
MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPE ELIZABETH TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: MATTHEW STURGIS, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: DOG ORDINANCE
DATE: 3/7/2018
CC: FILE

The Cape Elizabeth Dog was recently reviewed specifically to the off leash areas at Fort Williams Park. During the course of that discussion, questions arose related to the off-leash areas that are identified in the current ordinance, and more notably which areas are not identified.

Since the last revision of the Dog Ordinance (1991) the Town has acquired the Gull Crest parcel and Winnick Woods, as well as other open space areas. The ordinance does not identify these parcels in section 7-1-7 of the ordinance “Dogs to be Restrained on Municipal Property” and this has led to questions by the general public and staff as to determining which areas allow off-leash access and the enforcement thereof. There have also been questions regarding off leash access to the Town’s athletic fields and Town beaches.

Since 2012 the Conservation Committee has held discussions with dog owners in Cape Elizabeth related to which areas allow off leash dogs. These conversations were in concert with the Open Space Management Plan, and under their stewardship responsibilities identified in the Boards and Committee’s Ordinance. The Dog Ordinance needs to reflect the currently allowed (both formally and informally) off leash areas of town owned open space in Cape Elizabeth.

It is the manager’s recommendation that the Dog Ordinance be referred to the Conservation Committee for review and recommendations for revisions to section 7-1-7.