

Minutes of the Newtown Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 14th, 2016

Location: Newtown Municipal Town Building, 3 Primrose Street, Meeting Room 1

Attendance: Members: Adria Henderson, Chair, Frank McCloskey, Gene Rosen, Jane Hellman, & Joy Brewster

Alternate: None

Also in attendance: ACO Carolee Mason, Asst. ACO Matt Schaub, & Police Sgt. Aaron Bahamonde

Absent: Public Works Director, Fred Hurley and First Selectman Pat Llodra

Meeting began @ 10:30 am

No executive session or public participation

Old Business

HVAC Update

Robin Olson will review the completed certified testing and balancing report and send a letter to UC Davis. Chairman Henderson will oversee it.

Dog Play Yard

Update tabled to the next meeting since Director Hurley is not scheduled to complete the drainage/runs project until the spring.

Boundary Signs

Deputy Land Use Director Rob Sibley put up the new signs for the leash law & gave a few extras to the staff.

Chairman Henderson sent an email in late December to Director Sibley about the color coded sticks & map legend First Selectman Llodra recommended, including ones on state property, but she hasn't heard back from him yet. She'll send a follow-up email & cc George Benson & FS Llodra.

Also group should look into adding another kiosk closer to the shelter too since other one too far down from where people park.

Indoor Building Signs

ACO Mason said they should be ready next week.

Parking Gate for Shelter

Tabled and will monitor since not an issue right now. If not a gate, then Joy asked about looking into a sign at entrance noting that there's no access when the shelter is not open.

Security Cameras

ACO Mason confirmed they now have a dedicated monitor in the office.

Facebook Pages

Asst. ACO Schaub deleted the 3rd old, non-active link. Gene found another inactive one but Asst. ACO Schaub will have to see if he has access to delete it. If not, he'll post a comment that the page is no longer active & list the active FB link.

Official link is @ <https://www.facebook.com/NewtownAnimalControlShelter?fref=ts> and is actively updated by Amy Sullivan with write-ups & photos.

Newtown Bee

Chairman Henderson contacted them and they changed the wording from Pound to Shelter in the weekly paper

New Business

Misty

The Akita, surrendered to the Shelter by her owner, had 6 puppies. No one knew she was pregnant even after NVS amputated her left front leg in Nov. Unfortunately, the puppies have to be in quarantine with their Mom until April. Only the staff with rabies shots can have contact with them. ACO Mason will contact the Akita rescue group and the Board plans to do an article leading up to April to help get them adopted.

Board Alternates

Need two alternates and would like one with cat experience. ACO Mason recommended emailing Monica at the Animal Shelter for names and Joy suggested someone. Chairmen Henderson will contact her and also posted the openings on her Animal Matters FB page. She'll send posting information to Amy Sullivan to post on the Shelter's FB page too.

Park & Recreation adoption event

It will be held on Feb. 5th @ Dickenson Park with Kitten Rescue & North Shore with kid events & a fundraiser for Ben's Lighthouse. ACO Mason declined to participate since it's not the best event for shelter dogs & the Board agreed. Also Board agreed to discuss future adoption events at the next meeting.

Dog Walkers

There's a snow blower now at the shelter that the staff uses to create paths. ACO Mason said the program is doing well and all forms are up to date.

Fosters

ACO Mason said Amy Sullivan was fostering the 2 Chihuahuas for a short time but they expected to be adopted on Sat.

Adoption fees

ACO Mason said a new agriculture law allows them to charge up to \$150 per dog or cat if shelter has to pay to get them spayed & neutered - otherwise the adoption fee is still only \$5.

Educational program

There's \$10k in the budget from the bequest to use for educational programs.

Chairman Henderson will form a small committee for those who are interested & will put it on the agenda for next meeting.

New Website

Frank received an email about a new website "EyeOnTown" with one for Newtown. The editor would like to post dogs & cats available for adoption. He'll forward it on to ACO Mason to review & decide if Amy should include them in her periodic distribution list.

Next Meeting – schedule for Thursday Feb. 18th 10:30am @ Newtown Municipal Town Building