

Dog Control Bylaw Meeting 1

Date: 02-09-2023
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Town Hall

Facilitator:	Eileen Murphy	Note Taker	Neil Downing
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Members: Jill Radosta, Frank Moran, John Thompson, Mark Farrell, Kate Pittman, Neil Downing

Handout: <https://www.town.medfield.net/DocumentCenter/View/6884/Dog-Control-Bylaw-Committee-Charter>
Dog Control ByLaw Committee Charter

Agenda item: Introductions
Review Dog Control By-Law Charter (handout)
Committee - goals & timeline
Upcoming meeting dates

Introductions: Introduce all new members of the committee: The committee represents a diverse variety of backgrounds ranging from dog- and non-dog owners, professional dog walker, a veterinarian and at least one of the members is an abutter to a popular dog-walking open space area.

Develop a set of recommendations for acceptance by the Board of Select to be included as an Annual Town Meeting Article for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Discussions:

- The committee reviewed the current Dog ByLaw: <https://ecode360.com/27373512>
- Discussed challenges related to dogs on/off leash – owner recall, owner accountability, etc.
- Discussed how dogs need open space to run and enjoy freedom.
- Discussed how many dogs in town and neighboring towns (estimated): Medfield 1872, Norfolk approx. 2,000, Medway approximately 1700 – Eileen will request exact numbers/report for 2022.
- Committee will tease out possible ways to balance open-space, interests, approaches, e.g. dog park, fencing, off-leash versus on-leash time/places, etc.
- Discussed having town counsel, police chief, and animal control officer in attendance at future meetings, as needed.
- Discussed surveying for data collection.

Conclusion/Next Meeting

- Jill Radosta was voted as Chair of the Dog Control ByLaw Committee
- Open Law Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27th @ 7pm Public Safety Building Training Room.
- Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 7:00pm Warrant Rm, Town House (CANCELLED) and rescheduled to Monday, March 13, 2023 @ 7:00pm Warrant Rm, Town House

Action Items

- Need to develop a current state summary for May 31, 2023 – describing the current situation. (Committee)
- Open Space Maps (TBD)
- How many incidents/need representative examples (TBD)
- Survey/Questionnaire – Surveymoney.com? (Committee)
- What are other towns doing? Can we research sample leash laws, guidelines, enforcement? (TBD)
- Receive report from Medfield Animal Control
- Find out the number of licensed dogs in Medfield and surrounding towns (Eileen)