



ANIMAL CONTROL WORKING GROUP

JANUARY 4, 2021

MINUTES

APPROVED

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.