyond these couple of requests I have included some comments on some of the proposed changes after reading through them thoroughly and giving it lots of thought.

The two things I am writing to you to request are:

1. A respectful, civil, and open-minded dialogue regarding this issue, that incorporates facts/data and personal experiences (this should be the approach to all issues, really!)
2. Prioritizing solutions that are inclusive, well thought out, and not based on 1 or 2 peoples (residents and/or town council members) own opinions, experiences or views.

You, as town council members, are elected to represent us, the residents of this town, and to serve us and the town as a whole (individuals, businesses, the gorgeous land and water areas, our animals, and the folks who visit our town for any variety of reasons, etc.) You are not elected to our town council to push your own agendas.

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

Please maintain a space in Kittery where dogs can be **off leash and socialize with each other** at least some days or hours of the day. Humans are social beings and so are dogs. It is wonderful to have a space where we can be together. Dogs also do much better when they can socialize. Some of the dogs with behavioral issues are that way because they were not properly socialized. We can do this while also having spaces that are human only, AND other spaces where dogs are on-leash and/or humans who don't want to be around dogs know that there are hours when dogs are allowed and hours when dogs are not. I think the hours at Seapoint are great! I sometimes leave my dog at home and go to Seapoint or Fort Foster without them because I want to enjoy that space without a dog around. I am thrilled for other people to be able to have a peaceful time at the beach without dogs. I am also thrilled to be able to go earlier in the morning or in the evening and let my dog run and socialize or to have spaces at Fort Foster designated for dogs or no dogs during their open season. Keeping my dog on leash at every public space actually increases the likelihood of incidents as dogs tend to be more protective of owners when on-leash and can get tangled with other dogs. Please have some off leash space and time for dogs with signs clearly stating those times so that everyone knows the rules and what to expect when entering that space. I propose some ideas below.

35 C. Owners must immediately collect and properly dispose of or secure feces left by their dog(s) on any improved portion of public ways or sidewalks, and in public parks. Owners or responsible parties must maintain possession of their dog's feces while on public property.

- Local businesses are working on sponsoring trash cans at these sights. This is how much we love Kittery and love having places to be with our dogs and each other in Kittery. If we work on addressing these issues collaboratively then we can all find common ground and ways that we can make some changes that allow for us solve the problems without going to

unnecessary extremes, without being hurtful to each other, and without alienating residents and visitors who pay taxes in Kittery and who spend money at local businesses partially because they can enjoy outings with their dogs here! I frequently take walks at Seapoint and at Fort Foster and the amount of dog poop bags I see left out is very minimal! I really think that providing some trash cans (again, even private citizens are willing to sponsor trash cans and trash pick up!) would help to further eliminate this issue.

38 D. No person responsible party may have more than 1 dog under voice control at large on public property, at any time.

- Why not 2 dogs? Some people have 2 dogs (perhaps even some of the town council members) that have been raised together and are very well behaved together and actually keep each other in check or help to keep each other from bothering other humans.

40 E. No person may be a responsible party for more than 3 dogs at any time while in a Town park.

- What about professional dog walkers? There are professional dog walkers who manage more than 3 dogs as their business and could have 5 dogs, all on leash, and manage them all well.

45 H. Seapoint and Crescent Beaches 46 1. Dogs are prohibited, between the hours of 10AM and 5PM, between Memorial Day and Labor Day 47 inclusive. 48 2. Dogs must be on a leash between May 1 and September 30, inclusive.

- Why are we not allowing dogs off leash prior to 10am and after 5pm?

OR allow dogs off leash at Crescent beach only as it tends to have less people sitting or laying out. OR have dogs off leash at Seapoint/Crescent beach ONLY between September 30th and Memorial Day.

49 I. Rogers Park 50 1. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

- Dogs must be on leash between 7am and 5pm and can be off leash after 5pm (the pre-school children are gone by then)

OFF LEASH AREA/DOG PARK:

Please have at least 1 location that allows dogs to be off leash for at least some hours of the day! If it is not going to be at any of these locations then lets create a fenced in dog park where this can happen. I recommend all town council members visit the dog park in Ogunquit. It is LOVELY and people are so friendly and gracious there and some folks have really invested in maintaining it beyond what the town even does. If Kittery were to create a space similar to this (large fenced-in area with trees, wood chip covered ground, a couple of benches, a hose to fill water bowls, poop bags and a large trash can) then it would be acceptable to have the other sites be on leash.

