

**Town of Rehoboth  
Animal Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting on October 10, 2017  
Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Present:** Sarah Arrigo, Elizabeth Botelho, Richard Panofsky, Nancy Scott; Animal Control Officer Rob Johnson

**Absent:** Amy Hurd

**Call to Order:** 7:37 pm

**1. Approval of the minutes of September 12, 2017**

- S. Arrigo moved approval of the minutes. N. Scott seconded. No corrections. Motion carried.

**2. Housekeeping, updates, announcements**

- R. Panofsky reported that he is now regularly updating the town website page for the Animal Committee.
- Panofsky said he has not yet given material to the Town Administrator for posting, as planned in the last meeting (agenda item 3b).

**3. More BOS responses to bylaw changes**

- R. Panofsky had presented our revised version to Skip Vadnais. The BOS discussed it at a meeting he wasn't able to attend. One person raised questions about the limits the law sets for the fine amounts and also about why personnel kennel owners are to pay the same as other kennel owners. Skip also wanted to ensure the last item does not apply to animals in agriculture. Skip requested additional explanations to present to the committee.
- The BOS voted to defer presenting our warrant items until the regular Town Meeting in Spring.
- Panofsky distributed a copy of our draft on which he had expanded explanations and responded to the meaning of the final warrant item. The group discussed each and made suggestions. A specific consensus was to restrict the final warrant item to MGL 140, section 147b.
- There was strong consensus to maintain proposed personal kennel charges at the same level as for other kennel types.
- Panofsky will revise the document according to these suggestions and re-distribute by e-mail.

**4. Update on Shelter progress (R. Johnson), especially Facebook and electronic systems**

- R. Johnson reported on progress and changes. Review of the Facebook page sites brought out a confusion between the intended page, named Rehoboth Animal Control and Shelter, with one called Rehoboth Animal Control Offcr; Johnson will resolve this. We discussed the desirability of posting a Facebook link on the Animal Control website, to help direct users to the right one.
- One volunteer is taking the lead on improving and focusing the social media sites.
- The shelter will not receive a computer until December, at which point they can begin to implement electronic records. The Committee expressed disappointment at how slow the town has been to provide this. It was promised during the spring budget formation process.
- R. Panofsky commended the improvements to the website's petfinder posting.

**5. Open session: Audience comments**

- No audience was in attendance.

## **6. Any other business**

- R. Panofsky discussed new business for the Committee. He will invite Skip Vadnais to our next meeting, November 14. Selectman Vadnais has indicated a desire for us to review bylaws and town practices re other aspects of animal law in the commonwealth. We should hear from him what is relevant, in his opinion and that of town, and consider how this work might be separate from work of the town's Agricultural Commission or be done in partnership with them.

## **Adjournment**

- After adjourning the Committee will assemble for a tour of the Shelter facility, led by R. Johnson. Committee members can take notes and contact ACO Johnson with any questions. We can have action or discussion items on the agenda for the November meeting, too
- R. Panofsky moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm. E. Botelho seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Panofsky, Chair

### **Agenda**

Animal Advisory Committee

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1. Approval of minutes of September 12, 2017
2. Housekeeping, updates, announcements
3. More BOS responses to By-Law changes.
4. Update on Shelter progress (R. Johnson),  
especially Facebook and electronic systems
5. Open Session: Audience Comments
6. Any other business
7. Adjourning for a tour of the Shelter facility  
(R. Johnson)