

OFFICE OF THE
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William F. Brennan
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Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY JULY 6, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Second Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter **ABSENT:** Selectman Hal Clark,

GUESTS: Sandy Dennies, Steve Pierce, Jamie VanAcker and approximately 5 members of the public

OTHERS: Joan Lounds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager), Christian Camarota (Patch.com), T.J. Buzzeo (The Daily Wilton) News 12

First Selectman Brennan opened the hearing at 7:15 PM advising that a public hearing is required by Charter before amending an ordinance. The Board of Selectmen is here to receive public comment on the proposed modification to Section 10C-2 of Article 1 Leashing of Dogs.

George Young of River Road said that he has attended these meetings before and feels that the ordinance should be expanded to include all of Allen's Meadows including the garden area. He said that the second problem is that there isn't enough adequate signage regarding the leashing of dogs. His third point was that there needs to be better enforcement of the laws and he said that he realizes that it was unfair to expect the police officers to enforce it and suggested that Park and Rec could participate in the enforcement of the leash laws. He added that he felt this is a community effort that it's not only a sanitation but public safety issue.

Toni Wiseman of Olmstead Hill Road said that she felt there was no place to let dogs run free. She said that she can't walk her dog along the street because there are no sidewalks so she takes her dog to Allen's Meadow. She said that children roam free on the playing grounds and she doesn't feel that a dog under voice control is any more of a hazard to the fields. She feels these laws are being made because of the people who don't pick up after their dogs and said that perhaps there should be heavier fines for those not picking up after their dogs. If there is a problem then the owner should be reprimanded and fined and maybe forced to prove that their dogs can be controlled.

Vince Daily of Hempleskamp Road, said that while he agrees with the leash laws in town and on the playing fields he doesn't feel that Allen's Meadow should be included in the leash laws. He feels that along the edge of Allen's Meadow there are areas that children never play and are sufficiently away from the playing fields. He asked about the area near Shenck's Island which was a conservation area that he

heard was available for dogs off leash. First Selectman Brennan said that he would look into that area. Finally, he asked that they consider letting dogs on the Allen's Meadows fields off season when it's not being used for play.

Barbara Holdridge of 14 Forge Road said that she thought it was very important for Wilton that this law be very clear and she was in favor of the ordinance. She gave the example of an incident in Ridgefield where two unleashed dogs attacked a man and the puppy he was walking.

Having no further comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed at 7:30 PM.

The Public Hearing was followed immediately by a Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Respectively submitted,

Mariana Corrado
Recording Secretary