

To: Members of the Town Council

From: Patricia Grennon, Chair,  
Town Council Ordinance Committee

Date: October 27, 2017

Re: Proposed Changes to Chapter 7, Sec. 7-1-7 Ordinance (Dogs)

The Town Council Ordinance Committee considered a recommendation by the Fort Williams Park Committee (FWPC) to change the limits of the "Unleashed Dog Area" in Fort Williams Park. The recommendation was discussed at the October 19<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Committee. The original recommendation by the FWPC was made at their September 21, 2017 meeting and reads as follows:

**That (1) dogs be restricted from the Multi-Purpose Field from April 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, (2) that the off-leash area be extended to include a portion of the "The Green" to a line from the southerly end of Battery Blair extending easterly to the Cliff Walk and (3) the ordinance language be reviewed and conform to the "Off-Leash" area map upon consideration of this proposal.**

Two members of the FWPC (Suzanne McGinn & James Kerney) attended our meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> and provided background on the genesis of the recommendation and past discussions that were held by the Committee at their July and September meetings in 2017. The primary issue was safety-related concerns and consideration for the general welfare of the athletic field that is within the "Unleashed Dog Area". Residents and members of the dog community attended both meetings and offered input as the FWPC deliberated the issues.

Public Works Director Robert Malley also attended our meeting and offered his opinion on the recommendation of the FWPC. He suggested that the prohibition period to stay off the field should be changed to "**April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>**". He also stated that the proposal to extend the limits to the southerly end of Battery Blair easterly to the Cliff Walk was satisfactory to him.

After careful consideration, the Town Council Ordinance Committee recommends the following text changes to Chapter 7 (Dogs), Section 7-1-7 at its meeting held on October 27, 2017:

**Sec. 7-1-7 Dogs to be Restrained on Municipal Property.**

(a) Any dog within the boundaries of a groomed and/or regularly maintained municipal property including, but not limited to, Fort Williams Park, public roads, municipal sidewalks and athletic fields, will be walked on a leash or tether at all times. The person accompanying the

dog in these situations is required to collect any feces dropped by the animal and dispose of same in an area where it will not likely be encountered by any persons. The Cape Elizabeth Poor Farm, Lions' Field excluding the Little League field, and a ~~20+~~ acre portion of Fort Williams Park Southerly of Humphreys Road (as defined in paragraph (b) (the road fronting the Parks Maintenance Building) and extending along a line to the rear of the long garages at the rear of Officers Row buildings, (but excluding the fields immediately south of Portland Head Light and in front of Battery Blair) are not considered to be groomed and/or regularly maintained for purposes of this ordinance.

(b) The Unleashed Dog Area in Fort Williams Park (encompassing the Multi-Purpose Field) is defined as an area abutting the Southerly edge of the Central Parking Lot and extending westerly along the Southerly side of the Heavy Equipment Storage Building, continuing Westerly directly behind the long garages at the rear of the Officers Row buildings to Harrison Road; continuing on (and including) Merriman Road along the northerly border of Delano Park to the water's edge; then extending northerly along the shoreline turning westerly across "The Green" to the southern end of Battery Blair; turning northerly then westerly back to the Southerly edge of the Central Parking Lot (as referenced on the Unleashed Dog Area Map dated (insert date)). Dogs are prohibited on the Multi-Purpose Athletic Field from April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>.

On behalf of the Town Council Ordinance Committee, I would respectfully request that this recommendation be placed on the November 6<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting Agenda for further consideration and be set for a Public Hearing at a date TBD.

**Fort Williams Park  
Unleashed Dog Area  
October 23, 2017**

Picnic Shelter

Capt & Girl

Courts

Gazebo



Humphreys Rd



Battery Blair

Playground



Multi-purpose Field  
No dogs April 1-  
November 1

Battery Garesche

Harrison Rd

Merimian Rd

Merimian Rd

Delano Park



Prep