

Newtown Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 30th, 2014

Location: B.J.S Animal Care & Control Center of Newtown
Attendance: Adria Henderson, Frank McCloskey, Gene Rosen, Joy Brewster, Jane Hellman, Robin Olson, Matt Schaub, Fred Hurley, & Pat Llodra.

Meeting started @ 7:00pm

June 19th minutes – all approved & minutes posted on Town web site.

HVAC Update

- Per Fred, his town mechanical contractor finished fixing minor issues and the ventilation seems to have been improved. He'll have Environmental Testing & Balancing, Inc. back within 2 weeks to retest it for the baseline specifications.
- ACB will then send baseline information to UC Davis, with other information, for their review & recommendations on other ways to improve the ventilation.

Play yard priorities

- #1 tops on outdoor runs are done except to install hurricane clips when they come in.
- Per Fred, the remaining items are still open due to other town priorities & resources. Manpower should be available after the end of August to address them.
 - o #2 Pavers under & between fences in all runs.
 - o #3 Replace the sod with gravel in 3 runs has not started yet. Jane dropped off $\frac{3}{4}$ inch washed natural stone sample @ Fred's office.
 - o #4 Lamp post exposed wires will go away once security cameras are installed but crack in base will be sealed.

Shelter Signage

- Last sign #4 is done and will be going up tomorrow @ corner of Trades Lane & Wasserman Way. This is state property so Fred had to get agreement from Horse Guard for a joint sign with Animal Shelter/Dog Park & arrows. It will replace all existing signs @ the corner.

Sign #4



Volunteers

- Discussed email sent to Pat Llodra from a family who just moved into town & asking about volunteer opportunities for their children under 18. Pat forwarded on Adria's email noting volunteers under 18 can help around the shelter (ie garden, office) & other opportunities but they can't interact with cats & dogs (ie walking) due to insurance policy.

Telephone system

- Gene noted if you call during business hours, the prompts will just loop you around and you can't get direct access. He recommended we all call 203-426-6900, experience it, & provide feedback. Also discussed refining the message and have Matt do it. Pat recommended to follow-up with Maureen Wills, Director of Communications to fix it.

Security Cameras

- Still not active and waiting to set them up. It's a town-wide system vs shelter issue.

Sunny Update

- Amy still fostering, making progress, and hopes to be able to have her adopted by Thanksgiving but there's still a lot of work & training to do before Sunny's ready. She had private lesson at home with family and might do level 2 training when it starts in Sept.

Adoptions

- Harvey (dog) is being adopted tomorrow & Omar (cat) has been adopted. There's still several open kennels & Fred Acker's dogs can't be adopted while he appeals the court's decision. Next trail date is scheduled for Oct.

Stamford facility

- ACO was fired & arrested after investigation found she knowingly changed records of aggressive dogs for adoption.

Trap, Neuter, & Release (TNR) program

- Per Cat Ordinance, ACO needs to keep records & track colonies in town but not manage care.
- Per Robin, she noted some key points learned from "Community TNR Tactics & Tools" by Bryan Kortis.
 - o There are resources & grants available but need someone to coordinate/lead it.
 - o TNR issue is even more dire now that a privately run animal rescue group who was doing it for many years in Newtown has stopped. The community cat population is going to explode if we don't make this a priority.
 - o Need to increase awareness and communications especially noting they are community vs feral cats.
 - o Need more of town-oriented program, grass roots effort. Maybe get other town groups (ie senior center) involved.

New Business

Press Article

- Adria is working on an article in the Bee but waiting on the TNR information. She'll provide an update on key areas & map of new facility they can print & help increase awareness.

Parking @ Shelter

- Fred discussed with Carolee the increased traffic & unsettling of the dogs in the Shelter parking lot since the Dog Park opening. He plans to put up a split rail fence and the ability to close a gate after hours to limit traffic in the Shelter area.

Other open items

- Need to re-address open items (i.e. education programs, interior facility signage) now that the physical facility issues have or are being addressed.

Next Meeting – Thur. September 11th @ 7PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted by Frank McCloskey