



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

Reading of Open Public Meetings Act Statement

I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

Flag Salute

ATTENDANCE: Madelyn McCarroll, Dr. Hirsch, Bill Candell, George Spadea, Vilma Pombo, Suzanne Callinan, Chuck Marriner, Jen Modica, Rick Eufrazio, Karen Buckingham, Dawn Stimmel, Mayor Donohue

ABSENT: Stephanie Facciolo

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2014
Approved by all.

Mayors Greeting: Mayor Donohue thanked all for serving. This Board came into being to try to better protect our animals here in Middle Township. The Administration tries to put out good information and wants this committee to be very visible to the residents of Middle. He feels we need to have a high profile and to get as much info out there as we can via social media, as well as attending community events. Any press releases we would like to do are welcome, but must be passed through Connie Mahon, the Administrator before going to Anne Garrison, who now handles our press releases. He also feels that collaboration with other outside groups is very important. His role is to facilitate the work that this board does, and he is here for us whenever needed. Anything is open to amendment and he would like to see our Ordinance brought up to date for these times.

Middle Township Police (Captain John Edwards) Captain Edwards explained to the group that the police department is the first responder and that they can get the info out that we would like known via Facebook and Twitter. He has laminated the Hot Temps in Car flyer and Bill Candell is putting them out through different locations in the Township. He suggested that the Board get their info out through venues like the 4-H Fair, National Night Out, Harvest Fest, etc. He said if we would like a table at

National Night Out being held Tuesday, August 5th, to let him know and he will help get us set up.

Animal Control: Bill said he is the backbone of Animal Control in Middle Township. He started full time in 2002. He is happy that he no longer has to service other municipalities, although he does miss some of them, and that he can now concentrate on Middle Township's issues. So far this year we have done 1218 licenses, which is a record number of licenses for Middle Township. The word is out that dogs need to be licensed, and this is due to the canvas that Middle did this year. He also stated that his first handled case of rabies went well and that the County has reinstated the rabies bate dropping program for a cost of \$65,000 to the County, but is money well spent. The latest rabies outbreak was wildlife, no domesticated animals were involved. He also said that calls for animals being left in cars this year was down. He also stated that he had run into the Oscar Mayer Weiner car a few days ago and he gave him one of the Hot Car flyers to post. He also got his business card, gave him his business card, and hopes to be able to pass our information on to them for advertising in our area.

A Veterinary Perspective: Dr. Hirsch stated that his office has seen some cases of dogs left in hot cars at his office. He said he has not yet had any animals this year with heat stroke. He stated that different animals have different thresholds when it comes to handling the heat and cold.

He did report that a while back one of his office personnel was outside with a dog and was chased by a raccoon. They called Animal Control, who came and set a trap, however, the raccoon was never caught, but has not been seen since. He said there are a lot of rabies cases reported and confirmed, but there are still a lot that go unreported and unconfirmed. As far as domesticated animals contacting rabies, it is most likely a cat that would get it before a dog. Most people get their dogs vaccinated, but a lot of people don't get their cats vaccinated. Also, the feral colonies of cats are highly susceptible and we really need to educate our residents about getting their cats vaccinated against rabies, whether they be inside cats or outside cats.

He also wanted to know if there was anyone in our area that was keeping track of the feral colonies in Middle Township. He feels this is something that we should be doing.

1.) Communications - None

2.) Unfinished Business

Pets in Hot Cars: The board discussed how to get this information out regarding animals being left in hot cars. Posting the Hot Car flyers around, possibly posting on Facebook and Twitter via the police department, posting on the Township's Web Page, blog, Cape May County and Middle Township Chambers, Cape May County Lost Pets, Help Find Peanut, Connect Cape May County, and doing a press release were all means suggested.

We need to come up with common sense temperatures as a guideline for animal control for calls regarding animals left in cars. It was discussed that the outside temperature should be below 70 degrees to be acceptable. The board feels that there should be a specific external as well as internal temperature of the inside of a car in the Township code. This would help give the Animal Control Officer something to go by when called out for this offense. Bill said he will pull the Administrative Code from the State for their numbers to see if we want to incorporate them in our ordinance. He also suggested adding something to the ordinance about tethering of dogs when left in a car that is running. The 3 main things the board wants to incorporate in the ordinance for dogs in cars is the outside temperature, the inside temperature and water being available for the dog.

Dr. Hirsch explained that dogs do not perspire like people, they pant when they are hot. He also suggested that maybe we should get a small subcommittee together to work on any amendments to the Township ordinance.

Captain Edwards wanted to know if there were any model ordinances that we could possibly look at to help us. Madelyn said there are various ordinances out there, but nothing encompassing.

Rick Eufrazio questioned as to whether it was acceptable for a resident to call 911 when they see a dog in distress in a car. Captain Edwards said it is permissible, that the police should be called with any questions, and since a lot of the people that are in the area during the summer months are tourists, they do not know the local number for the police department, they only know the 911 number to call. Once the police are called, they will then make the determination on how to handle the situation or call out animal control. The police department has good structure for the animal control laws.

Bill Candell stated that people could be charged a "Disorderly Person Offense", which could result in 6 months in jail, \$1,000 fine and/or 1,000 hours of community service. It was mentioned that Upper Township has adopted a series of fines.

Madelyn questioned whether we could adopt the State Statute. Bill said we could, but we would need to include the States Statute number in our Ordinance should we decide to do that. Madelyn said that eventually the Township Animal Ordinance will be totally amended to meet the needs of todays world.

Madelyn also asked Suzanne Callinan if she would be agreeable to writing a press release regarding leaving dogs in hot cars.

Madelyn said she would like to discuss access to water for dogs that are chained outdoors at our next meeting.

3.) New Business

4.) Reports

.) Meeting adjourned (time) 6:21 PM