



## **MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF        NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM

### **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:** Jen Modica, ACO Candell, Tarin Mason, Madelyn McCarroll, Monica Sopuch, Dawn Stimmel

**ABSENT:** Karen Buckingham, Crystal Blackburn, Lissy Holroyd, Chuck Marriner, Dr. Grant, James Loftus

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: October 23, 2017**

**On Motion By: Tarin Mason        2<sup>nd</sup> By: Madelyn McCarroll  
Approved by all.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Banner for Tabling – Jen looked into the banner for tabling and at Vista Print she found a price of about \$90 for a 4'X6' banner. It can be displayed either on a stand or can lay over the table. This is the price before the logo being added. Tarin is going to see what the cost would be for a banner at Sign-a-Rama, across from Riggins. Will look at again in January or February and do some tweaking.

Forgot to mention at the last meeting that at the Harvest Fest we collected \$26 in donations.

Board Manual – Jen wanted to know if any other corrections before voting on it. Madelyn said she was happy with it but she feels that we should eventually make 2 additions, one being tabling so that people have an idea of how to table, what kind of things are needed on the table, what kind of personal items they need to bring, how to have a theme so that when people come to the table you can greet them with that theme, we need talking points. The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing is to have another page that has the organizational votes that we have made. For instance, organizationally we voted for Dawn to have a vote....we also voted to allow 5 minutes of public comment. We voted on some decisions that should be stored, and the manual seems like a likely place. This would entail going back through all of the minutes, which will be time consuming.

Other correction was to add an "s" at the end of 4 Advisor.

Motion made to accept the Manual.

On Motion By: Madelyn McCarroll

2<sup>nd</sup> By: Bill Candell

All in favor

ACO Report – Bill finished his report from the last meeting. Not a lot more left to say. There were specifics about injuries. Had spoken about the link between human abuse and animal abuse. Hopes all had a chance to check out the link....if not, he can get the link to us.

Madelyn will send link to Jen....there will be a webinar we might be interested in attending individually or as a group.

Got to meet some of the people that could be considered stars in the Animal Cruelty Investigation community, especially the ASPCA people. Took away from the ASPCA adapting their model that this is a living, breathing, changing work that we cannot just come up with a model that is going to fit Middle Township today, and that model can change over time. As a whole we do OK as a Township. The first cold night this year we did not have 1 complaint.

Was very grateful to have attended the seminar – it gives a different look at things. It was the International Veterinary Forensic Science Association, which is not super new, but emerging and growing. They have this seminar every year, but does not know how often they will be inviting animal control officers.

Dog Park – We all received information on different municipalities on what we would like to see for Middle Township. Dawn has put it together and in a format, which she came up with. Jen will forward to board members so we can tweak it to get it to where we would like it.

Tarin was under the impression that the dog park was going to be at the Ockie Wisting facility. It is at the Rio Grande Park off of Railroad Avenue. She commented on the details laid out by Ocean City....wanted to know if we were going to do the same. Questioned if we would have some way to access the park, such as a key or scanning mechanism. We will need an access card to get into the dog area and they are not transferrable. We are going to work on the Dog Park Ordinance first, then we will continue with the regular Dog Ordinance.

Sub Committee Reports – Discussion held on our Cat Committee and feral cats. Madelyn feels it needs to be brought back on the table because it is a concern. We need to be knowledgeable about all of the issues, financial, predatory specieistic that deal with feral cats and it is not happening with those committees. Our board members should be aware of issues that go on with feral cats. Bill feels it should be dealt with in our Ordinance as well, which is very difficult to do and uphold. Two people appointed to head the committee at different times – first person did not have a meeting in 13 months, 2<sup>nd</sup> person took 4 months to hold a meeting, then hasn't had another in over a year.

Madelyn would like to see a flat screen TV put in the hallway downstairs to put not only animal issues, but issues that would help people that are there for court.

Motion made to disband cat committee.

On Motion By: Madelyn McCarroll

2<sup>nd</sup> By: Bill Candell

All in favor.

We can do a program that slowly infiltrates feral cat knowledge into our board.

Jen – Went over the 15 items that Madelyn had sent her to be put on the agenda.

