

CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA  
2019 FEB 27 AM 8:00

**Animal Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Thursday, January 24, 2019**

**City Hall Conference Room-1st Floor**

**Members Present:** Alicia Pensarosa, Beth Klinefelter, Jennifer Jackman, Dianne Corliss, Jodi Swenson

**City Council Liaison Present:** Jennifer Holmgren

Meeting called to order at 6:39pm

Meeting minutes approved from 11-29-18

Discussion about piping plover plan based on meeting in January 2019:

Development of Piping plover plan (P3 plan)

All members agree on volunteer shirts, more fencing, volunteer training, signage

Ken Whitaker is retiring, last day is February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

We've been given these tasks by the administration:

- Make recommendations on t-shirts, hats, badges
- Crosswalk yield signs
- Hats
- Badges
- Make recommendations on signs for boardwalk paths and footbridge
- Wording for signage and t-shirts
- Setting up an informational meeting

Discussion about enforcement:

At January 2019 meeting Chief McCarthy talked about shifting animal control hours and hopefully freeing up more time for animal control officers

Discussion about our other recommendations:

From Jen Holmgren:

Ordinance changes will not be brought to or voted on by City Council.

City administration is going to focus on stronger enforcement first

Discussion about trying to break down ordinances-discussion about better signage and less controversial ordinances like trash, etc. Can we try to pass them?

Discussion about compliance with state guidelines

We felt it was important to change the ordinances so that certain activities are illegal more enforcement and better plover protection

Goal was to decrease some of the human activities with the ordinances to better support the plovers

Discussion about 2019 volunteer season:

Volunteers will have shirts/hats, signage will be better, have training sessions, improve scheduling/coverage on the beach, improved fencing

Going to focus animal control officers on Good Harbor Beach (GHB) during the plover season

During informational session-have Chief McCarthy there to inform volunteers how to talk to people to avoid conflict, what to say, etc

Discussion about t-shirts: use DPW shirts, badges, hats

On shirt:

City seal or City of Gloucester on the front

Safety yellow

Discussion about wording

Front: City of Gloucester seal

Back: Endangered Species Protection

Hats-Gloucester is for Plovers

Badges-City seal and endangered species protection

Potential "plover crossing" sign-ask about storage and access

On sign, yield, watch for flightless chicks, plover crossing, ask me about plovers

Recommendations for signage at boardwalks:

Something attention grabbing

Discussion about including fines, decided to take an awareness, education approach

Signage at enclosures

Decided on signage based on example found online-example will be sent to administration

Discussion about putting up plover photos at the footbridge on the bulletin board

Discussion about sandwich board on beach

Discussion about setting up google calendar for volunteers-password protected, have to go through training session to receive password

Set up multiple training sessions

Discussion about plover informational session:

Hosting the event at the Library

Beginning of March

Discussion about what to include in presentation

Discussion about Mass Audubon-involving them for educational presentation

Discussion about having an outsider present

Public Comment:

Kim Smith: Question about the roping before April 1<sup>st</sup>

Wanted to be clear about the ordinances and City Council

Discussion about volunteer needs in April when dogs are still allowed on the beach

Worried that it puts more work on the volunteers

Deborah: Did anyone on the City Council speak to volunteers or animal advisory about the recommendations?

AAC then discussed the following:

Discussion about presenting to City Council and our recommendation process

Potentially have the AAC present to City Council on our recommendations when the administration goes to present

Plan to review after this season to decide if more ordinance changes are needed.

Heather Hall:

Want to support our recommendations and what we are doing-want to collaborate more during meetings

All public in attendance:

Discussion about issues on the beach last year-dog disturbances can have a negative effect on plovers

Heated discussion between City Council Liaison Jen Holmgren and public in attendance. In the end all of us are passionate and emotional

Discussion about public comment during meetings

Discussion about dogs being on the beach and the reality of them being there, working around them, increasing education

Discussion about volunteers calling police to reinforce and protect the birds

New Business:

Discussion about seal on GHB that was harassed-who to call, report it to, etc

Discussion about someone finding a group of dead beavers near Goose Cove

Discussion about who to report photos to-Environmental Police, Mass Wildlife

Next meeting:

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Discussion about making a plover presentation for March and what that would mean for open meeting law

Meeting adjourned 8:26pm

