



Somerville Dog Owners Group
Questionnaire for Candidates
2007 Municipal Elections

Name: Bob Trane

Address: 70 Hooker Ave

Phone: 617-623-5767

e-mail: RobertTrane@aol.com

website: BobTrane.ORG

Office for which you are seeking election: Alderman Ward 7

1. Tell us about your experiences as a Somerville resident at our municipal parks. What parks do you visit, how often, what do you do there when you visit?

I frequent Dilboy most often. I enjoying watching the various youth sports that use the various fields. I also visit the various parks in my area to check on conditions and maitenance .

2. Somerville has just over two (2) acres of open space for every thousand residents. We are the most densely populated city in the Commonwealth. Compare that to Cambridge, the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts, where there are over eight (8) acres of open space for every thousand residents. What will you do in the upcoming term to increase the area of open space per capita in Somerville.

The Board of Alderman approved a measure to access impact fees on large developments that would fund green space aquuisitions, historic preservation and affordable housing. A revolving fund would be set up under this legislation.Unfortunatly this new ordiance requires approval on Beacon Hill and it has stalled. I will work to lobby our State Delagation to move this important home rule petition and I would ask all of Somervilles Citizens to do the same.

3. Despite recent improvements, nonetheless families with dogs remain underserved by Somerville's open spaces, particularly in East Somerville, in West Somerville and in the Davis Square, Magoun Square and Winter Hill neighborhoods. What opportunities will you create to improve access for families with dogs to open space?

I have worked with members of SOMDOG to try and find a location for a dog park in my area. Like many of you I am want an area to allow my dog a chance to run and play with other dogs. We worked together and found what we thought would be a perfect location on state owned land along river but we have been unsuccessful in our efforts. Given the current state of DCR and the tight budget constraints I feel we should work on a location where we have a better chance at success. I have recently discovered a location not far from area we looked at that would make a wonderful area for a dog park. Michelle Biscoe has been out to look at it and I plan on working

with SOMdog, the administration and state delegation to move this idea forward. With your support I think we could get this done.

4. The Somerville Dog Owners Group has been delighted to see improvements in recent years in the City's Animal Control Department and in the enforcement of municipal ordinances pertaining to animals, including the leash law and the "pooper-scooper" law. What initiatives would you undertake to further improve Animal Control in Somerville?

I would like to see more night and weekend time for animal control. Perhaps a additional part time person to help out with late calls and weekend hours.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs? yes

6. If you are a dog owner please tell us about your dog(s); if not, please share some of your experiences with dogs in the community.

The most spoiled Wiemaraner, Jasper, owns my family. He is currently lounging on the couch across from me as I write this and he has given me a dirty look for typing to loudly. I think that the social aspect of dog ownership is often overlooked. Dog people are outside of their homes and talking with neighbors. It has been my experience that dog owners are more aware of the neighborhood where they live and take notice of changes.

Jasper, has introduced me to other dogs and the people they allow to live with them and many have become good friends. All to often I forget the owners name and remember the dogs name. Is that just me or do other dog people have the same problem.

Now if I could just get the dogs to vote. They always are happy to see me and they run over with tails wagging. I'm sure the dog treats in my pocket have nothing to do with it.

Return to:
Somerville Dog Owners Group
P.O. Box 63
Somerville, MA 02143
somedog@somervilledog.com