



**ANIMAL CONTROL WORKING GROUP  
JANUARY 19, 2021  
5PM  
AGENDA**

1. Review Council Charge
2. Approve Minutes
  - a. January 4, 2021
3. Summary of Area Dog Regulations
4. Review Issues Matrix
5. Next Steps
  - a. Action Items
  - b. Next Meeting(s)

Attachments:

- Draft Minutes – January 4, 2021
- Summary of Area Dog Regulations
- Issues Matrix

The public may view the meeting via Zoom webinar. **Register in advance for the webinar at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_buLbYaHoQvanFISXdaDEqw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_buLbYaHoQvanFISXdaDEqw)**

**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.**



# **ANIMAL CONTROL WORKING GROUP**

## **JANUARY 4, 2021**

### **MINUTES**

### **DRAFT**

Meeting was held via Zoom.

In Attendance: Councilor Judy Spiller, David Wrocklage (Parks Rep), Mary Thron, Ryan Bailey, Kim Miller, Sally Soule, Kit Grimm, Kendra Amaral (Town Manager), Chief Robert Richter (Police), Officer Robert Byrnes (Animal Control Officer)

#### 1. Overview of Parks Commission Experience

- David shared an overview of the work and analysis completed by the Parks Com.
  - i. Very few dog-bite reports filed with the Police
  - ii. Public survey with decent response. Respondents wanted more enforcement of the rules including rules regarding dogs on leashes.
  - iii. Process led to Town increasing ACO to full-time. All agreed to monitor for the first year and evaluate whether this led to positive outcomes. Due to COVID we did not get a full year of normal operations.
  - iv. Anecdotal feedback is that ACO has had a positive impact.

#### 2. Review Existing Dog Regulations

- Summary of Titles 6 and 12 provided to members.

#### 3. Example Dog Regulations from Other Communities

- David and Ryan shared information they gathered from other communities including Ogunquit, Portsmouth, Hampton Beach, Durham.
- Regulations vary from banning dogs, increasing police force to enforce restrictions, different definitions of “voice control”, and no enforcement presence at all.

#### 4. Review Issues Matrix

- Kit and Sally shared matrix.
- Committee discussed its objectives and what should and not should be in the scope of focus.
- Judy and Kendra gave a brief overview of how ordinances are developed and organized.

#### 5. Next Meeting

- January 19 at 5PM via Zoom.

## Summary of Area Dog Regulations

### York, ME

The following restrictions apply to domestic animals on Cape Neddick Beach, Short Sands Beach, Long Sands Beach and Harbor Beach.

- No domestic animals shall be present on these beaches between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. from May 20th through September 20th.
- Dogs on these beaches will be required to be on a leash between May 20th and September 29th between the hours of 6 p.m. and sunrise.
- Between May 20th and September 20th dogs will be allowed to unleashed between sunrise and 8 a.m. as long as the dog is under the voice control of its owner or responsible party

### Eliot, Me

Section 61-10 No dog shall be present on a beach or park unless on a leash held by an owner or responsible party who is capable of controlling the dog.

### Ogunquit, Me

Title VII Animal Control, Chapter 2. 206

- Dogs are not permitted on the Ogunquit Beach area from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Dogs are not permitted on the Marginal Way from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Dogs are permitted on the Ogunquit Beach Area from September 9<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Dogs are permitted on the Marginal Way from October 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Dogs must be on a leash.
- Dogs are not permitted in the Ogunquit River Estuary at any time.

### Running at Large 202

The owner of any pet or other animal shall not permit that pet or animal to run at large, except when used for hunting or on private property with the consent of the property owner. Dogs or other animals shall not be allowed to run at large on any public property or rights-of-way in Town.

### Ogunquit dog park

### Wells, Me

All dogs that go on the beach from April 1st to September 15th must be on a leash and in control of a responsible person per [Town Ordinance 86-1](#).

From June 16th to September 15th no dogs are allowed on the beach between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. per [Town Ordinance 86-1](#). Dogs may go on the beach before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. but must always be on a leash.

### Dover, NH

City parks - prohibited

Community trail – dogs leashed

Dog park - Longhill Dog Park

Leash law in city

### Durham, NH

49-1. Leash Requirement.

Except as provided in section 49-2, all dogs in the Town of Durham shall be restrained by a leash not exceeding eight (8) feet in fixed length or a retractable leash with stop control.

