

**ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, November 18, 2021

8:00 am – 9:00 am

**IN-PERSON LOCATION**

**Room 208 @ City Hall**

**VIRTUAL MEETING LINK**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88325839036?pwd=dWx3M1hCYXdjUTdEMGtsSjl3Ui8wZz09>

**Meeting ID: 883 2583 9036**

**Passcode: 108580**

**DRAFT Minutes**

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>In-Person</b>	<b>Virtual (Reason)</b>
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen		
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate	x	
Kathy Abel, Community Member		
June Lemen, Community Member (Vice-Chair)	x	
Amber Morgan, Community Member (Chair)	x	
Megan Villacis, Community Member		x (Medical)
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	x	
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society		x (Mtg @ 9)
<b>Staff</b>	<b>In-Person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager	x	
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner	x	
Noah Telerski, Mayor's Office	x	

The regular meeting of the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee was held in Room 208 at City Hall and via Zoom teleconference. The Zoom meeting link was provided on the meeting agenda and on the City's website.

Roll call attendance was taken and committee members participating via Zoom stated their presence, the reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there was anyone in the room with them during the meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

**1. Approval of the [October 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)**

- Motion: June Lemen
- Second: Amber Morgan
  - Discussion: None
- Yea: Unanimous by roll call vote
- Nay: None

**2. Update on Proposed Revisions to [§93-14](#)**

[O-21-071](#) - *Removing the fine limitation on animal ordinance violations relating to dogs* was given its first reading at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen meeting and assigned to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee. That committee voted unanimously in favor of the ordinance at their November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting ([see minutes here](#), *discussion starts on page 16*) and the Board of Alderman adopted the ordinance at their November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting by unanimous vote ([see minutes here](#), *discussion starts on page 14*).

At both meetings, Alderwoman Klee explained that the ordinance aims to treat all animal violations the same, whether related to dogs, chickens or cows. The ACO always educates dog owners as a first step and considers mitigating circumstances before issuing a violation. She also informed the groups that the ADPAC explored dog fine structures in neighboring communities and determined making fines the same for all animals was best option for Nashua.

The ordinance will be in place once the Mayor receives it from Legal and signs it, which Noah thought would this week. Bob will start educating people once the rule is formally in place. No other action needs to be taken by the ADPAC regarding this ordinance.

Amber noted this is the second successfully passed ordinance that this committee brought forth. Julie asked if there were any other ordinances that the ADPAC should review. Bob suggested the next issue the committee tackles is the inconsistent signage at parks and schools, which he detailed in a previous correspondence discussed at the June ADPAC meeting ([see minutes here](#), *discussion starts on page 4*).

June asked who determines where dogs are allowed and the response was Parks and Recreation for city parks and the schools on their properties. Signs were originally supposed to be posted where dogs and horses **were** allowed but now the signage is a mix of where they are allowed (e.g., "DOGS MUST BE LEASHED AND THEIR WASTE PICKED UP AND DISPOSED OF") and not allowed (e.g., "NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THIS GATED FIELD").

Bob asked where do we want dogs to be allowed? He thinks they shouldn't be allowed on playing fields/surfaces. Should the ADPAC look into an ordinance for that? The rule could specify that there are no dogs allowed in parks or areas that are intended for human sports. Alderwoman Klee noted baseball fields without fencing would need to be clearly marked so people know where the baseball field ends. June asked what about winter use, when the fields are snow covered and not being used for human sports? Can they be used for dogs then? Amber added that dogs need exercise year round and that's why a public dog park is needed.

The committee thought that fenced in parks should be looked at first to determine what the current signage is first then focus on question of "Where do we want dogs?" It was noted that Jason Puopolo, Parks and Rec superintendent and staff to the ADPAC, tendered his resignation and this discussion would benefit from having someone from Parks and Rec involved. Bob said the issue isn't necessarily with specific locations but rather with specific people who don't leash their dogs.

Becky thought this would be a good opportunity to identify where dogs should be and include that our dog waste campaign to let dog owners know they should be respectful of certain areas. Alderwoman Klee said signage is by legislation so she will check to see if any ordinances need revising.

