

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 17, 2010

Attendees: Marie Hawkins, Brandon Garette, Tina Morrison, Pat Holland, Kim Schwicklash, Tianna Higgins, Will Watson, Jacqui Deveneuve, Linda Frechette, Nancy Tate, Kim Hatch

Introductions of Committee Members

Announcement was made about Kim Hatch becoming full board member from alternate. The Board voted on Brandon Garette becoming Treasurer. The vote was 3 yeas, 0 neas.

At the last meeting, we discovered that we had to put a budget proposal together in two days to present to the Town Council. CAW-Committee for Animal Welfare, will be under the Police Department since we work with Will Watson, the ACO.

The first budget was proposed for \$1,500.00 to cover office supplies, paper, copying fees and the cost and upkeep of the soon to be created website. Will also included the cost of ID badges for shelter volunteers and Jacqui asked that we include a banner to be used when we are able to set up a CAW table at town events.

\$10,000 will be proposed as a separate budget line to Town Council to cover the costs of contracting with one of the established shelters in the area. This figure is based on prior research of the cost for the Town for a years time. It was determined that Old Orchard Beach has not had a contract with a local shelter since 1999. There was discussion explaining what the costs cover, such as allowing town citizens a safe place to surrender their unwanted animals, and a place for us to send animals to be adopted after the holding shelter in OOB time has passed.

Will stated that there will be a budget hearing that we would want to attend. Brandon will check on that date and share with the group. Tianna suggested that we should all write letters to the Town Council members and Town Manager to get the issue in front of them long before the hearing date. This would allow the Council members and Manager to look at the issue of contracting with a shelter prior to the budget hearing meeting. All email addresses are available on the OOB website.

The group as a whole really likes the new logo that Sharri MacDonald was kind enough to construct for us. We did vote to change the wording at the bottom to "We care about our animals" instead of "We care at the Beach". The vote was 6 yeas to change the wording, and 5 yeas for leaving the "We care..." part off completely. There was further

discussion as to whether we should add more animals to the logo, instead of just a dog and cat. We voted again, and there were 8 yeas for the logo to remain as we had just voted, and 2 yeas for adding a bird to the logo.

The Committee discussed adding our meeting nights with the new logo on Channel 3 along with Jacqui's phone number and email address as contact information. We will wait until Steve Urbach returns and gives us an update on our proposed website before we go any further.

We are very happy to announce that the latest left behind cat that was at the holding facility was adopted by a woman who saw the cat's picture and info on Channel 3. This shows that the posting of pets on Channel 3 really works!!

We would like to put a CAW table up at Town events. Jacqui and Brandon will be representing the group this weekend at the Winter Festival. Brandon will be purchasing and donating two donation boxes for our cause, and Nancy brought in a nice jar container with a slot in the top to donate. Please keep your ears open for Town events where we could set up a table.

Brandon will be contacting Jill Eastman before each meeting and bringing the current figure in our account with him. On that note, we discussed taking some of the first donation that we received and giving it to Lisa Sylvestre towards the \$463.88 bill that she paid for the kitten whose eye needed to be removed due to infection.

A motion was made by Kim Hatch to donate \$50 of the current balance to Lisa Sylvestre. This was seconded by Brandon Garette. The issue was then voted on by the four present Board members. There were 4 yeas, 0 neas. The Board agreed to look into further reimbursement to Lisa.

The Committee discussed finding more people willing to foster pets that need foster homes. The main concern with cats is the possibility of a cat being feline leukemia positive and going into a home with other cats who are not. FeLV is extremely contagious from one cat to another and some cats are carriers with no visible symptoms. We want to make sure we are not putting healthy cats in danger.

Dr. Ann Barksdale from Pine Point Animal Hospital has offered to train willing Committee members how to do the FeLV test and her facility will process at cost. Jacqui is checking with her. This will most likely make more foster homes available should the need arise.

Jacqui will be getting more information from the Memorial Park Committee about dual fundraising. Tina will keep us updated, as she is also on the Memorial Park Committee.

For the record, Will had six dogs end up at the holding facility in the last month. Five were returned to their owners, but one was transferred to a shelter, as investigation showed that the owner lied about the dog being his and is being charged with animal cruelty charges. Again, this shows that the program works well when the proper checks and balances are used.

Tianna is the Vice President of Friends of Feral Felines organization. She handed out brochures explaining the group's mission. More importantly, she explained how many of the cats that are stray were pets that people moved and didn't take with them, decided they no longer wanted to care for them, or left them behind for any number of other reasons. They become throw away at an alarming rate and many of them are friendly pet animals. We are hoping as a group to help place and adopt out any left behind cats that are not feral.

Linda read the press release that she has created for the Committee A copy will be emailed to all committee members to review before the next meeting. It is well written and as Linda points out, touches a large audience, whether people would be interested in fostering, donating cash or supplies or other items. We hope to have this put into the Journal Tribune and Courier to reach a large group.

Future meeting items include fundraising, events and finding more volunteers to work on the fundraising projects.

The next meeting of this Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 6 pm at the police substation in the Grand Victorian.