

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, January 8, 2021

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting held via Zoom:

<https://nashuanh.webex.com/nashuanh/j.php?MTID=m6233e91ee88b795f5d9d65654ebb2340>

Meeting ID: 843 5579 0611

Passcode: 955378

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees	
Committee Members	
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen	✓*
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate	✓
Kathy Abel, Community Member	✓
June Lemen, Community Member (Vice-Chair)	✓
Amber Logue, Community Member (Chair)	✓
Megan Villacis, Community Member	✓
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society	✓
Staff	
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager	✓
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner	✓
Mike Harris, Parks & Recreation Ops Manager	✓
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director	
Kerry Miller, Mayor's Office	

**Joined after roll call and minutes approval*

Prior to beginning the meeting, a "Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency" was read aloud so all committee members and any members of the public participating virtually via Zoom or by phone were aware of the steps that had been taken for the virtual meeting, including:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone.
- b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.
- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

1. Approval of the [December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

- Motion: Becky Longval
- Second: Kathy Abel
- Yea: Alderwoman Klee, Kathy Abel, June Lemen, Amber Logue, Megan Villacis, Becky Longval
- Nay: None
- Abstained: None

2. Proposed Revisions to [§93-14](#)

Bob is leading this effort and since he could not attend the meeting, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Next Steps:

- Update the proposed changes to the ordinance as discussed (Bob and Becky):
 - Include 1st, 2nd and 3rd/subsequent fines
 - Add "within 12 months" language
 - Add statement that offenses are also subject to all applicable Humane Society fees/bonds

3. Draft Tot Lot Sign

Julie displayed the sign that was proposed to DPW for the "No Pets Allowed in Tot Lots" ordinance ([O-20-031](#)). It includes the ADA definition of Service animals with the applicable titles cited and a statement that support animals do not qualify as service animals under the ADA (*draft sign attached to minutes*). She asked if anyone had a contact who could proofread the Spanish translation.

Alderwoman Klee thought the signs looked good and offered to have the signs proofread (Julie will send the final version).

Next Steps:

- Julie will to send the draft sign to Alderwoman Klee for proofreading and, once it's finalized, to DWP for printing and installing.

4. Dog waste cleanup campaign

Amber showed the Committee [the dog waste campaign post](#) on the ADPAC's Facebook and Instagram pages asking people to let us know where they walk their dog and where they would like to see waste stations installed. People can respond either by posting in the comments or by completing an [online survey](#). The survey includes questions on other "wants", such as a dog park, a clean-up day, and lighting. It also has a "please contact me about:" section with options for volunteering. It was only up for one day so far, but there were already three responses. Amber also showed the stats that are generated through the survey (Google form). This will be very helpful when analyzing the responses.

June said she found the form easy to fill out and asked if we should point people to Facebook. Amber said we can send people to Facebook or send them the link to the form that's included in the FB post – either way, we'll get the info. Alderwoman Klee said she will include the link to the form in her newsletter, as that would be simplest (Amber will email the link). Becky said she will share the post on the Humane Society's page. Amber tagged the Humane Society in the post and will read comments to collect responses entered that way. Julie offered to help with the analysis and Amber said she would add her as a form collaborator.

Alderwoman Klee said she really likes this method. Comments can become a document on their own and made available for all to read, similar to the Imagine Nashua poll. Amber noted that we could

do targeted outreach based on the comments. She also said there's no need to close it unless we get overwhelmed with responses. Alderwoman Klee agreed. Megan put the link to the form at the top of the Instagram page so it's always visible and we can do the same thing on Facebook.

Amber provided a Dog Waste Stations Update:

Main Street Methodist purchased their waste station online from Dog Waste Depot. The stations are easily repairable and the company seems easy to work with. The stations come with a warrantee. They cost \$229.99 per station and if we purchase 10+, we get discount. No other discounts are available. They come ready to go for first installation with 400 bags and 25 liners. Color options are black or green.

Amber will follow up with Tim Cummings on whether plaques saying something like: "Courtesy of Humane Society" allowed downtown (re: advertising?). We need to get a cost estimate for the plaque. We want any donations to cover the whole station, including plaque and installation. Also, who will change out the bags and how often? Mike said DPW should be able to install. He will check with the Director on who will maintain the stations. Amber will email a link to the dog waste station site.

Alderwoman Klee noted there are three issues: Installation, emptying the waste can, and bag monitoring. Latter part might be most difficult. What is the frequency? Amber said feedback from the company is that most municipal stations are emptied once a week. If they are in a dog park, then twice a week. Alderwoman Klee wondered about the bag refills – some people might take several as they are free and it's always good to have emergency bag. Amber said we could put the ADPAC email address or QR code on the sign so people could report if there were no bags or other issues.

Becky suggested bags be included in the sponsorship and Amber thought bags for an entire year could be included. Becky said her staff purchase large volume of bags and can estimate number of dogs per year and number of bags used.

Kathy thought email would be less effective than a phone number or text – the follow through needs to be immediate. Several committee members agreed that the faster the bags could be replaced the better and thought the QR code was a good idea.

