

Community Animal Watch Committee Meeting-January 20, 2010

Attendees: Will Watson ACO, Jacqui Deveneau, Pat Holland, Tianna Higgins, Mark Chorney, Debbie Smith, Steve Urbach, Linda Frechette, Kim Hatch

The Committee was to vote on Treasurer, but the Board Member who was interested was not in attendance.

The Committee agreed to amend our mission statement to read "protecting the health and welfare of abandoned or homeless domesticated animals within the town." This helps to clarify our mission.

Discussion of sequence of holding animals: Will receives the animal. He then calls Jacqui. Pictures/flyers are posted near where the animal was found. Louise Reid posts the information in the paper and on Channel 3.

Flyers are currently placed at Town Hall and at open winter establishments where town residents gather. It was suggested that we add Craig's List and the library to places where we post found animal notices.

We discussed holding times again, and agreed that the animals would be held for seven days before being offered for adoption. All adoptions go through Will who handles the legalities of the adoption.

Subcommittees were discussed again. It was suggested that with such a small group it may be easier to hold workshops or make assignments for matters, as opposed to having subcommittees.

It was agreed by the Committee that fundraising needs to be shared by all. We discussed our first donation that was received from an art class at SMCC of \$203.

Jacqui will find out from Kim at Town Hall if we need to have Town Council approve our mission statement and goals and will report back to us.

Steve researched setting up a website for the group. The domain name can be obtained for around \$10, with a \$5 fee per month for maintenance of the website with a host server. The Committee agrees on OOBAnimalWatch.org as the website domain name. Steve will be checking into the cost of a three month package with a host server. He also offered to show other committee members how to maintain and upload information to the website.

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We also need a logo for our website and to put on donation cans and correspondences. Ideas will be submitted at the next meeting and we will vote on the designs. Some members will be bringing in samples of jars at the next meeting to use as collection bins at local businesses.

It was also suggested by Linda that we might want to put a press release together to announce the start of the Committee and what we are trying to accomplish.

There was discussion about how to help identify cats as homeless as opposed to being owned by wayward owners. This books further discussion. Tianna will give us some guidance, as she is attached to Friends of Feral Felines nonprofit.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT by Will that the budget proposals for the Town Committees for the upcoming fiscal year need to be in by Friday, the 22nd. This gives us two days to think about the budget for copying charges and upkeep of our proposed website, as well as approaching the Council for funds for contracting with an established animal shelter. Steve and Jacqui will be seeing Sharri MacDonald on Thursday morning to get more information and will report back to us.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17th at 6PM at the Police Substation.