CLEAR SIGNAGE at all sites (Rogers, Fort Foster, Seapoint, Town Farm Forest) Rules need to be posted more clearly in order to be enforced.

It is currently stated in the town regulations re: Seapoint and Crescent Beaches (Chapter 12.4) "*From May 15 to September 30, inclusive, only dogs licensed to Town residents are allowed on Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.*" However, this is NOT stated on a sign at the beach.

Sincerely,
Oceana Brandon

Park access for dogs

Charles Reardon <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 3:40 PM

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

Good afternoon

My wife and I are Kittery residents with a dog that is always leashed, we visit Fort Foster almost every day with our Dog. In my experience it is rare that I find another dog not leashed. It has also been noted the park is very well maintained and find it clean with folks removing their dogs waste when leaving. With the many restrictions due to Covid I think it is vital we maintain access to town parks. We would fully support a leash / under owner control directive and the requirement that dog waste must be removed.

Thanks Charlie Reardon

Sent from my iPad

RE: Fort Foster PRO-DOG

Rochelle Joseph <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 1:52 PM

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

Hello,

I'm writing very much in support of Fort Foster beach and trails remaining dog friendly.

There have never been too many, or bothersome to me. Nor have I seen fights, or off leash dogs getting in the business of anyone. They are too busy enjoying themselves, like the rest of us.

I've never personally come upon dog poop on the beach (and I criss cross walk the length of it at low and high tides, so cover both the grassy/rocky areas as well as the shoreline), nor have I found abandoned bags of poop like I have seen elsewhere. It's pretty special to have the ability to bring your dog to a beach and I think people have been pretty conscientious at FF.

Lastly, I don't have a dog, so I **am making this argument without any direct self-interest**, save that seeing dogs on the beach, adds great joy and delight, watching their different shapes and sizes, how happy they are to be there, how they interact with their owners.

People need to take their dogs out, not just for the twice a day dutiful walk, but to feel some freedom and play, **Fort Foster provides a SAFE place for families to do that**. There are way too many dangerously small or winding roads in Kittery without sidewalks to limit people to that.

Also, dogs get their people out for fresh air, sunshine and exercise, and on the beach people get 10x the health benefits than they do when limited to their own yards, or the occasional dog parks, of which there are few...

People live on the northern seaboard because of the ocean access... It would be tragic if they can't bring their dogs--part of the family —as they come out for the sanity and good health only salt water and air ocean air and long walks can bring.

I think it would **greatly reduce the appeal of Fort Foster** to be dog-restricted. And that will affect the town financially too. Those who bring their dogs get take out, buy gasoline, shop, visit coffee shops and breweries, check out local farmers and artisan markets... always an economic boon but critical now that so many are struggling to stay afloat especially during Covid.

The more people who can come visit, and don't need to rush back home to let out the dog, bring economic salvation to locals... That is IMPORTANT.

Thank you,
Rochelle Joseph

include this at the meeting please

N Linscott

Mon 8/24/2020 1:07 PM

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

N LINSCOTT

12:50 PM (2 minutes ago)

to Kendra

Hi, Lots of talk about banning dogs in public but where dogs are allowed, dangers exist. Bicycles on the sidewalks are common. My dog Baxter was injured by a bike forcing him off the sidewalk tearing his rear leg a few years back. He has never been the same. I have complained to public works and the police about the need for signage and enforcement. No or little interest. Public Works did paint tiny painted no bikes on the pavement. They were just trying to shut me up. They were invisible. With forcing man's best friend from safe places and back to walking the sidewalks we need to be safe. This morning I went to step out of my doorway and a bike on the sidewalk at 30 mph coming down the hill on Government almost hit me. If Baxter had been in front he would have been killed. I have watched police officers more than once sitting in their cars and a bike flies by them on the sidewalk without a reaction. How many laws or rules won't they enforce? Masks, no. Bikes, no? Maybe it just selective enforcement we have here. I know the deal on masks but I included it. If my little boy Baxter is killed in front of me, it won't be pretty. Can we please post signs and just act like we care about all laws and enforce them? The dog situation at the beach is ridiculous. Enforcement and trash bins, solved. Since when do employees run the show. They don't want to empty public trash and our police cherry pick the laws they enforce. When I worked I did what I was told. Sincerely, Nelson