**Next steps:**

- Work with Parks and Rec and the School district to identify where there is inconsistent signage and fix that first, focusing initially on fenced in parks and sites with biggest issues related to dogs.

**3. Dog Waste Clean-up Campaign**

Noah said not many complaints about dog waste are coming in to the Mayor's Office right now. Amber said the calls tend to come in in the spring when there is snow run-off. She asked Noah to please call her if the Mayor's Office does get calls and she will see that the waste is picked up.

**4. Millyard Dog Park: Next Steps**

Julie showed the committee the Millyard Dog Park Feasibility Study [project website](#) launched the previous week. Amber suggested the addition of a "contact us" link for those interested in staying informed or being involved with the non-profit. Alderwoman Klee suggested we develop a newsletter and Amber thought that would be something the non-profit would do.

Amber reported that three of the five people needed to form the Board have committed to the non-profit organization. Once two additional members have committed, the Board will develop the bylaws and file the necessary paperwork to establish the non-profit.

Julie said there have been no updates on the sale of the property to the City.

**Next Steps:**

- Julie will update the project website to include a "contact us" button.
- Amber will continue to recruit board members and work on establishing the non-profit organization that will raise funds for the construction and maintenance of the dog park and manage its operations.

**5. Animal Control Officer and Animal Shelter Updates**

- ACO: Bob provided an updated animal call report (summary attached). The rise in the "Give Advice" category was mostly due to barking dogs that were addressed by Officers outside of Bob's shift. Amber asked to have "paperwork issued" (summons and civil forfeiture) added to the call report. Bob said not many are written for dogs at large because education really

works. There are only a few people who don't comply with the leash law. If someone does end up going to court with a dog violation under the new rule, the first fine will likely be \$25, the second \$50 and so on. Court costs are currently around \$37 per violation.

- It was suggested that we post reminders that cold weather is moving in and educate pet owners about topics such as:
  - Don't leave pets outside in the cold;
  - Pound on the hood of vehicles to make sure there a cat didn't curl up against a warm motor overnight;
  - Don't let snow pile up against fence lines because dogs can use it to jump the fence;
  - Make sure drinking water isn't frozen.

Becky will share winter tips materials with Megan for posting on the ADPAC's social media sites.

- Humane Society: Becky reported that all the major events are over for the year. They are getting ready for a big transport of dogs from Arkansas on 11/19. They have 5 of the 125 rabbits remaining that they sheltered beginning in August. They've been using the cat transfer room for the rabbits so there aren't a lot of cats being transferred now. Dogs are vaccinated, treated and have negative fecal tests being transferred and adopted.

Holiday messaging that the Humane Society is posting includes:

- Don't gift animals;
- Which foods animals should and should not eat;
- Ways to help pets deal with all the people and commotion of the holidays.

## 6. Other

Julie was asked to check with legal to see if June will have to step down as vice-chair of the ADPAC since she was recently elected to be a BPW commissioner.

Since the December meeting is only three weeks away and in the midst of the holiday season, Amber suggested the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting be suspended. Bob made a motion to suspend the December meeting, June seconded the motion and the committee members voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