Wagon Hill Farm - Dogs must be on leash at all times except from Dawn to 10:00 a.m. daily

**NH State Beaches: Wallis Sands, Jenness, Hampton, North Beach**

State Beach	Pets Not Allowed	Pets Allowed
Wallis Sands	May 1 – Sept. 30	Oct. 1 – April 30
Jenness	May 1 – Sept. 30	Oct. 1 – April 30
Hampton	May 1 – Sept. 30	Oct. 1 – April 30
North Beach	May 1 – Sept. 30	Oct. 1 – April 30
North Hampton	Year-round	
Odiorne State park	Year-round	

Animals must be on a standard or retractable leash not greater than 6 feet in length.

**New Castle, NH**

Dogs must be leashed when in all town parks or on other town property with the exception of the town owned park located on Wentworth Road (former USCG land) commonly known as “Town land” during the hours of 8 pm and 8 am daily.

**Portsmouth, NH**

Fenced dog park – South Mill Pond

Dogs off leash: South Mill Pond along shore/Haven Park/Langdon Park; Goodwin Park; Great Bog; Park area – between railroad tracks off Borthwick Avenue; Ward Park

No Dogs: Prescott Park - no dogs; Pierce Island – no dogs until sewer plant completed

**Rye, NH**

Dogs are not permitted on Town beaches before 7:00 p.m. or after 9:00 a.m. from the Saturday before Memorial Day to the first Saturday after Labor Day. At other times of the year these hourly restrictions do not apply. The only exception will be the area between Wallis Sands State Park and Odiorne State Park, where dogs and people are allowed between the hours of 6:00 am and 12 midnight. Dogs must be under voice control or leashed.

### Matrix of Topics to Be Addressed by Animal Control Working Group

Topic	Subtopics	Comments	Process Notes and/or Recommendations
Scope of review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title 6</li> <li>• Title 12</li> <li>• Parks and beaches</li> </ul>	<p>Limit to Fort Foster and Seapoint/Crescent?</p> <p>May want to discuss Rogers Park; it seems like there were some concerns voiced about usage there as well.</p>	
Preamble to title(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions</li> <li>• Statement of purpose/objectives</li> <li>• Statement of “philosophy of policy”</li> <li>• Consistency</li> </ul>	<p>Perhaps include something like: <i>“The town of Kittery is fortunate to be able to offer, to residents and non-residents and subject to certain restraints and advisories, the privilege of bringing dogs onto the magnificent [parks and] beaches owned and overseen by the town in recognition of the comfort, companionship, and well-being they are often able to bring to their owners. Owners and keepers (i.e., those with responsibility for dogs at any particular time) bringing dogs to Kittery’s [parks and] beaches are reminded, however, that the beaches are to be considered primarily for enjoyment by people, that they are repositories of nature and wildlife worthy of protection and preservation, and that all those making use of the venues are obligated to help ensure a safe, clean, and comfortable environment in exchange for the privilege of enjoying such natural resources, with dogs or without.”</i></p>	
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days/dates/hours</li> <li>• Fees</li> <li>• Residents vs. non-residents</li> <li>• Tags/stickers</li> <li>• Licenses</li> </ul>	<p>Reinforcement of “privilege vs. rights”</p> <p>Fees to fund additional initiatives for management?</p> <p>Rules may need to vary based on location and pattern of use inherent to location.</p>	
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leashes</li> <li>• Voice</li> <li>• Off-leash</li> <li>• Owner/keeper obligations</li> </ul>		
Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste</li> <li>• Environmental hazards</li> <li>• Harassment of wildlife</li> <li>• Approaching, charging</li> <li>• Reporting of violations</li> </ul>	<p>Keep on trails; watch for poison ivy</p>	

### Matrix of Topics to Be Addressed by Animal Control Working Group

Topic	Subtopics	Comments	Process Notes and/or Recommendations
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fines</li> <li>• Citations</li> <li>• Patrols by ACO, police</li> <li>• Notification of park attendant and escalation</li> </ul>		
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods and methodology</li> </ul>	Simplified matrix design; info cards; signage; Weekly Sentinel; Seacoast Online; dog websites; informational “dog booths” on site; car windshield flyers; URLs; provide info. on regulations and owner responsibilities at time dog is licensed.	
Alternatives for management?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate dog park</li> <li>• Sponsorships</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• Hiring of summertime ACO assistant</li> </ul>	<i>Separate dog park:</i> GoFundMe; donations; fees <i>Sponsorships:</i> allowed and vetted by the Town; local businesses preferred; for waste disposal and pickup, signage, informational materials <i>Volunteers:</i> designation; recognition; no law enforcement powers; advisory and informational <i>Summertime ass’t:</i> limited LE, “deputized,” full-time patrol	
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of efforts</li> <li>• Methods of data gathering</li> <li>• Incorporation of input</li> <li>• Identify evaluation measures and define success indicators?</li> </ul>	How often; timing; who responsible	