Please allow dogs at Fort Foster---or The Town loses

[REDACTED]

Mon 8/24/2020 1:00 PM

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

Cc:dlrinaldi@netscape.net <[REDACTED]>;

Hello,

I support allowing dogs to visit Fort Foster.

On a personal note, dogs are family. COVID 19 has brought Kittery families together. It is insensitive to separate human family from canine family during cherished outings to Fort Foster.

On a practical note, Kittery will lose if dogs are excluded from Fort Foster. Taxpayers will vote with their feet. That is, full-time Kittery residents---tired of being bullied by a curmudgeon minority---will sell their homes and move out of Kittery. Seasonal residents will move in. Kittery businesses will lose the year-round support (revenue) when the full time residents depart. Everyone will suffer. The Town will suffer.

Please vote with your head and heart.
Keep families together. Keep them in Kittery.
Keep dogs at Fort Foster.

Thank you,
Dean

85 Whipple
Kittery

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
--
--
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 <[REDACTED]>

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

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 [REDACTED]

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

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 <[REDACTED]>

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

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 <[REDACTED]>;

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

KCouch@alandrealty.com

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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](http://www.simplychiropracticme.com/)

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 <>

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

Dogs

RORY ROBB <[REDACTED]>

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

Proposed Dog Ban

Melissa Visentin <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/9/2020 8:47 PM

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

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

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

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

Melissa Visentin

dogs at Fort Foster

kittery karen <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 11:07 AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Saltus
16 Pocahontas Road
Kittery Point

Karen Saltus

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(*) / (*)

^^~^~^~^^^~^~^

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

Dogs

Mara Lamstein <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/10/2020 10:54 AM

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

Hello

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

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

Please keep reasonable hours for dog walking!!!

Sincerely
Mara Lamstein
35 Mill Pond Rd
Kittery

Fwd: dogs and kittery beaches

A Swan <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/5/2020 2:20 PM

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

towncouncil@kitteryme.org

doesn't seem to be working...

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

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

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

Subject: dogs and kittery beaches

To: <towncouncil@kitteryme.org>

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

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

Best,

Anna O. Swan
27 Main St
Kittery

Dog Ban

Craig Maguire 

Wed 8/5/2020 9:04 AM

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

To Whom it may concern,

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

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

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

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

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Fostering a healthy Kittery Community - Town Council - Dogs

8/24/20

Cecilia Ford <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/4/2020 3:33 PM

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

"Lets Work Together To Keep Kittery Healthy"

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

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

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

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

That makes my taxes worthwhile.

BUT THERE IS A DOG FIGHT

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

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

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

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

Respectfulness towards others is being neighborly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is Kittery's overall goal for community?

Dog ban

Liz Dupre <>

Tue 8/4/2020 3:28 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Liz Dupre
207-439-0032

In Favor of Proposed Dog Ban

Barry Schechter <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/4/2020 1:15 PM

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Barry Schechter (and Gail Norskey)

Dogs on Kittery beaches

Tabatha Hawkins <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/4/2020 7:39 AM

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

Dear Council,

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

All the best,
Tabatha Hawkins

Dog access to public land.

michael varney < >

Tue 8/4/2020 7:36 AM

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

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

Sent from my iPad

Dog ban

Amy Huelle <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 7:55 PM

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

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

Thank you 🙏

Sent from my iPhone

Concern for dogs in public spaces.

Quinn Hathaway

Mon 8/3/2020 6:10 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for reading my thoughts.
-Quinn Hathaway.

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Policy Agenda Item

Todd Bailey <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 6:02 PM

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

Hi -

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

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

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

Seems that would be the more sensible thing to do.

