



HPCD All Member Meeting

Date: April 20, 2026

Place: DML

Time: 6:35-8:00P

Presiding: Jeff Idels

Present: Marna Bate, Amy Groden, Lori Everett, MarilynRose Guarino, Bonnie Chianter, Karen Healy, Mary Hastings, Christina Zandri, Rose Fiore, Josie Soraghan, Cathy Carey, Kathy Fedorchuk, Gary Costin (new), Linda Costin (new), Marianne Martin, Matt McNamara, Anne Thomas, Shirley Murphy, Jeff Idels, Rebecca Blair, Wes Blair, Sue Bernier. On Zoom- John Severin, MB Maughan, Lois Barry. There may have been others on Zoom which are missing and I apologize.

Secretary: Rebecca Blair (revised minutes 4.21.26)

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Jeff welcomed all and particularly mentioned Linda and Gary Costin who are attending their first meeting as they consider joining. They have a CGC certified dog.
 - ❖ Jeff also congratulated two new Board members: Amy Groden, Member at Large and Rose Fiore, Secretary.
 - ❖ We thanked Mary and Brian Hastings for their Board participation for the last few years. They did a fabulous job as Secretar(ies) and being in charge of the HPCD online store. We are currently reviewing ideas for managing the store.
 - ❖ Jeff also congratulated John Severin and Karen Healy for having their two dogs successfully complete the CGC exam.
2. **Update on 2026 revised HPCD Handbook-** Rebecca reviewed the updated handbook which is revised every two years. She shared some of the added items included in the revised text:
 - ❖ CGC Certification questions- Kathy Fedorchuk recommended a comprehensive description of the exam on the AKC website.
 - ❖ She introduced the new HPCD Safety & Unusual Occurance Reporting Form. There were questions about the need for this document, and members contributed comments that it is only for examples of behaviors or issues that could either lead to litigation or could be used to promote learning by HPCD membership. This form will go to the President and Regional Coordinators for Action and not shared with the membership. It was clarified that a member

could complete the form or the Spotter. This document is available on the Members' website.

- ❖ More information about the role of the Spotters and there is a pending class being designed for all Spotters.
- ❖ Trainers are all listed as well for easy reference.
- ❖ The Handbook is also available online and easy to access; however, some members appreciate a hardcopy and there is a supply of those available as well.

3. **Matt's Moment-** Jeff welcomed Matt to share an educational opportunity "You Will Never, Ever Have That, - "Leave it," the instructional flyer is also available on the Members' page of the website. He demonstrated with Roxy how to teach that dogs can be taught to leave food on the ground and to Never pick it up. Treats or other reinforcement comes from the handler only. He emphasized, among other things that the "superpower" for any dog is smell and our dogs will find "food" items on the floor. Matt also mentioned that this is an important skill to teach since it's not possible to have eyes on the dog 100% of the time.

Members asked questions and applauded at the end of the lesson.

4. **Discussion on existing visitation sites and new sites for each region. Upcoming events for April and May.**

- ❖ Jeff shared information about the Upper Cape region. A new visit location exists- LIFE (Living Independently ForEver)- for the first visit 4-5 teams were present, and it was very well received; Sandwich Congregate Housing; Laurentide; all the Falmouth schools. Jeff commented that the Upper Cape has become very busy.
- ❖ Anne discussed the successes and challenges of the Outer Cape. This is a smaller group of dog teams and yet has a number of standing visit locations, such as Rock Harbor; AIM (outpatient addiction group) which has been very receptive to the comfort of the dogs; Lilly House (hospice); Provincetown Library; Eastham Library and the Terraces.
- ❖ Anne's challenge is needing more teams to visit. She is also working on having enough teams so HPCD teams can visit the local schools (TBD).
- ❖ Rebecca shared information about the Mid/Lower Cape (in Amy's absence). She shared that there are a number of public and charter schools having routine visits (Ezra Baker, Sturgis East/West, Light House etc.); the Chatham Housing Authority is being visited; Veterans group in Hyannis; Dennis Senior Center; the Mall's Alzheimer's Center and others. Rebecca commented that she is working to re-establish the DY Summer Program for kids run by Alphabet. Last year this group included 45 kids and was well-run.

5. **Upcoming April/May Events-** Jeff produced and handout with upcoming events for the remainder of April and May. There were 9 events listed:

- ❖ Wychmere Fashion Show and Fund Raiser.
- ❖ Harwich Health and Environmental Fair.
- ❖ Nauset Newcomers group.
- ❖ Brewster Health and Wellness Fair.

- ❖ Eastham Dog Owners Bow Wow Bash.
- ❖ Canines and Cocktails at the Wellfleet Preservation Hall.
- ❖ Cape Cod Cares for the Troops.
- ❖ Hounds of Highfield.

At the appropriate time, all these event locations will be listed on the Members page of the HPCD website so members can sign up.

All Member request: HPCD is currently looking for more teams to visit the Outer Cape locations. For information, please contact Anne Thomas. HPCD is asking members to participate in the upcoming busy Spring/Summer public events. Dogs do not need to be CGC certified to participate in summer *Events*.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55P.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca