

Approved at April 19, 2018, meeting

**Town of Rehoboth
Animal Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting on March 22, 2018
Blanding Library Meeting Area**

Present: Sarah Arrigo, Amy Hurd, Richard Panofsky, Nancy Scott, Animal Control Officer Rob Johnson
Absent: Excused: Elizabeth Botelho

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

1. Approval of the minutes of February 20, 2018

- A. Hurd moved approval with no changes; R. Panofsky seconded. Motion carried.

2. Housekeeping, updates, announcements

- Due to a miscalculation, we're meeting the fourth Thursday of March. Our regular time remains the third Thursday of each month.
- Reminder, per Town Clerk Laura Schwall, to do the Ethics training.

3. Letter from a resident about "Leash Law" need

- R. Panofsky had distributed by email a letter from town resident Jean M. Kusiak and his reply to her. She attended the meeting along with her daughter.
- J. Kusiak reviewed her concerns with episodes of dogs not under control and asked what remedies might be taken. Her daughter shared other incidents as well.
- R. Johnson commented on the specific cases. He explained his interventions as Animal Control Officer to see that those problem dogs would be controlled. He reviewed the current protections in law as well as how he uses them to improve problem situations.
- Discussion brought out some pros and cons of "leash laws" vs. current means of control. The Committee will place better community awareness on an upcoming agenda. Another idea that we will consider is recommending an ordinance that people with an electric fence near their front property line should post a sign visible from the roadway informing people of the fence.

4. Preparing for bylaw warrant items at town meeting

- The Board of Selectmen approved our bylaw amendments, at the BOS meeting on March 12. Thanks to R. Johnson and A. Hurd for being there with R. Panofsky for a long discussion.
- Panofsky suggested a small addition to the substance of the warrant item: adding MGL 140 section 174F, which protects dogs in hot or cold closed cars, along with 174E. This was a quite recent addition to the Massachusetts law. The group and ACO strongly agreed this should be added. Panofsky will see how Skip Vadnais wishes to handle the small addition.
- Panofsky had distributed by email the latest bylaws version, reformatted and with revised comments. Members had reviewed it, and they agreed that this document is ready for the next step. Panofsky will meet with Town Administrator Helen Dennen next week so she can prepare it for final approvals and inclusion.
- Panofsky reported that the Selectmen would like our Committee to conduct an open hearing at our next meeting, announced to the public in advance. R. Johnson and Skip Vadnais will attend. Laura Calverley of the Rehoboth Reporter is doing a short article for the April edition that will mention this. Also, the May Reporter should contain a by-lined article from the Committee, submitted by the last week in April.

- Panofsky reported that he and Skip Vadnais plan to meet with Moderator William Cute to find the best way of conducting the town meeting discussion and vote. The Committee considered pros and cons of doing each item separately or having one vote for all.
- An outline-summary of the bylaws proposal is needed to help inform voters at discussion sessions and the town meeting. Everyone made suggestions for shortening Panofsky's draft to one side of one page. He will distribute a revision by e-mail.

5. Planning re shelter improvements

- At the February 28 BOS Workshop Meeting, Selectmen discussed plans for new town facilities that might include a new animal shelter. This would not interrupt our plans for improvements to the current shelter but can change the scope and timelines.
- R. Johnson reported that even more of the tasks have been completed. He and Panofsky will get together to update our working document.
- Johnson distributed a diagram of a "footprint" for a new shelter. He has shared this with the Board. The issue is to decide the size and shape of a building and the fenced perimeter, not the interior details, shown for demonstration only. The Committee agreed that a building of 40 x 40 feet seems appropriate, with upper level access for storage and outside fenced areas.

6. Open session: Audience comments

- No audience was in attendance at this point in the meeting.

7. Any other business

- There was none.

Adjournment

- S. Arrigo moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm; A. Hurd seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Panofsky, Chair

Attachments

Attachment A: **Rehoboth Bylaw Change Warrant Items for Town Meeting**

Attachment B: **New Animal Shelter Footprint Sketch by Rob Johnson**

<p>Agenda Animal Advisory Committee March 22, 2018, 7:00 pm Blanding Library Meeting Area 1. Approval of minutes of February 20, 2018 2. Housekeeping, updates, announcements 3. Letter from a resident about "Leash Law" need 4. Preparing for bylaws warrant items at town meeting 5. Planning re shelter improvements 6. Open Session: Audience Comments 7. Any other business</p>