Todd Bailey

Dog Ban Proposal 8-24

Rich Buzzell

Mon 8/3/2020 5:46 PM

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

Hello Town Council Members,

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

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

Off Leash~

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

On Leash

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

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Rich Buzzell

Dog Discrimination

Kimberly Schults <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 4:58 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

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

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

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

Thank you,
Kimberly Schults
Sent from my iPhone

Dogs

Ingrid Towle



Mon 8/3/2020 2:48 PM

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

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

Sent from my iPad

Sea Point Dog issue

Brienne Cosman <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 1:27 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,

Brienne Cosman

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Ban

Shelley Tamis <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 12:56 PM

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

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

Sent from Shelley's iPhone

Dog Ban

Liz Dupre

Mon 8/3/2020 11:42 AM

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

Importance: High

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Liz & Scott Dupre

Dogs at Ft Foster and Seapoint

Kathleen Marra <>

Mon 8/3/2020 11:34 AM

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

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

regarding the proposed dog ban

Liz Dupre <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 10:08 AM

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

Importance: High

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

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

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

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

Then what?

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

Were there other public meetings on this?

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Liz Dupre

Title 6, Animal Control - Fort Foster

aileen <

Mon 8/3/2020 8:33 AM

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

Dear Town Council,

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

Thank you,
Aileen

Title 6

Lauren Shea <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/3/2020 7:15 AM

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

Good Morning,

I hope this finds you well!

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

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

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

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

Thank you for all you do.

Lauren Shea
17 Halstead St

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

claire Gaudissart <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/2/2020 2:30 PM

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

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Kittery Councilors,

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

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

PLEASE do not pass any more restrictions.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

ClaireH Gaudissart

Regarding banning dogs from Fort Foster and Seapoint beach

Drika Overton <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/1/2020 4:40 PM

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

To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Drika Overton

Anti-dog ban

Kate Harris



Sat 8/1/2020 3:05 PM

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

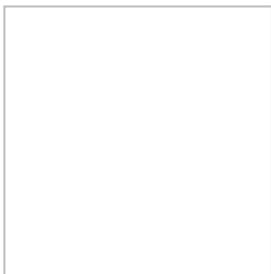
Hi Council,

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

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

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

Thanks,



Kate Harris

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

Co-Founder, [Sustainable Seacoast](#)

603 370-2879



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

Martha Mason <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 12:25 PM

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

Hello

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dog Ban comments

Duncan Lake <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 12:44 PM

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

Co

Importance: High

Hi,

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

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

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

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

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

8/9/2020

Dog Ban comments - town comments

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

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

Thank you,

Duncan Lake

Proposed Dog Ban at Fort Foster/ Seapoint Beach

Paul Ianiro <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 1:07 PM

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

To the Kittery Town Council-

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Paul Ianiro

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

Christina Stackpole <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 2:04 PM

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

Cc: Christina Stackpole <[REDACTED]>;

Importance: High

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

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



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

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DOG HEARING TO BE ENTERED

N Linscott



Thu 8/6/2020 2:12 PM

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

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

Nelson Linscott 29 Government Kittery

Dog Leash @ Seapoint and FF

Scott Mason <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 2:17 PM

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

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

There have been 2 main complaints I hear:

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

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

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

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

Scott Mason
75 Brave Boat Harbor Rd
Kittery Point

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

This link for Maine:

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

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H Scott Mason

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

Fwd: DOG BAN

Kerrin Duffy <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 3:06 PM

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

Cc: [REDACTED];

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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dog ban

Katherine Shine Young <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 3:27 PM

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

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

- Katie Shine Young (9 adams rd kittery maine)

Dog ban

SouthernMaine Cheer Owner <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/6/2020 6:56 PM

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

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

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Dogs

Libby Moak <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/7/2020 8:35 AM

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

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

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

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

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

Better enforcement and trash receptacles. Thank you!

