



Eastham Dog Owners' Association February 20, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Vicky Anderson, Per Bentsen, Dianne Cullen, Ed Daniels, Kathy Herrick, Ellen Murray, Cindy Nicholson

Absent: Cindy Blum, Larry DiBona, Kathleen "K2" Mueller, Tracey Plantier, Lu St. Aubin

Minutes of January 2014 were approved as amended. (*Motion to accept minutes by Vicky, CindyN 2nd, passed*).

Dog of the Month – Misha and Per Bentsen joined our meeting tonight. Misha is a pit bull/lab/chow mix who weighs 65 pounds and was adopted from a shelter in Maryland. She will be seven years old in April, and has been a part of Per and Ruth's family for the last six years. Misha is happiest as the only dog in the house, but she is well trained and doesn't beg. She did show a real interest in anyone who had a treat in their pocket and responded quickly to pay attention to that person. Her eyes are expressive, and she made no bones about staring lovingly at the person holding the treat. One requirement Per had for Misha was her ability to go on a boat since he is an avid sailor. Misha does well aboard the boat while it is docked, but she gets nervous when the sailing begins. However, as long as she stands next to Per while he captains his boat, she is content. Misha frequently communicates by staring. If she is outside and wants to come back in, she doesn't bark but instead stares at the door until Per or Ruth open it. When she wants to go to bed at night, she stares at Per or Ruth until they understand that she is asking to go into the bedroom where her crate is housed. She was a welcome addition to this month's meeting.

Treasurer Report – no updates. Lu was unable to attend the meeting, but she and Ed will meet to discuss progress on mapping our financial records into Quickbooks format.

- 2014 Budget – Ed distributed a draft of the 2014 budget to board members in advance on tonight's meeting. CindyN recommended that we add expenditures for miscellaneous events that we might again decide to attend (e.g., Paws for Celebration, Hands on the Arts, Eastham Turnip Festival). Board members should submit any additional 2014 budget questions or revisions to Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Ed responded to a letter we received after our membership drive was published in Cape Cod Online. He clarified EDOA's activities regarding dogs in public places.
- CindyN modified our upcoming newsletter and gave it to Ed for final distribution. Ed, K2 and CindyN work together on content and format. The newsletter is distributed electronically to members, and is sent in paper format with a membership card to new and renewed members.
- Ed discussed a few recent news articles about challenges that Ipswich and Gloucester are having regarding dogs in those communities. Their challenges are not unlike those encountered on Cape Cod with limiting dogs on beaches, etc.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Vicki is working with Jim Russo from the Eastham Chamber of Commerce to arrange the Ask the Candidate's Forum on Sunday, April 13th from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Candidates for town positions of Moderator, Selectman, Town Clerk, Library Trustee, Housing Authority and Elementary School Committee will be invited to attend. She distributed an outline for the meeting, and is willing to moderate the session. The Chamber already has already posted a "hold the date" notice on their website. EDOA is co-sponsoring this forum as a community service. (*Motion to support EDOA's sponsorship of this forum by Kathy, Dianne 2nd, passed*). Vicki will assemble a team to help with setup, timing, gathering and reviewing questions for candidates, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lost Dog Network (LDN) – Tracey sent an email to LDN coordinators asking for their availability to attend a meeting to review and update procedures. She also wants to schedule a LDN Searchers meeting later this spring.



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Emergency Shelter – the CCDART meeting to discuss shelter plans, originally scheduled for February 8th, was cancelled due to scheduling room conflict. There were no further updates. Small Animal training is scheduled for March 1st in Dennis.

Buddy Scholarship – CindyB sent an email reiterating that March 28, 2014 is the deadline for applications. Notices are up in about ten locations but no applications have been received yet. A question was posed about how much money is in the Buddy Scholarship Fund. We need Lu to provide this update at next month's meeting.

Membership – CindyN reported that we have 118 members (new and renewals) thus far for 2014. We might be able to spur additional awareness of EDOA with Cape Cod Dog and Nauset Pet Services. Dianne and Ellen agreed to meet with these business owners to see if there is a need to familiarize their employees about EDOA. Ed will send Dianne and Ellen applicable files that might be useful in this effort.

- Vendor Relationship Policy – Kathy distributed a draft of a policy that will set the framework for our working with vendors who wish to offer our members a discount. Two ideas were offered to modify the draft – one to include a statement that any vendor offer will first be reviewed by the Board of Directors before we proceed, and the other to mention that names of vendors offering discounts will also be listed on our promotional materials. CindyN agreed that responsibility for vendor relationships should fall to the Membership Team. *(Motion to accept policy as amended by Vicki, Ellen 2nd, passed).*

Education – Ellen asked for ideas. We've been lucky with having some great speakers and want to continue the trend. We agreed that for annual meeting, it is better to have one speaker who can get into more detail than to cram multiple speakers into a limited timeframe. Ellen is going to pursue a dog behaviorist from the Boston area who already replied to Ed via email that she would be interested in learning more about EDOA. Ed is also going to send an email to our members asking for topics they are interested in learning more about.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Bow Wow Bash is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th at First Encounter Beach from noon to 2 p.m. The next day will be the rain date. The Companion Animal Program is always invited to attend, but we will also reach out to Nancy Bishop to offer her dog agility program.
- CindyN said that we need to resupply some of our merchandise, including hats, bandanas and long sleeve shirts. She will get a recommendation for our review.
- Ed mentioned that the editor feature we have been using for our website is now obsolete. He asked if anyone either knows of another development tool or a company that might be able to transfer our info using another editor tool. The complication in changing tools is learning new software to get the same website results.
- CindyB sent an email asking that we find someone to manage the Wiley Park bulletin board. The cork board is warped. Might we be also able to laminate postings? If so, we need to get our laminating machine from Karie Miller. The Town of Eastham originally provided the cork, and CindyN will reach out to DPW Manager Neil Andres to ask that they replace the cork this spring.
- CindyB also commented in her email that there is a new application called Find Fido that allows owners to post a picture of their dog. The app uses face recognition to match found dogs with those pictures. In three months, 170 dogs were matched. A suggestion was made for the LDN team to look into this further.

A motion to adjourn was received from Vicki with CindyN 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 20th at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herrick, Secretary