Town of Swampscott

Board of Health

SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS 01907

The Board of Health, with Marianne Hartmann, Chairperson, Emily Cilley & Stephanie Goodman in attendance, along with Jeff Vaughan, Health Director & Linda Paster recording attended its monthly meeting on May 30, 2019 opening at 6:00 pm.

DOG BY LAW

Section 15 Pet Waste is hazardous according to CDC. Questions have appeared on Facebook such as Where do I run my dog? Where can dogs poop?

The current by law states a dog must be on leash at all times except during posted season at the beach. Refuse can never be completely cleaned up. Camera's have been discussed and found to be expensive both in product, upkeep, and monitoring. The Board has also discussed DNA testing, where the cost is paid by person upfront at time of licensing, the problem is other communities have found a decrease in dog registrations. To have citizens patrol this issue is unsafe, flyers or signs get ripped down. The Board of Health agreed that education would be key and that they should participate in a booth at Farmers Market. They also discussed a time change for the use of the beaches, but this would require a by-law change at Town Meeting. Joe Ford commended Marianne Hartman for answering the Facebook opinions and questions. Joe Ford also agrees that people don't like to change a habit. He doesn't like to see dogs at the Farmers market and has nicely asked people to leash their animal leaving most people giving a nasty reply. Majority of people at the Forest Avenue fields do not pick up after their dog. Why do they have a poop bag if these bags are left everywhere. There is a limited budget for the Animal Control Officer, as they are part-time on-call. Surrounding communities have restrictions on dogs on their fields. The dog park will open in a week and all dogs must be picked up after.

Al Pica, Swampscott Little League spent Board time talking about poop and are pleased with the by-law change. Youth sports playing amongst animal droppings is a health issue. The Medical Director states that safety is the priority.

Tasia V. Thanks the Board of Health for the by-law change, that it has been a longtime problem of poop at both the Ocean Breeze and Stanley school. The Girl Scout troop counted twenty-three piles on the field. This is something to think about when the children have outdoor gym and recess.

Lindsey – Agree with school prohibition. The new park is a great dog park. True the small percentage will be ruined by the larger population who don't care. Make the fine high enough.

Matthew Brogna, Swampscott Little League, no Facebook, no witness, no child should have to roll in poop when playing a sport. At anytime at the Swampscott middle School, twenty dogs can be seen running loose and people not cleaning up.

Joan Carradona, SPOT board and dog walker, Irresponsible people have ruined it for everyone. Off leash dogs should be regulated. To use the Dog Park, you will need a pooch pass where dogs can play off leash but within voice control. Pooch Pass will be available at Town hall. Remember 40% of dogs in town are registered.

Shane- kids and dogs go together but lives in Olmstead district which supports open space and was refused a fence.

Jason Calishman, Principal, Swampscott Middle School, as varsity coach of the baseball team he checks the field before a game. People shouldn't be allowed to have their dogs in the ballfield. He saw a T-ball child who dove for a ball into dog poop and the parents had to be called for a change of clothes. We must protect the children. We also need to get the work out to travel teams to not have the family dog at the field.

Michael Gladstein has a dog and coached soccer. Walks he dog in Ewing Woods and Universalist Church.

A comment was made earlier that the dog park will police itself, people are mostly irresponsible.

Understand the regulation and the need for policing. Dogs are social and communicate this way, marking their territory. Please explain the ACO's availability and authority. There are three people to report to; Health Director, Police, Animal Control Officer.

Martha Dansdill made a motion to increase the Animal Control salary.

Regulated public areas were presented as: no dogs on Abbot Park next to Clarke school, Make a dog path, like a "bike lane" through fields, Superior park In, Stanley School Ewing path – ok, Jackson Park lower and Jackson Bowl, no pets, the Garden Area at High School Courtyard, Linscott Park used for gym & recess, no pets, Phillips Park at Charlotte road make a dog lane.

NURSE

Town Administration is talking to Nahant about regionalizing position. Recreation Camps will be starting soon. High temperatures promote communicable disease. Board of Health unanimously stated their amazement as to the lack of progress this has had. A BOH member will speak to the Town Administrator.

Health Director

All pool inspections have been done; restaurant permits are in the mail. There will be a Hazardous Waste Drop on Saturday 9-noon. Tobacco people have a public records request for all information. June 13 permit for Tobacco regulation.

Next meeting will be July 9 at 6:0 pm

Adjourn 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted

Linda Paster