



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018

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: Tarin Mason, Madelyn McCarroll, Kyle Lindholm, Jason Sweitzer, Dawn Stimmel,

ABSENT: Jen Modica, Crystal Blackburn, Dr. Grant, Monica Sopuch, Chuck Marriner, Karen Buckingham, ACO Candell, Dr. Grant

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: JANUARY 22, 2018

On Motion By: Kyle Lindholm 2nd By: Madelyn McCarroll

Approved by all.

OLD BUSINESS

Rabies Clinic – Dawn gave report for rabies clinic that was held on January 27, 2018...64 dogs, 13 cats for a total of 77....licensed 31 dogs with 16 of them being a 3 years license. Next clinic is May 5th at the PW Garage.

Madelyn suggested having the September clinic at the MLK Center and on a different day of the week. Feels we need to be able to get more people using different areas. Will discuss more later and make decision.

County Animal Shelter Board Meeting – Meeting was held February 23, 2018 – Madelyn said that prior to the meeting she had called the Chief about the FBI statistics on animal cruelty. Thirteen states had contributed to that, but not NJ and she wanted to bring that up at the meeting. The Chief had also been in discussion with the Shelter and they discussed letting the past be the past and move ahead positively. Meeting was a very positive one. They went over the statistics, which she felt were devastating for Middle, where Middle puts 38% of cats into the Shelter. She feels the numbers are skewed, but she does not know by how much. Talked about feral cats and trapping of feral cats. Chief is going to check with solicitor to see about volunteers being able to trap feral cats rather than just Animal Control.

Madelyn spoke about the new record keeping system at the Shelter which she feels is

great. All of the input will be via telephone or a computer terminal at the shelter itself and when an animal is taken to the shelter it will immediately go into their records, you (meaning Dawn) will have immediate access via your computer terminal of all the records. Also they discussed the SPCA being decommissioned, and the fact that animal cruelty studies will now come from the Prosecutor's Office, the shelter did not seem to have any input on that, which surprised her since that is where the animals are put when there is a cruelty case. She feels there should be a meeting with the County Prosecutor and all the municipalities in Cape May County so all can be on the same page.

New Statute on the New State Law: Madelyn feels we should have someone from the SPCA come and speak at one of our meetings. She feels that there are already infractions of the new law because everyone is interpreting it differently. Madelyn thinks there were some items left out of the new law, but she feels there should be a very clear picture of the law. Jason feels everyone should be on the same page. Kyle stated with the new law there is a statement that says if the dog is not in any immediate danger, they are not allowed to take the dog, they would have to contact a judge and get a warrant to take that dog. He said that the police department received a lot of calls during the cold snap for the same addresses over and over. If they were not available, the police went out, once there called animal control, described the situation to animal control and was told how to respond to the call from animal control. Every call is taken seriously. They also have to be on scene for 30 minutes to make sure the dog is out for 30 minutes before a summons can be issued. Madelyn wanted to know if we should be clearer on our law. Kyle said the state will soon be coming out with the bill in plain language to be handed out to animal control officers. Our officers have copies of the states new law and the Township ordinance for their use when these types of calls come in and they are all aware of what is going on.

Board Application: Discussion was held on replacing 2 members that resigned. It was decided to put out a press release in April, screen any applicants we have and then invite those we pick to the June meeting. They would have an opportunity to volunteer at National Night Out and/or the Free Rabies Clinic and it will be an opportunity for us to meet them and see if they step up to the plate for those events. Madelyn and Dawn are going to try to find the press release that was put out a couple of years ago to recruit new members. Madelyn thinks we should also check out their social media posts.

Tarin then spoke about applicants being able to attend 9 meetings a year and participate in events and adding that to the board application. Madelyn said we have trouble getting people, once on the board, to attend.

Motion Made By: Madelyn that we should approve a statement to include attendance and participation on the Board Application.

2nd by: Tarin Mason

Approved by all.

Grants: Approval for submitting a grant to Walmart for feral cat traps...Tarin wanted to know who does the grants. Madelyn said she has written the grants in the past and then she sits down with Nancy Sittineri and she tweaks it and puts in the Middle data numbers and tax numbers.

Motion Made By: Tarin to submit the grant to Walmart for feral cat traps.

2nd By: Madelyn

Approved by all.

Madelyn also wants to apply for another PetSmart Grant. She also sent out a letter to the Dougherty Foundation for a feral cat grant.

Tarin passed around a copy of what is going to be on the banner for all to see. Madelyn suggested emailing copy to everyone for their votes via email. Once approved, we can get it printed.

Motion Made By: Madelyn to submit a PetSmart Grant for feral cat alterations and a Dougherty Foundation Grant.

2nd By: Tarin

Approved by all.

Dog Park Rules, Regulations and Application: There are so many examples to look at....maybe circle the items that are most important - wanted to know if the Township is going to accept what the Board comes up with - Dawn advised it will have to go to the Solicitor and Committee for their approval.

Madelyn feels that when people sign up for the park with Dawn that they be given the rules and regulations of the park. There should also be a 2nd information brochure.

Madelyn has questions, like who can use the park? Dawn stated whomever wants that comes in and provides the information that is necessary for an application. She questioned the language of must an owner bring the dog, can a dog walker bring a dog, because a homeowner will be the one providing the home owners insurance. That is something we will have to discuss further - Madelyn feels there is a legal issue there. She wanted to know if she gave her neighbor her pass, could they take her dog to the dog park. Answer would be no, because the passes are not transferable and are to be used only by the person it was issued to. Dawn said once we get something drawn up, make a list of questions that we have, then give it all to the Solicitor.

Madelyn's questions:

- **Proper immunization - she spoke with a Vet about that and we should have a list of immunizations that are needed. This is something we need Dr, Grant at the meetings to answer,**
- **Should we suggest a Vet examine?**
- **If the tag is on the dog, how can it be used to be put in mechanism to open gate? Dawn said the tag is something that should be carried by the owner for gate access.**
- **Are we going to require homeowners insurance when they come in to sign up for it or is it going to be left open ended?**
- **How about toys? Can toys be brought to the dog park? Tarin suggested bring toys at your own risk or toy use must be supervised.**
- **Should also make it clear about suspension of privileges, people should know it is a right not a privilege and we should make it very clear about that.**
- **What about people picking up after their dogs? Who is going to monitor that? Tarin wanted to know who was in charge of picking up....is it public works....of maintaining, weed whacking? Kyle said in order to write a summons for that it would have to be in a Township Ordinance. Dawn said there is an Ordinance that you must pick up after your dog.**

Kyle said that can be placed on the sign. Madelyn is going to check with the Solicitor to see what we can place on a sign.

- Need evacuation plans – Tarin said that the Zoo does not have a practical official evacuation plan – Madelyn said we need an evacuation plan for the zoo, 300 animals at the animal shelter, 100-125 at animal welfare and the law has not required them to have plans. She said in Louisiana after Katrina, any animals that were found roaming or tied up were shot. We need to start thinking about a plan.

Madelyn is going to integrate questions into one document for all to look at at the next meeting.

Tarin – first thing we will discuss at the next meeting is how we are going to go about issuing some sort of a statement regarding emergency evacuations. We can make up a statement to be issued, but will have to be approved by the Committee first.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Motion to Adjourn

On Motion By: Kyle Lindholm

2nd By: Madelyn McCarroll

Meeting adjourned 6:01 PM

FREE RABIES CLINIC
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

VACCINES GIVEN

DOGS - 54

CATS - 17

DOG LICENSES SOLD

24

12 - 3 YEAR LICENSES

DONATIONS

\$0