



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF February 24, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 5:04 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: Jen Modica, ACO Candell, Dawn Stimmel, Chuck Marriner, George Spadea

ABSENT: Karen Buckingham, Monica Sopuch, Crystal Blackburn, Dr. Grant, James Loftus, Kyle Lindholm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 4, 2019
ON MOTION BY: Chuck Marriner
SECONDED BY: Bill Candell

OLD BUSINESS:

- * **Rabies Clinic** – February 8, 2020 at MLK Center
Dawn gave the report of the Free Rabies Clinic held on February 8. Total vaccines given were 101: 86 dogs – 32 not Middle Twp residents; 54 Middle Township dogs. Twenty-eight dog licenses were sold and 18 of them were 3-year licenses.
- * **Grants** – Nothing new to report
- * **Cat Committee** – George spoke of trapping he has done in the past and how things have changed during his many years of trapping. Has been working on doing presentations trying to stop wire trapping of animals, which is brutal to the animals. His issue is domestic animals that can get caught in the wire traps and are injured, some injuries very brutal to the animal. Is trying to get the County to stop the wire trapping, which is just a start, as it must actually be done through the State under Fish and Game laws. Maybe get them to support a resolution,

Spoke of a business in Cape May where the owner poisoned 2 colonies of cats. He said the police will not do anything about it. Spoke of a colony set up near the Harborview Restaurant where 16 cats were located, they built houses for them and the owner of the Harborview would feed them. Another business moves in close by,

and decides does not want the cats around. Had called LTPD and told them he did not want the cats around. Was told he could not touch them; they were all there legally. However, a couple of days later, they all disappeared, along with their houses. Trying to find the records of the call and when it was made and is planning on pressing charges.

He has written a lot of people who are big donors for animals, but they mostly donate to large companies like the Shelters, AWS. He knows for a fact that one of them, and he thinks it was AWS, received \$200,000 or \$300,000, which was from a woman in WWC that passed away, had no family, and when her property was sold, the money was donated to an animal protection agency at her request. People that work at a lower level than the shelters or animal facilities receive nothing. This presents a problem for those working outside of large organizations. He spoke of his organization he started, which was a 501C3 in 2009,

Bill said that one 501C3 cannot give to another 501C3, which creates a problem. He said he has spoken to Board Members at different large facilities that would love to help him out, but cannot because they too are 501C3's. Makes no sense because they are all raising funds for the same cause. There are ways of doing it without actually "giving" money.

Problem he is facing now is the organizations he is writing to for donations have already donated to larger organizations. People that are doing what he is doing are the preventers, they stop the growth of the animals. If they are cut off, the animals expand. He started the 501C3 to run the Shelter, which is how those involved wanted the Shelter managed. Right now, he is trying to get the donors to see that you need to start at the bottom first, you need to do prevention first. All that he does now, the money for supplies such as food, traps, gas, etc. all comes out of his pocket. He will be doing all of it alone unless he can get some kind of funding to help out. Ask for ideas on funding. He has a Go Fund Me Page, but not bringing in much. Had checked with the Shelter about using one of their vans, but was told no.

Meeting Dates – June 22, September 28th and November 23, 2020.

New Business

Discussion of New Members – We need more members due to some that need to be replaced. Also need a Vet.....Bill said he would take care of the Vet. Need at least 2 new members. Jen asked if anyone hears of anyone interested to let her know.

Old Business

Jen questioned when next Rabies Clinic was scheduled. May 2nd at PW garage and then Saturday, September 26th.

Discussion on new dog park.....need to discuss applications, pricing for dog park which would be set by the Committee. Also need to know where to get pass card or key. Last Work Session Jen attended, they were still up in the air and someone was going to check into it. Cameras will also be located in the park. Jen said up to Township as to what they want to charge people for use of the dog park. Jen has a folder and will bring to next meeting.

Comments

Jen asked Chuck about the calendars that were done with the fire company and the Animal Shelter. Chuck said he has been unable to find any.....he has inquired, but no luck.

George questioned people that come on vacation, either bring or adopt animals while they are here and then leave them when they go home. Questioned if that was a big problem. Chuck said not in Middle, but in shore towns. Bill said no, not here, used to be an issue at campgrounds, but has not had calls in quite a while. People used to drop off animals in Middle, but has slowed down considerably. Bill said there was some training coming up he is considering taking regarding people and their animals during natural disasters. Best thing we can do is educate people on how to be storm ready with their animals.

Jen asked Bill about the Tethering Law. He said we would have to put pressure on the State or get the Township to do it. Currently there is a huge flaw in the State Statute. He has been told that no one is pushing our Ordinance done by the Board so he cannot enforce it. He said Woodbine has been able to use and enforce theirs.

Motion to Adjourn

On Motion By: Chuck Marriner

2nd By: Bill Candell

Meeting adjourned 5:41 PM