

AAC Meeting Notes 5/30/17

Animal Advisory Committee Minutes

May 30, 2017

City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Alicia Pensarosa, Beth Klinefelter, Jennifer Jackman, Jodie Swenson, Jennifer Schmorrow, Jennifer Holmgren

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm  
Minutes from 5/9/17 were approved.

Public Comments:

Karen Tibbetts  
14 Wonson St  
Gloucester, MA

Summary of comments:

Talked to neighbors and collaborated on a letter of concerns  
Neighbors are dealing with daily threats by one coyote, live under constant fear, stalking pets daily, they believe 13 cats and 2 dogs killed/attacked  
They have worked to follow tips given  
Feel they can't walk their pets  
They are asking for immediate attention, long term management, change management plans  
Hoping we can think of the best management solution  
Has photographs  
Fences in her yard aren't enough  
Crisis situation, can't wait for future management  
Very large coyote: leader, looks like a wolf, his behavior is different  
Tried light and loud sounds, throwing rocks

Judy Perry  
21 Wonson St  
Gloucester, MA  
Sarah Anderson Olsen (Sally)  
5 Sumac Ln  
Gloucester, MA  
Dog killed by coyote  
Trash is put out early-around Rocky Neck  
20 Wonson St owner wasn't home all winter, 5 coyotes spent time there

Public Comments ended 6:35pm

Chief McCarthy's comments-aggressive coyote not been observed yet, GPD has to see it before dispatching the animal if it's a threat to public safety

2010 JUL 25 AM 9:29  
CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA

5 coyote calls today to Animal Control

Chief McCarthy believes it would be important for AAC to address beaches-dog owners and non dog owners have strong feelings on both sides

Public demand on the beach, if we can't control dogs-we have to ban them from the beach

Dog Ordinance comments:

90% of tickets are out of towners

Dog owners trying to help, pick up after other people's dogs

Ordinance is set up to manage expectations-not every non dog owner may not be aware that dogs are off leash on odd days, education is important

Littering problem in Gloucester

We discussed raising fines

Most of the tickets written are for leash law violations, beach violations

Assume liability if you take your dog out

Discussions about recent changes to ordinances, what has worked, more enforcement needed?

We discussed the possibility of having a summer beach for dogs? -have to look at restricted hours first

We discussed starting a beach steward program for education purposes

We discussed re-adding the ordinance that required people to have a waste bag with them when walking their dog

We discussed making the ordinances more simple and condensed. Also reaffirmed the necessary addition of the new state tethering and vehicle

Discussion on coyotes:

Neighborhoods for coyote calls:

Rocky Neck

Grove St

Elizabeth Rd

Hart St

Rust Island

Karen Gorczyca and Christina Russo from Gloucester Coyote Project:

The committee introduced what we have done and discussed

Gloucester Coyote Project discussed their work and the purpose of their organization

They want to do some good data collection to better understand them so they sent out proposals for scientists to come study in Gloucester

Urban Coyote Initiative-sent photographer to document and map where they are in Gloucester

General discussion about what we have thought about, ideas on how to get the surveys out, how to best reach Gloucester residents, bringing in outside education  
More efforts made to educate the community  
Talked about citizen science-utilizing iNaturalist App to report sightings  
Jennifer Holmgren talked to Kestrel they would be willing to educate students  
Chief McCarthy offered to generate statistics about coyote calls and complaints and sightings  
Email Mayor to get John from Project Coyote here

**Next steps:**

Start building out materials and resources  
Facebook  
How are we going to do the survey?  
Reach out to kestrel  
Have a forum/presentation at community center  
Do a site visit at Rocky Neck

**Next meeting:**

Move items 3 and 4 to next agenda  
Continue coyote discussion  
Linda and Cindy will present on dog ordinances  
Discussion about Plovers on GHB

Meeting ended at 8:43pm