

VMICC Public Safety Committee

Draft Minutes 2-6-09

In attendance: Kyle Cruver (chair), Steve Abel, Susan Davidson, Susan Lowrey, Jim Didricksen, Ted Boe, Russ Patterson,

Meeting started 10:10am

Susan Lowrey expressed concern about dogs running loose on the island. Wants to know what can be done, in view of many on the island who like dogs to be able to run free.

She noted that she's tired of stepping in unscooped dog doo, and dealing with other's dog problems when she's simply trying to take a walk in her own neighborhood.

Susan Davidson noted that she has found a sonic repeller effective when she is approached by an aggressive dog. Russ and Ted noted that products like pepper spray are generally ineffective, as dogs don't have tear ducts. Might even make an angry dog angrier.

All agreed that there are insufficient sheriff staff to try to patrol and respond to animal complaints. Ted promised to look into stats on animal bites and complaints.

Kyle will look into Parks Department policy on unleashed animals. Island parks and King County parks have different laws. Maybe Vashon needs an off-leash park?

There was a brief discussion about what constitutes public right of way for walking on island beaches. Ted talked about the variations in property owner rights based on what the landowner has claimed. Some homes own the land up to the high tide mark, while others might own tidelands to below low tide mark. No Trespassing signs are your best resource to know where you can, or can't access the beach. Homeowner must first warn that a walker is trespassing prior to any trespass enforcement action by sheriffs.

Russ and Ted complimented the way protests were handled at the Glacier site on Maury Island. Protesters were very conscientious, and worked with the sheriffs to make provisions for any emergency vehicles that may require site access. It was a good lesson in civil discourse for both the protesters and law enforcement, according to Ted.

Jim received kudos for how well his crew was able to maintain Vashon roads during the recent storms. Noted that folks should never try to clear downed powerlines themselves. Call 911 or PSE to report instead.

Jim should know in the coming weeks which Vashon roads will be improved by the upcoming asphalt overlay. Cost of materials has risen dramatically even with the economic downturn, and that will effect how many area roadways will be improved. Jim also brought up the issue of A board sidewalk signs on Vashon sidewalks and roadways. These are prohibited, and he'd like to enforce the law and maintain pedestrian safety and access. Business owners have been critical of his concerns, and he hopes that an equitable solution can be found. Barring that, the signs must go. Kyle will talk with the vashon merchants' association, Chamber of Commerce about this issue to try to reconcile.

Kyle Cruver
VMICC Public Safety Committee
PO Box 13384
Burton, WA 98013
206-567-4068