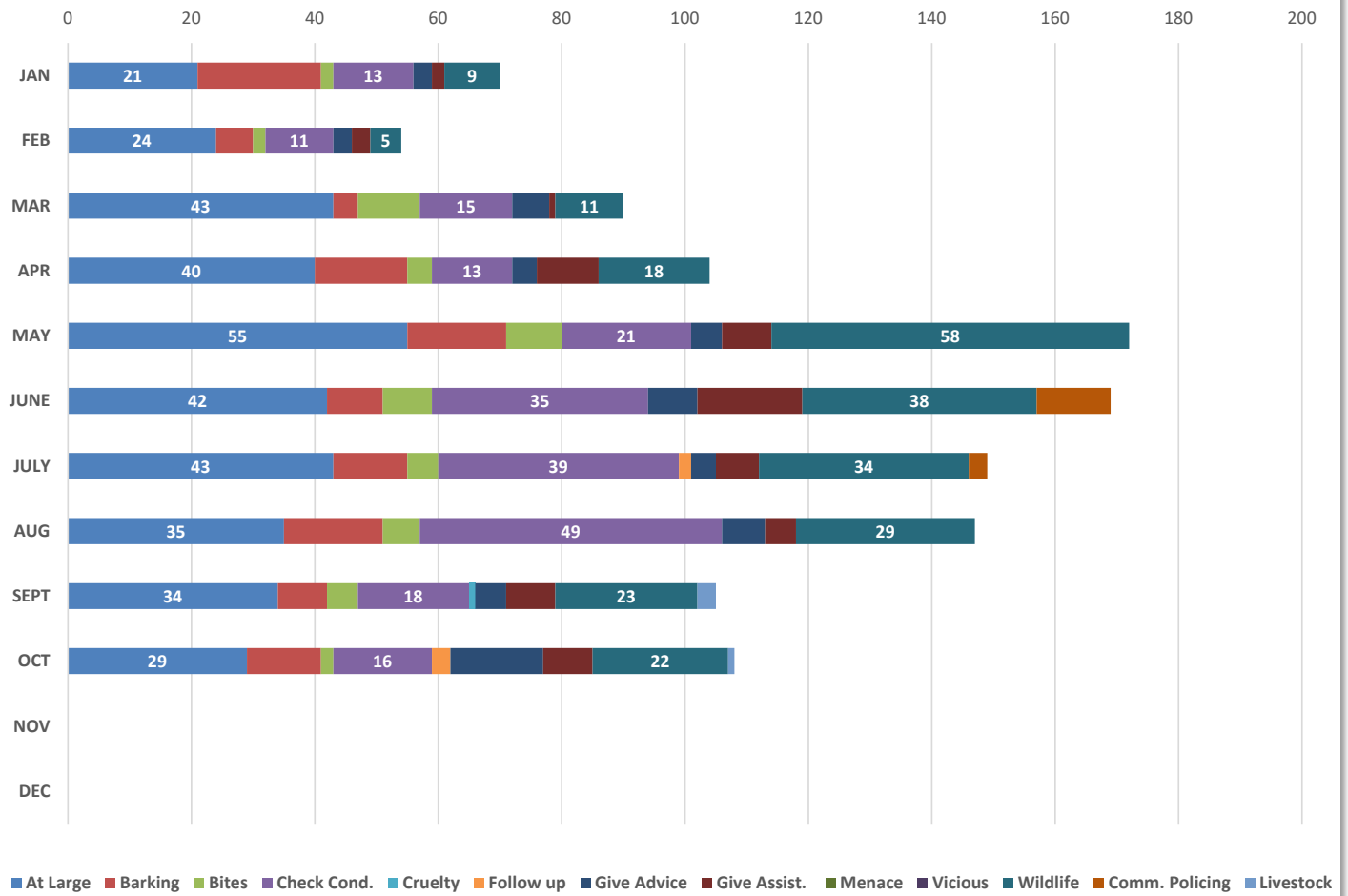
Meeting adjourned at 8:52 am by roll call vote

**December meeting cancelled.**

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 8 AM – 9 AM**

*Minutes by: Julie Chizmas*

### 2021 Animal Calls



Type/Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
At Large	21	24	43	40	55	42	43	35	34	29			366
Barking	20	6	4	15	16	9	12	16	8	12			118
Bites	2	2	10	4	9	8	5	6	5	2			53
Check Cond.	13	11	15	13	21	35	39	49	18	16			230
Cruelty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0			1
Follow up	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3			5
Give Advice	3	3	6	4	5	8	4	7	5	15			60
Give Assist.	2	3	1	10	8	17	7	5	8	8			69
Menace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Vicious	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Wildlife	9	5	11	18	58	38	34	29	23	22			247
Comm. Policing	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	0	0	0			15
Livestock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1			4
Totals:	70	54	90	104	172	169	149	147	105	108			1,168
Running Sum:	70	124	214	318	490	659	808	955	1,060	1,168			
2020 Sum:	98	188	294	370	532	693	832	965	1,075	1,179	1,254	1,327	1,327