

**Town of Rehoboth
Animal Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting on November 26, 2019
Blanding Library Upstairs Meeting Area**

Present: Sarah Arrigo, Elizabeth Botelho, Richard Panofsky, Nancy Scott; ACO Rob Johnson

Excused: Amy Hurd

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

1. Approval of the minutes of August 27, 2019

- S. Arrigo moved approval; R. Panofsky seconded. Motion carried.

2. Article in the Rehoboth Reporter

- R. Johnson explained that he welcomed this article (October 2019, p. 52) as good publicity for the shelter program. Discussion of the current relationship of the shelter with Project Spay brought out that needs for TNR in Rehoboth can be met, although more publicity would help inform townspeople. Johnson should be informed by all who have a need regarding feral cats. The article shows the expanded volunteer program. Johnson reported that the shelter is about to offer afternoon open hours daily.

3. Interpretation of Bylaws: Specific situations that constitute kennels

- R. Panofsky learned from Skip Vadnais that the issue is whether dog day care and dog walking should have town regulations. Not being “kennels,” they presently are not subject to permitting.
- R. Johnson explained the case that brought the issue forward, a complaint about a day care operation. He checked and found no problems, but was concerned not to have known about the business. Dog day care businesses are registered like other businesses with the Town Clerk, and Johnson has arranged to be informed about the day care businesses in town. He plans to visit them, offer assistance, and inspect on an annual cycle.
- By consensus, the Committee agreed this seems sufficient to ensure oversight. A look on the web shows that few towns license or give permits to dog day care or dog walking businesses. If issues develop, formalizing a requirement for annual inspections or requiring special permits for larger operations can be considered.

4. Possibly revising the Loose Dogs document

- R. Johnson asked for minor revisions to the approved document before it is made into a flyer for distribution at places like the Senior Center. R. Panofsky and Johnson will work on such changes and go ahead with preparing the flyer.

5. Concerns and issues for the Committee to take on

- At the BOS meeting of November 18, Selectman Vadnais raised our concern about the continuing lack of internet at the shelter building. R. Johnson said that he met with Derek Rousseau of IT and explained his need for a tablet to record incidents on the road and a desk computer in the shelter to log individual animal intake, outcomes, and treatments. He is hopeful that a next meeting will bring some action. Panofsky will send Johnson a list of possible short-term technical solutions that would cost less.
- At the BOS meeting of November 18, Selectman Vadnais asked the committee to recommend on its continuation under a new charge.

- A review of the charges given when the committee was formed shows our good success in accomplishing them. The volunteer program is developing satisfactorily. Policies are in place. Operations have been systematized and the physical shelter improved.
- Community education and outreach should be increased, but a committee is not needed to accomplish that.
- Concerns with loose animals that the Fence Driver (R. Johnson) must address can be met by following current strictures, that permit fines for repeat offenders.
- S. Arrigo moved that the Animal Advisory Committee should cease meeting, and that members can continue to assist in less formal ways. E. Botelho seconded. The motion carried.
- Panofsky indicated his intention to volunteer at the shelter so as to continue to edit the webpage, help develop internet functions, and improve outreach and community education.

6. Any other business that must be addressed

- No matters were raised.

7. Open Session: Audience Comments

- None attended.

Adjournment

- S. Arrigo moved to adjourn at 6:58 pm; R. Panofsky seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Panofsky, Chair

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