

RYE DOGS AT LARGE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

6:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

***Members Present:* Chairman Ritchie White, Vice-Chair Mike Garvan, Shawn Joyce, Susan Shepcaro, Selectman Phil Winslow and Police Chief Kevin Walsh.**

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes – August 15, 2018

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2, 2nd to last paragraph, last sentence should read: **The commission was given 19 or 20 pictures of the Tilton property and there are two photos of two dogs on Mr. Joyce's property.**
- Page 3, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence should note that the statement **“the easement does not allow unleashed dogs”** is referring to unleashed dogs entering private property.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the minutes of August 15, 2018 as amended. Seconded by Mike Garvan. All in favor.

III. Discussion on motion from meeting of July 15, 2018

Chairman White noted that Member Shepcaro had made a motion at the meeting on July 15th which was not voted on. The motion died for lack of a vote.

Member Shepcaro stated that her intent is to present the motion that was not acted on at the last meeting:

Motion by Susan Shepcaro to recommend to the Selectmen the following ideas, (to be used by the Selectmen), for educating people about the changes;

- (1) Signs in the woods;**
- (2) Handout flyers that would be created with input from the Police Department;**
- (3) Pamphlet that could be printed off the website;**
- (4) General information posted on the town's website;**
- (5) Postings in the Town Newsletter, Rye Magazine and the Portsmouth Herald;**

(6) Posting through the Rye Civic League; and
(7) Any other ideas the Selectmen may have for education.
Seconded by Selectman Winslow.

Member Shepcaro stated that someone spoke to her after the last meeting about the idea of a dog group being formed on social media. Lisa Jacobus said that she would be willing to run a 'Woods' Facebook page to help keep people informed.

The group agreed this was a good idea.

Chairman White called for any objection to the motion on the floor. No objections were heard.
Motion passed by consensus.

IV. Report from Chief Walsh

Police Chief Walsh stated that he sent to Chairman White a copy of the 'Site/Sound' PowerPoint to outline what the committee had discussed at the previous meeting. He would like the committee to review the proposed wording. He continued that he is working on adapting the Boulder educational video to Rye's needs. Once this is done, he will send the video to Chairman White for the committee to review before it is presented to the select board. He noted that he received an email back from the City of Boulder giving permission for Rye to use their material. Boulder would like credit for the material, which can be done somewhere in the PowerPoint.

There was some discussion about presenting the Boulder video to the Selectmen so they do not have to wait until the video is customized for Rye.

Selectman Winslow suggested forming a subcommittee to work with the Police Chief on making the video.

Chief Walsh noted that he is working on contacting the local high schools to see if the technology departments could become involved. He is also reaching out to the University of New Hampshire's drama and tech departments.

Member Shepcaro stated that if the video is done as a school project it could be done for little or no cost.

Chairman White commented that the video may be something that would not be done unless a warrant article is passed.

Selectman Winslow stated that the key is going to be the Deliberative Session. If Rye's video can be shown at the Deliberative Session it will speak volumes and will be a great sales piece.

The committee agreed.

Tags:

Selectman Winslow stated that the tag is something that the police department and animal control officer should recommend because they will be working on enforcement.

Member Joyce pointed out that Boulder is using green tags. It must be working because their program has been going on for nine years. The committee could ask them where they get the tags and the costs. The tags are sizeable. It is probably three times bigger than a regular dog tag.

Chairman White commented it would be important to get input from the police and dog officers on what they feel is enforceable. What kind of visibility are they going to need to see?

The committee agreed that each year should be a different color tag.

V. Approval of Final Report to the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Winslow suggested having two parts to the presentation package (for the Selectmen). One for the Town Forest and another for the beaches, etc. He asked what locations are being proposed for the Voice and Sight Control Tag Program.

Chairman White replied that the program is for the Town Forest and abutting town property (Rye rec and Parson's Field). *He read from the minutes of July 5, 2018:*

(Motion by Shawn Joyce that dogs who are registered in the 'Voice and Sight Control Tag Program' may be allowed off leash in the Rye Town Forest and on abutting town land; all other dogs must be on leash.)

Voted on and passed by the committee at the July 5th meeting.

The commission reviewed the definition of "dog at large" and "dog under control":

(Motion by Mike Garvan to submit to the Selectmen a definition of "dog at large", for the town forest, town beaches, town property and public places;

- ***A dog at large means the dog is off the premises of the owner or responsible party and not under the voice and sight control of any person responsible for the dog.***
- ***Voice control of the dog is defined as a dog returning immediately to and remaining by the side of the responsible party, in response to the responsible party's command for the dog to return.***
- ***Sight control of a dog is defined as a dog always being within the sight of the responsible party.***
- ***The dog is also specifically defined as "at large" under the ordinance when;***
 - 1. The dog is on private property without the permission of the property owner.***
 - 2. The dog jumps on an unwelcoming party.***
 - 3. Shows aggression to another dog and is not under voice control of the responsible party.***
 - 4. A responsible party refuses to call their dog through voice control when requested to by an authorized Town of Rye Official.)***

Vote on and passed by the committee at the July 20th meeting.

The committee reviewed the documents that will be presented to the Selectmen and made changes to the PowerPoint. They also discussed how the package should be presented to the Selectmen.

Next Steps:

- Chief Walsh will fine-tune the PowerPoint and Selectmen's report with the changes from the committee.
- Chief Walsh will send a copy of the PowerPoint and documents to Member Shepcaro for proofing.
- After proofing, a final draft will be sent to Chairman White to submit to the committee for approval.
- Chief Walsh will also begin working on the educational video to be used for the 'Voice and Sight Control Tag Program'.

After review and discussion, it was agreed that another committee meeting was needed before the presentation to the Selectmen.

VI. Other Business

Additional Guardian Fee:

Speaking to Chief Walsh, Selectman Winslow asked how the officers would know the person with the dog has paid the additional guardian fee.

Member Joyce pointed out that the officer would get the tag number and look up the information for that tag.

Chief Walsh noted that this will add work for the town clerk because there will be things they have to do to register the owner and additional guardians.

Member Joyce commented it would be the same idea as the beach stickers.

Chairman White pointed out that each guardian has to sign and acknowledge that they have read the rules.

Chief Walsh agreed to follow up with the town clerk and his staff regarding a process for keeping track of the information for the tags.

Update from Conservation Commission:

Member Garvan noted that he and Member Shepcaro presented the temporary leash law proposal for parts of the town forest to the Selectmen at their August 27th meeting. The select board needs to hold a public hearing before the temporary ordinance can be put in place. The Conservation Commission is going to remain proactive and get the signs ready for the leash zones. A digital map showing the proposed areas in the forest were submitted to the Town Administrator.

Chief Walsh confirmed that the information was sent to Attorney Donovan (town counsel) for his review. He will also send it to Attorney Griffin for his thoughts.

The Selectmen are planning to address the proposal and hold a public hearing at their meeting on September 24th. The committee agreed that the committee's presentation of their work and the proposed temporary leash ordinance should be presented separately at the Selectmen's meeting.

VII. Public Input

Mark Epply, Brackett Road, suggested having residents sign that they have read and understand the new town ordinance if it is put in place (temporary leash law).

- **Next Meeting scheduled for Monday, September 17th, 6:00 p.m.**

Adjournment

Motion by Phil Winslow to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Seconded by Mike Garvan. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger