



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2016**

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, ACO Candell, Officer Creamer, Karen Buckingham, Crystal Blackburn, Rick Eufrasio, Tarin Mason, Lissy Holroyd Dawn Stimmel,

ABSENT: ACO Candell, Chuck Marriner, Jen Modica

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: MAY 17, 2016

**On Motion By: Tarin Mason 2nd By: Karen Buckingham
Approved by all.**

Tarin gave all a copy of a logo that she had drawn up for the Animal Advisory Board for consideration. Asked Karen Buckingham if maybe her daughter could see if one of the art teachers or even an art student might want to volunteer to do some work on it. Maybe another type of animal to be added to it. In the center of the logo was a horse, chicken, turtle, dog, cat and a raccoon. Concept was liked, but felt maybe a shore bird or a dolphin should be incorporated into it. Color choices were discussed with possibly blue, closer to a sea blue, being the main color and then the animals and embroidery outline being a different color, possibly a cream color. Try to get as close to the MT Logo as we can get.

Madelyn advised that Steve at NJ Nature needs financial help. If you know anyone that would like to donate, he can use it. He has been very helpful to us.

We are designated as an Animal Advisory Board. Rick brought up that in the mailer that was sent out we were referred to as an Animal Control Board, wanted to know if that is what we are now? Madelyn stated to those that were not on the board at conception that we were originally known as the Animal

Welfare Advisory Board. The Animal Welfare Society thought that would be confusing to people, so asked that we change our name to the Animal Advisory Board, which we did. The specific purpose of this board is not control, but to insure the welfare and wellbeing of all of the animals in the community. Madelyn said a lot of areas are changing Animal Control to Animal Care and Control. Decided to revisit and think about.

Madelyn then spoke about our current Ordinances titled "Dogs and Other Animals." Feels that should be changed to Animal Care and Control. Stated many other communities are changing to that title. This covers a broader spectrum. Discussed and put to vote.

ON MOTION BY: Dr. Hirsch

2nd By: Chrystal Blackburn

All approved to retitle Ordinance Animal Care and Control.

Chrystal Blackburn handed out a letter she had written for the Board. She spoke about the excess of feral cats and kittens at the Shelter. When she first started, they had a nice variety of dogs at the Shelter. Now it is mostly Pit Bulls, some of which are unadoptable. Other types of dogs will come and go much more quickly than Pit Bulls, whether it be reclaiming or adopting. Dr. Hirsch stated the Shelter has done a wonderful job of spaying and neutering, but the ones that people don't seem to take the responsibility with are the Pit Bulls and they just keep breeding them. Dogs are basically being bred that no one really wants. This is a big problem in the area, and pretty much all over the country. There are also a lot of feral cats that are still there. If they can get them prior to 8 weeks, they can domesticate them and adopt them out. If after 8 weeks, it is slim that they can be adopted. A lot have been adopted out to Barn Buddies. Sadly, there are cats that have been at the Shelter for 2 years or longer.

Madelyn stated that we do not yet have a contract with the Shelter. In January we were supposed to put into effect an initiative to deal with the breeding within the Township. At that time Madelyn contacted the Shelter and they were "iffy" on it. Going to let it rest at this point until the negotiations are over. We need to have a cooperative agreement with sheltering organizations. We also cannot be breed specific in our ordinance, it will have to cover all animals.

Rick feels that we should have anyone that owns or breeds 4 or more dogs be required to get a Kennel license. ACO Candell said you have to follow State Statutes, even if the municipality ordinance might be more restrictive. We have to go by what the state defines as a kennel. We can, however, state that a person is able to have so many dogs. Madelyn said we have several people in the municipality that own 9 or 10 dogs. We are mostly concerned about this because of the people, who a couple of years ago, licensed over 60 dogs. ACO Candell said they did not license them until halfway through the SPCA Investigation. The licensing actually helped facilitate the investigation.

Madelyn stated that Dawn had gone through the licensing list and provided a copy to ACO Candell of the names and addresses of those with multiple dogs and that ACO Candell periodically checks up on these dogs to make sure they are well cared for. Dr. Hirsch wanted to know about the unlicensed dogs. Madelyn said some of that, hopefully, if any dog is loose, the owner will be charged and have to appear in court. ACO Candell said not necessarily, only if they are unlicensed. He said as of June 1st, any calls that he has to follow up on after the police have already been called to, a summons will be issued if the animal is not licensed. They will be given the summons and the license at the same time and told if they want any type of leniency they will get licensed before they have to come to court. For a 2nd offense, it will get more progressive. ACO Candell would like to see the fines made higher when we redo our ordinance.