Elizabeth Moak

Sent from my iPad

Title 6 Changes - Don't Ban Dogs at Beaches

Jon Parry <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/7/2020 12:26 PM

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

Hello,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Jonathan & Jessica Parry

jon.h.parry@gmail.com

206-465-6036

Dogs at Seapoint and Ft. Foster

George Shea <[REDACTED]>

Sat 8/8/2020 3:13 PM

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

Dear Members of the Kittery Town Council,

Thanks you for your service to our town.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8/9/2020

Dogs at Seapoint and Ft. Foster - town comments

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

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

Sincerely,

George Shea

18 Walker Avenue
ghshea@comcast.net

Dog ban on Seapoint and in Fort Foster

Olbricht,Suzanne (HMFP - Dermatology) 

Sat 8/8/2020 10:05 PM

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

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

Suzanne Olbricht
34 Goose Point Rd
Kittery ME 03905

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Re: Fort Foster Dog Regulations

Kelly Hamilton < >

Thu 8/6/2020 10:36 AM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the possible upcoming changes to Fort Foster's dog rules. As a resident of Kittery and responsible dog owner, I am deeply disappointed to hear that dogs may not be allowed in the park during open hours *or* any hours at all. I, like the majority of others, keep my dog on a leash at all times at Fort Foster and clean up after him. Taking away another spot in Kittery from leashed dogs is simply unreasonable and unfair.

Regards,
Kelly Hamilton

July 27th TC meeting on Dog regulations

Clay Wyman <[REDACTED]>

Mon 7/27/2020 12:24 PM

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

Hello Town Council and Town Manager,

My name is Clay Wyman. I am a Kittery resident, taxpayer and dog owner. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my concern over adding any additional regulations on dogs in Town.

I strongly believe that proper enforcement of existing regulations, common sense and neighborliness is all that's required to have peace and civility amongst dogs, dog owners and the general public. More restrictive regulations will do nothing but foment bad feelings and put strain on enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Clay Wyman
114 State Rd
Kittery, ME

Dogs and the beach.

Patrick Stahl <[REDACTED]>

Tue 6/16/2020 6:09 PM

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

Hello. We would like to add our 2cts worth to the on going controversy concerning off leash dogs. Yes, we have Lily, a 15 lb Jack Russell/ min pin rescue from La. when she first came to us, she was terrified of the beach and the ocean. Now, it's her favorite spot to pursue her favorite hobby, ball! We would like to see the previous rules apply, before 10am, after 5 pm, from 15 June to 30 Sept. I know for a fact that there are senior citizens who walk their leashed dogs daily on the beach. Please let them continue to do so. They are small, controlled dogs who pose no harm to anyone. Dogs need exercise. So do people. Can we not come to a common agreement that satisfies everyone's concerns and desires? Thank you and we truly hope that you will consider the fact that dogs need to run and play....but only during their allotted time slot. Oh, one last item. Is there not a better use of the police officer at Ft. Foster than standing there, with arms crossed , insuring that dogs are leashed on non- town property, below the high tide mark?

Sent from my iPad

Seapoint Leash Laws

Sam French <[REDACTED]>

Sat 6/13/2020 11:37 AM

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

Town Council,

I have just learned of the new leash laws at Seapoint beach and would like to express my extreme disappointment. We have many dog free places in town but only one place to exercise our dogs off leash. While I understand that we need to find ways to hold Irresponsible dog owners accountable, this is a punitive measure that does not do justice to the vast majority of responsible dog owners.

I will be attending the next town meeting on this subject.

Thank you for your time,
Sam French

Leash laws at Seapoint

Tabatha Hawkins <[REDACTED]>

Sat 6/13/2020 11:26 AM

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

Town Council,

As a new homeowner in Kittery, one of the things that attracted me to the town was the nearness of a local dog friendly beach. The new leash laws are very upsetting. As a responsible dog owner whose dog is well trained and whose waste is always cleaned up after, I would like to find a way to better hold irresponsible dog owners accountable without creating punitive restrictions.

As with any public space there will always be a need for compassion and understanding. Things will happen in shared space unintentionally (I refer to the woman who had water shaken on her), but dogs are already restricted in many town spaces. There are plenty of safe spaces for people who want to avoid dogs.

My partner and I will be attending the next Council meeting on this subject and look forward to creating new and better solutions for our citizens. Thank you for your time.

Tabatha Hawkins
Kittery Resident and Homeowner