

Somerville Dog Owners Group
Questionnaire for Candidates for 2005 Municipal Elections

Name: Bob Trane

Office for which you are seeking election: Alderman Ward 7 (incumbent)

1. How many times a month do you visit Somerville parks and/or playgrounds? Please list the parks you visit, and, for each park, the number of times per week and the reason(s) you visit.

I most often visit Dilboy Field with my dog. It is the only open area that I know of where I can let the dog run off leash in the city. I believe that the DCR has regulations against this but the State Police or Park Rangers has never challenged me. I also check the parks in my ward on a regular basis to look at playground equipment and maintenance.

2. Somerville City Ordinance, 12-51, "Dogs in Parks and Playgrounds," leaves it to the discretion of the Commissioner of Public Works to post "No Dogs Allowed Signs at city parks. Do you know of any parks under the jurisdiction of the City that are *not* posted "No Dogs Allowed"? If so, which ones?

I don't know of any city parks that are not posted

3. If elected in November, what will you do in the upcoming term to improve the equitable distribution of open space in order to serve the many and diverse needs of Somerville residents?

It is my hope that we can establish off leash areas in parks in various areas across the city. I have been a supporter of your group's efforts and I will continue to support those efforts. As a dog owner I see the need for areas where dogs can get off leash and socialize with other dogs and their owners can also enjoy our city parks. One often-overlooked aspect of dog ownership is the chance it provides to meet other dog owners and form friendships. I have made many friends over the last few years and the main reason we met was because we met on a dog walk.

Somerville Dog Owners Group Questionnaire (continued)

4. In 2005, the City Clerk mailed out a brochure about responsible dog ownership along with dog license renewal applications. 2005 was also the fifth year that the Animal Control Department and the Health Department participated in the state-wide Annual Rabies Vaccination Day. What else do you think the City of Somerville can do to promote responsible dog ownership?

I have one major concern that I believe really needs to be addressed. The condition of the so-called kennel area that is located in the DPW garage is inadequate to say the least. This area is in need of a major rehab or replacement. I also would like to offer a suggestion for your group to discuss. Would you be interested in working with the Animal Control Officer? Perhaps a program could be set up to offer foster homes to dogs or maybe a featured a dog of the month on your web site to help with the adoption of any dogs that are left in city custody.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs?

Yes

If you answered "no" to question 5, please skip to question 6.

5a. Please provide your dog(s) name(s) and describe a typical day in the life of your dog(s).

My family owns a dog or should I say he owns us. His name is Jasper and he is a Weimaraner. He has the run of the house and he is one pampered pooch. His day most often starts with his cold nose in my face at some ungodly hour to tell me it's time for his morning walk. We stroll down to Alewife Brook Pkwy and down to Mass Ave. We walk along Mass Ave to the bike path and out to Davis Sq. Then it's up Holland to Teele Sq so he can stop and see his friends at the Fire Station and to see his other pal, the Crossing Guard. We return home so that he can catch his midmorning nap on the couch. An afternoon walk is next on the agenda. At night we meet up with a neighborhood group of dog people and we slip into Arlington to an area we can let the dogs run and play.

5b. How many times per week does your dog get a leash walk off his territory (i.e. off your property)?

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5c. How many times per week does your dog get to play off-leash with other dogs (not including dogs in the same household)?

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Somerville Dog Owners Group Questionnaire (continued)

6. In your opinion, what is the place of dogs in our families and communities?

In our family Jasper is everyone's buddy. He greets my daughter at the door when she returns home from school and smothers her with kisses. He will jump up next to who ever is on the couch and rest his head in your lap. He is a companion and friend. His love is unconditional. I feel his is the best therapy for me after a stressful day.

I've also met some great people because I was out walking my dog and met fellow dog owners or dog lovers. I think the social aspect is often over looked.

I think the best story I can relate to you is about a piece of mail that I sent out when I first ran for election. This was the first piece of campaign literature that I'd sent. It contained a family photo and of course our dog was in the picture as a key member of the family.

I then went out door to door for the first time. I was nervous but prepared and ready to answer questions on various city and ward issues. But a funny thing happened. Everyone that had seen the piece wanted to know about the dog. What is his name? What kind of dog is he? He is so good looking. Not one question about the budget, nothing on trash pickup or street repairs or schools.

After three days of this I gave up and asked my wife to come along on my door knocking. She asked why and I said I need someone to hold the leash while I talked. He may be the reason I won the election and I am the Alderman today. Just don't tell him! We can hardly live with him as it is.

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