

Minutes of the Newtown Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Monday, April 17th, 2017

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

Attendance: Members: Adria Henderson, Chair, Frank McCloskey, Joy Brewster, Laura Branchini and Jane Calverley. Absent: Janice Butler. Also in attendance: MACO Carolee Mason and Asst. ACO Matt Schaub.

Meeting began @ 10:40 am

No correspondence or public participation.

ACAB Board 2/23/17 minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACAB & Town volunteer docs

Laura Branchini edited docs based on everyone's feedback but hasn't put them in the Drop Box yet since she wasn't sure about ACO Schaub's new Drop Box. He set it up by mistake and will delete it. Laura will give all Board members editor rights and make Chair Adria Henderson and Jane Calverley the owner/administrator.

MCAO Mason, ACO Schaub, & Amy Sullivan were ok with the latest edited documents. The next steps are:

- 1) Laura Branchini will incorporate Chair Henderson's feedback
- 2) Chair Henderson will send the insurance document to town's insurer, CIRMA, for review and approval.
- 3) Chair Henderson will then send all documents to the town lawyer, Mr. Grogins, for review and approval
- 4) Concurrently, Amy Sullivan will decide and setup the volunteer walker signup calendar and ACO Schaub will finalize the map for walkers.
- 5) Once steps 1-3 are complete, the walker program can start again after MACO Mason reviews the rules and documents with the staff with Chair Henderson and Sgt. Silver, the new police liaison, in attendance.

Dog Bite Policy Update

Chair Henderson will meet with MACO Mason & ACO Schaub to review the draft policy for internal use.

Cat Committee

Committee still needs to put together Cat Volunteer caretaker rules. Laura Branchini will provide a draft. Chair Henderson said former board member Robin Olson offered to help and MACO Mason recommended reaching out to the Animal Center too if needed.

Outside Cat Enclosure

MACO Mason said another outside enclosure is needed and will follow-up with Fred Hurley. Chair Henderson also highlighted the existing enclosure's dirt floor needs to have composite flooring for cleanliness and the health of the cats.

Board presentation to BOS -Board will revisit if needed after summer

Invitation to Chief Viadero -Chair Henderson will invite him and Sgt. Silver to the next Board meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

5% surcharge to be added to adoption fees

There's a new State bill #130 establishing a surcharge on animal adoption fees to fund the second chance large animal rehabilitation program effective 10/1/2017. The bill imposes a 5% surcharge on the total adoption fee for any animal adopted from a municipal dog pound, animal shelter, or animal adoption or rescue organization. So a 5% surcharge will be added to the current \$5 fee for any adopted animal or \$150 fee if the dog was spayed and neutered by Town of Newtown.

Dog Flipping

Chair Henderson noted recent related information on Facebook and possible impact shelters if stolen dogs are not sold & then abandoned. MACO Mason noted all animals are scanned for microchips to see if owner information is available.

Clear the Shelters 8-19-17

Chair Henderson attended an organizing event hosted by NBC CT. They said volunteers are provided to participating shelters if MACO Mason sees the need. They also said all dog adoptions that day are pre-approved but not cat adoptions.

Next Meeting scheduled for May 30th, Thursday at 10:30am

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 pm

These minutes are subject to approval by ACAB.

Respectfully submitted by Frank McCloskey