Alderwoman Klee will put together an email to Director Marchant and Director Cummings about Main Street and advertising rules. Julie will send information on the Main Street design standards. Amber said once we have that information, we can go back to the Downtown Improvement Committee and see if they would be interested in helping with the project or have any funding to help support it.

Next Steps:

- Share survey (Committee)
- Monitor survey responses and comments (Amber, Julie)
- Get information on the City-owned stations (Amber)
- Follow-up with Tim C. /Sarah M. on Main Street signage rules (Alderwoman Klee)
- Send Main St design standards to Amber and Alderwoman Klee (Julie)

5. Potential Dog Park Sites

Julie reported that the RFQ for the Millyard Feasibility Study has been submitted and should be posted next week. The committee thought it should be posted for 4 – 6 weeks. Amber offered to participate in both the pre-submittal meeting and interviews. Alderwoman Klee also offered to participate but suggested Alderman Lopez should have the first opportunity.

Alderwoman Klee said she has floated out both Crown Street and the Millyard as potential dog park sites and the Millyard had most enthusiasm. It's off of Mine Falls and close to downtown. One person she spoke with suggested along the Riverfront would be nice as it's close to those downtown. Kathy noted the Millyard has plenty of parking.

Next Steps:

- Schedule pre-submittal meeting for January 21st (Julie)

6. Animal Shelter and ACO Updates

Bob was not able to access the system to generate the monthly ACO call report nor was he able to attend the meeting.

Becky reported that 26 animals that have been in protective custody for over 1 ½ years will become shelter property at 4:05 as the person charged with cruelty was finally brought to trial and found guilty. The laws changed in January 2020 so that if a person is charged with cruelty, they have to post a bond within 30 days for each animal in custody to cover the costs to care for them during the trial. If the person can't come up with bond, the animals are surrendered immediately. This helps the animals and the shelters. It has cost about \$90,000 to care for the 26 animal so far. This is a very exciting day for both the animals and the shelter. Otherwise, December was slow, which is good.

Alderwoman Klee said that as a State Representative, she works on a lot of these regulations and if any issues comes up that she can help with, please contact her. She works a lot with Representative Kathy Rogers on these issues and has cosponsored a lot of bills.

Becky also reported that this year, they are kicking off a shelter ambassadorship program. The goal is to engage school age kids to start learning the legislative process, promote bills on animal legislation and show they can make a difference in their community.

7. Other

Julie announced that the new Parks and Rec Superintendent starts January 25th and asked Mike if he would be joining the Committee. Mike thought yes and said he will update him on the tot-lot signs and waste stations.

Julie also mentioned the Souhegan Valley Rail Trail project that aims to build a rail trail or rail-with-trail along the line that runs between Nashua and Wilton as it will likely be used as a dog walking route. Alderwoman Klee thought it would be a good idea to have a few people on this committee involved. Julie said she is involved (in a volunteer capacity). Amber said she would like to be involved too and has heard feedback from different groups - i.e., Milford, who also wants to build a dog park.

With respect to Nashua, Alderman Lopez looked at a GIS map the old tannery site and thought it might be good site for a dog park. The developer could integrate the park into amenities for the site. Julie commented that she and Director Marchant also looked at the City owned lot associated with that site but want to focus on a downtown site for new.

Alderwoman Klee reported they are still having problems in Ward 3 with the Shattuck Street tot lot. People continue to use it as a mini-dog park. There is still a sign up that says it's OK to have a dog if it's on a leash and we don't have the new signs yet. Unfortunately, the Millyard site won't solve this problem. The lot is being monitored but there is still an issue. There have been bags of poop left on fence because the trash barrels are removed in the winter. The Salem Street tot lot has been called poop alley. Grown Nashua put gardens in and that has helped but on the other side of garden is poop. Can we add something to the survey? Or separate survey for non-dog owners to report issues?

Alderman Lopez noted that even when dispensers are there, people don't always pick up, like the issue by library. Alderwoman Klee said if we know where issues are, then the police will patrol. Amber asked if there's a Neighborhood watch in the areas with issues. Alderman Lopez asked if anyone reached out for help with clean-up and Amber said it was included in the survey. Alderwoman Klee said she would share the survey with her constituents.

Motion made to adjourn (Kathy Abel) and seconded (Amber Logue). Meeting adjourned at 9:03am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, February 5th at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM via Zoom

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas

NOTICE

Per City of Nashua NRO 215-1(N)



**NO PETS ALLOWED
EXCEPT
TRAINED SERVICE ANIMALS**

DRAFT

"Service animals" are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities.

(Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Titles II & III)

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

AVISO

Por ciudad de Nashua NRO 215-1(N)



**NO SE PERMITEN MASCOTAS
EXCEPTO
ANIMALES DE SERVICIO ENTRENADOS**

BORRADOR

Los "animales de servicio" se definen como perros entrenados individualmente para trabajar o para realizar tareas para personas con discapacidad.

(La Ley para Personas con Discapacidades (siglas en Inglés ADA) Título II y III)

Los animales de apoyo emocional, terapia, consuelo o compañía no califican como animales de servicio según la ADA.