1. First thing we need to think about is the way we can reduce cost to the shelter so that we can stay in the shelter. The Township is unhappy with the cost, we have a 90 day out. We need the shelter to understand they need to control their costs. If anyone can think of anyway the costs can be controlled, then our Township needs to know about it.
2. Madelyn went over the records at the shelter marked “other”. This is where the animal is brought in by someone off the street and not by animal control or it has not been relinquished....it is just noted as “other”. Went back to 2009, which is the 5 year point of the shelter’s operation. In 2009 other dogs were 30 and other cats were 51. In 2016 the dogs were pretty similar, however, the cats expanded from 51 to 315, of which 162 of the 315 came from Middle. For the most part, the Shelter records of where these cats came from were meticulous. She sent another email to Judy today asking her to speculate why we went from 51 cats for the whole county to 162 for Middle in a few years...what is happening and what is different. Could be increased population....the shelter being nearby, a lot of people working in our community. She would like to see a separate category for cats that come in as TNR. She came up with some ideas that might help us save some money and she would like us as a board to agree on them. She feels a letter needs to be written to the committee asking them to send a letter to the shelter concerning the “other” animals and things that they pledged to do and never happened. She will write it up for them.

Motion made to have Madelyn write a letter for the committee to send to the Freeholders concerning “other” animals at the County Animal Shelter.

On Motion By: Tarin Mason

2<sup>nd</sup> By: Monica Sopuch

All in favor.

3. The County Animal Shelter again did not have a board meeting. The year before that they were supposed to have 6 meetings, they had none, they are delinquent in their obligations to us. The “other” issue is a big problem....the feral cat issue is a big problem. She has emailed Judy suggesting 5 items she wanted on the agenda. She also suggested scheduling the dates for the meetings ahead of time so people will know when they are. Her suggestions: County should consider the impact of a low bid contracts between multiple animal control agencies. The county is getting a new record keeping system and she is asking that all the towns coordinate that and have them available in real time to animal control officers. Going to ask that all Townships have initiative in their Township that supports adoption. Ask that we share resources like the wildlife people.
4. Madelyn asked if we could consider the purchase of several brochures.

We need to start giving out information. Allied Cat Allies has nice pamphlets. If we purchase 1000 each and make them available at the Free Rabies Clinic. The Township has pamphlet holders as you come in the door, we can put some there as well as at the library. Suggested spending up to \$50 and no more.

Motion made by Madelyn to expend up to \$50 on the purchase on 3 pamphlets, 2 that deal with cats and 1 with wildlife.

2<sup>nd</sup> By: Monica Sopuch

All in favor.

5. Discussed the 2018 calendar. Decided to not hold meetings in April, July August and December.

Motion made by Madelyn for 2018 calendar meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> By: Monica Sopuch

All in favor

6. Madelyn thinks we need to do something highlighting of what the law is, including things like how to deal with a barking dog, 3 or 4 issues that we have and some solutions for those issues. She will put something together – if everyone likes it we will print it, if not we don't print.
7. Another item of discussion was the Top Dog – she was hoping that Karen would arrange the date that she comes to the Committee. The prizes would need to be organized for whatever Committee Meeting the Top Dog would be presented their award.
8. Need good record keeping. Bill feels he is coming to a resolution on this. It takes Madelyn 4 months to read through the calls that come in in 1 year. We as a board need to decide what information we would need. Jen feels we would need to look at the report and decide which calls we are looking for or kind of what we are looking for. Bill suggested giving him categories we would like to track as long as it isn't a dual classification. Jen said next meeting we will give Bill suggestions of categories.
9. Talked about ordering a turn table for holding trifold – Jen is reviewing.
10. George Spada has a house full of cats – if anyone can help him out that...maybe we could put on our FB pages.
11. Jen announced Dr. Grant approved by Committee to be our Veterinarian Advisor for the Board. Jen will do a Welcome Aboard.
12. Jen – gets inundated with email...gets over 500 emails a day...if no response....do not get offended. Has to prioritize.

## **NEW BUSINESS - None**

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**On Motion By: Monica Sopuch**

**2<sup>nd</sup> By: Tarin Mason**

Meeting adjourned 6:09 PM

FREE RABIES CLINIC  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**VACCINES GIVEN**

DOGS - 54

CATS - 17

**DOG LICENSES SOLD**

24

12 - 3 YEAR LICENSES

**DONATIONS**

\$0