



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2018

Meeting called to order at 4:45PM

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, Kyle Lindholm, Karen Buckingham, Madelyn McCarroll, Monica Sopuch, Dawn Stimmel, Mayor Clark

ABSENT: Crystal Blackburn, Dr. Grant, Chuck Marriner, Tarin Mason, Jason Sweitzer, James Loftus

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: FEBRUARY 26, 2018

**On Motion By: Madelyn McCarroll 2nd By: Monica Sopuch
Approved by all.**

OLD BUSINESS

Rabies Clinic Next clinic is May 5th at the PW Garage from 2 to 3 PM.

County Animal Shelter Board Meeting – Madelyn thought good meeting – Chief there was a good thing. Bill said their new computer system at the Shelter is not yet up and running, but hopefully soon. He said Chief had asked good questions about TNR and he has asked Bill to produce a “how to” scenario. Going to try to find a way to get some help available for TNR. Madelyn want to clarify that they had asked repeatedly to have a volunteer group that would work with Bill to pick up the TNR cats. It was denied us. Bill explained this would be people that would be able to help a homeless animal. They are trying to figure out a way legalize everyone and to make them legitimate volunteers. George Spadea has volunteered to be the overseer of the program should it get up and running. He has a 501 and he has been rescuing cats all of his life. Madelyn said we send 38% of the animals to the Shelter, which is horrible for the Township.

New Statute on the New State Law: Bill said there are 2 new laws at work. SPCA will be done by August and most of it will be shipped into the local police departments. He thinks that probably a Detective from the PD will be sent to Animal Cruelty Investigator School. Their title will be a Municipal Humane Law Enforcement

Officer. Because there is weapons training involved, he thinks this will be an additional assignment for police officers. Explained that once a summons is issued a person has the right to voluntarily surrender the animal without having to pay for the care of the animal from that point on, which makes the Shelter responsible for their care....worried this may result in more euthanasia's than necessary. Madelyn said she has contacted the Prosecutor's Office and offered to speak with them about incorporating the social programs in our community to people that are animal abusers. Madelyn spoke about the National Link Coalition and the programs they would like to start in NJ. Her intention is to speak with the Freeholder Board about this. She went on to say that she asked Judy about having something at the next Shelter Board meeting to discuss how the County could come together with an Animal Cruelty Program that we would all be on the same page, but was told the Shelter was not interested in that, which she feels is not good because a lot of the abused animals end up at the Shelter. She spoke of the time an animal is held at the Shelter in an animal abuse case, the fact they are cared for during the duration and cannot be adopted out until the case is settled.

Board Application: Jen talked about mending the board application. Madelyn stated everyone should be at all 9 of our meetings and also participate in the events we table. She also feels we should have our mission statement on the application. Mayor Clark stated it is difficult to get people to volunteer, people now a days have busy lives and sometime they cannot make a meeting because of a prior commitment. If on a committee and not able to make the meeting, at least let someone know. Decided to move expectations to the top and soften them some. Decision was to email wording on the application, tweak it and then vote on it at the next meeting.

Grants: Madelyn has composed a letter to PetSmart because they have not responded to us over the last 3 grants as to why we are not getting the grants. The Grant is due in August, but she feels we should have it done by our last meeting in June since it has to go to the Committee, be approved, and then the Township submits it on line. She would like an answer from them as to why we have not been approved over the last 3 years. Have decided to ask for cat traps for the Walmart Grant, which is \$2500. We would need approval from Committee for this and would also need a letter of sponsorship. Bill would like 25 regular traps and 2 larger traps. Also the Doherty Foundation...need to get an application to them...will ask for \$15,000 to \$20,000 for Spay/Neuter.

Banner - Tarin absent - Jen said she has the banner and will bring it to the April meeting for the board to see.

Cat Brochures - Madelyn took a packet of 25 and put in the library. Madelyn feels we need to figure out how to do the Rabies Clinic so that we can disseminate more information. People do not seem to pick up the info that we put out at the Clinics. She was thinking about a portable TV to put there that the attendees could view while waiting in line. Would like to have something like that in the hallway by the courts.

Dog Park Rules, Regulations and Application - Madelyn feels that we should start working on an evacuation plan for the animals in the county. If there is a disaster it becomes the problem of the PD and animal control. It needs to be modified by the board and approved by the Committee.

On the Dog Park Rules, Madelyn has problems with the word "keepers". Bill

suggested saying handlers instead. Madelyn feels it should say owners. Also feels Middle Township Animal Board should be removed in the Management section of the Information and Application page. Discussion held on requesting Homeowners Insurance from dog owners as part of their application for the dog park. Madelyn wanted to know what the difference was between passes and tags. Some places said the tag needs to be on the dog, so how does that work if you need the tag to get into the park area. Feels should be more specific. Decided it will be pass instead of tag. She also feels 3rd item down under the Dog Park Rules and Regulations should start off "No child under 10 is allowed inside the fence." For the properly immunized list, she did get a list from Dr. Grant and she feels we should list shots they need to have before entering the dog park. She is concerned about people not picking up after their dogs....Bill said Township laws would be applicable and the pooper scooper law would apply at the dog park as well. Discussion held on spelling out the amount of the fines on a sign.

Madelyn was also unclear on the Homeowners Insurance part....how is that going to be handled. Agreed it will be part of the application and given when completing application. Middle Township will have to be named as co-insured. Will add section to Application for name of insurance company and policy number. Bill said they could also sign a Hold Harmless for the Township, its Agents and Assignees. They could also have to provide proof of liability insurance and have to name Middle Township as Co-Insured for purposes of cancellation notices. Monica questioned not allowing dogs under 6 months of age in the dog park. Said they can have their rabies vaccines at 4 months so why would they not be allowed then. Madelyn said Dr. Grant said health wise there would be a problem for dogs under 6 months. He had given Madelyn a list which she will pass on to the board. She also suggested attaching a photo of the dog to the application or doing a database of the dogs. Talked about putting it on as an option.

Madelyn also suggested a sign stating that "the owner may not leave the enclosure without taking their dog(s)". Also spoke about separating the large dog from the small dog, as well as there should be separate entrances into each area so the small dogs or large dogs do not have to go through the one area to get to the next.

Motion to Adjourn

On Motion By: Madelyn McCarroll

2nd By: Jen Modica

Meeting adjourned 5:46 PM

FREE RABIES CLINIC
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

VACCINES GIVEN

DOGS - 54

CATS - 17

DOG LICENSES SOLD

24

12 - 3 YEAR LICENSES

DONATIONS

\$0