

**Town of Rehoboth
Animal Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting on November 14, 2017
Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present: Sarah Arrigo, Amy Hurd, Richard Panofsky, Nancy Scott

Absent: Elizabeth Botelho, Animal Control Officer Rob Johnson

Guest: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais

Call to Order: 7:35 pm

1. Approval of the minutes of October 10, 2017

- N. Scott moved approval of the minutes. S. Arrigo seconded. A typo was fixed. Motion carried.

2. Housekeeping, updates, announcements

- R. Johnson e-mailed that he cannot attend today. He sent this update on Shelter repairs: "the masonry blocks on the outside kennels have been repaired and the inside runs have been capped and dryer was hooked up."

3. Issues for animals and agriculture; status of by-laws revision (guest: Selectman Vadnais)

3a. Issues for animals and agriculture

- Per item 6 of last month's meeting, R. Panofsky invited Selectman Vadnais to attend tonight. Vadnais explained status of agricultural animal care and treatment legislation, that should involve our committee eventually.
- Vadnais has been appointed to a statewide committee, the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, that oversees the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). A major task has been working with legislators on House Bill 441 (copies of the current version were distributed at the meeting). The context includes concerns over notorious incidents such as that involving a farm in Westport, a recent referendum initiative, and current agricultural law.
- Vadnais reviewed the key aspects of this bill: to create a committee with wide representation of professional experts and industry representatives and to empower the Committee and MDAR to "promulgate regulations and/or voluntary standards governing the care and well-being of cattle, swine poultry, and other livestock...." He stressed the complexity of issues regarding species-specific differences as well as practical matters of business, as a reason for involving such an expert panel.
- Once there is action on this bill, the town will consider how best to implement new regulations as well as any revisions needed to current by-laws. Our Animal Advisory Committee would be asked to contribute, as would the town's Agricultural Commission; collaboration is anticipated.
- The Committee thanked S. Vadnais for his good assistance.

3b. Status of by-laws revision

- Per item 3 of last month's meeting, R. Panofsky prepared our revised by-laws revision document. However, he never e-mailed the revised document to AAC members for their review, so it also has not gone to the BOS. He will send a reminder e-mail asking for any corrections this week, and then proceed as planned before.

4. Debriefing our walk-through of the Shelter.

- After adjourning the last meeting, the Committee assembled for a tour of the Shelter facility, led by R. Johnson. Committee members were asked to take notes, for consideration of future actions.
- The committee reviewed observations and drafted a specific list of issues that need attention. R. Panofsky will write that list up and distribute it by e-mail for any corrections.
- We specifically did not settle yet on any particular actions for this draft list of items. That will be considered at the next meeting.

5. Open session: Audience comments

- No audience was in attendance.

6. Any other business

- There was none.

Adjournment

- S. Arrigo moved to adjourn at 9:25 pm. N. Scott seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Panofsky, Chair

Agenda

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November 14, 2017, 7:30 pm
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revision (guest: Selectman Vadnais)
4. Debriefing our walk-through of the Shelter
5. Open Session: Audience Comments
6. Any other business