Another thing talked about were dogs that were repeatedly loose, and that it should be made mandatory that these animals had to be neutered/spayed if they were not already altered.

Discussion was held about certain condo units not allowing Pit Bulls. ACO Candell said that according to the ADA, that if a Pit Bull is classified as a service animal, the condo assoc. cannot turn them away. However, the condo assoc. can request to see the dog perform the service for them that it was trained for. Rick said a lot of people are getting their pets classified as service dogs so they can take them on planes with them, in restaurants or other areas where animals have been banned.

Discussed animals being sold on Swip Swap and how to control that. If we can track them back to the owner, and they are into breeding and selling of dogs, we can make them get a Kennel License once we have an ordinance in place. That requires getting site plan and going through zoning, these all come into play. Karen said there is actually a small pet Swip Swap.

Madelyn spoke about the list of goals we constructed when we first started the board. "The 1st two items were a dog park and a cat sanctuary. We decided at that time that we should probably start at smaller items and build up some credibility. She feels a cat sanctuary is something that is needed. However, we decided that it was such a contentious one, that we needed to have a committee to handle this and Lizzy would be in charge of the Feral Cat Committee. There are people, as well as veterinarians who do not feel that feral cats should be trapped, neutered and released. They feel the fact that many are run over by cars, that is far worse for them than just euthanizing them. Also Fish & Wildlife – they do not want to see the fish or wildlife impacted. Then we have the Audubon – they don't want to see the birds impacted. The taxpayers do not want to pay anything to take care of these animals, even to spay/neuter them, even though it cost more money to pick them up and euthanize them then to pick them up and spay/neuter them. This is where we need to educate the public. You have a lot of people who are anti cats, so where do we start. First we need to be educated so we can discuss publicly with these people why they should do TNR. We need to

educate the public more on TNR. We started with the Got Notched. We have given information out to people who do TNR, copy of which is on back of Lissy's letter. Dr. Hirsch wanted to know if we knew how many cat colonies we have in Middle Township. At one point we had cleaned out one of the trailer parks where it had initially gotten out of control. ACO Candell stated that the TNR needs to continue with citizens volunteering to trap, neuter and release the feral colonies. Number 1, the government should really not be involved in TNR with liability issues that may arise; and number 2, the tax payer outrage of any government funding to do TNR. Discussion was held on any charities that we could possibly tap into. One mentioned was the Alliance, which Madelyn said there was a problem there, which is probably the next problem we should consider discussing.

What we can do is apply for grants for the spaying/neutering of feral cats. We are applying for the PetSmart Grant again this year. Feels we were denied last year because the charges we were quoted by the Alliance were not competitive to other charges that were quoted. PetSmart wants to get the most for their money, and if one municipality is being quoted \$32 and another \$60, then the lower quote will take it. The following year we got the Alliance down to \$55, which had been the rate prior, but that rate excluded one of the shots normally given. Madelyn then OPRA'd Lower Twp PetSmart Grant, and the Alliance had quoted them \$43 for their PetSmart Grant. At that point, Madelyn figured we could have altered another 126 cats with the price Lower was quoted. She then checked into the Shelter, and they were averaging \$38 per animal....\$30 for neutering and \$45 for spaying. She got the idea of instead of us applying for the grant, she emailed Judy about rewriting the Grant for the Shelter, using the prices that the Shelter gets from the Alliance and having the Shelter remember that Middle Township had done this, so Middle Township could also then get their feral cats done. This would have to be approved by their Board and the Township Committee. This would be better than not getting a grant at all. There had been a decrease in feral cats when we were doing the PetSmart Spaying and Neutering. That was 2 years ago, and we are now seeing an increase in feral cats. Going to see if there is anyone on the board that someone might know and maybe discuss this situation with them.

Madelyn said she met with Anne Garrison last week and the pole grant has gone in.

Chrystal invited all to take a tour of the Shelter, just let her know who is interested.

Question was brought up about the Board being able to put a "Donate Now" button on our FB page. Madelyn going to revisit.

At Free Rabies Clinic on May 14th we did 154 animals and 71 licenses.

Look over definitions; see if they can be improved.

Inviting Board Applicants to June meeting so they can sit in with us and observe what we do.

Turtle update by Rick, still fighting to get the barriers up on N. Wildwood Blvd. Spoke with Tim, he forwarded info Rick had sent him to Ron. Still waiting to hear from Ron. Had approached our Senator and Assemblyman, they promised to send him info but never did.

Adjourned: 6:15 PM