

**Town of Rehoboth
Animal Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting on April 2, 2019
Blanding Library Meeting Area**

Present: Sarah Arrigo, Richard Panofsky, Nancy Scott; Animal Control Officer Robert Johnson

Call to Order: 6:20 pm

1. Approval of the minutes of February 26, 2019

- S. Arrigo moved approval; N. Scott seconded. Motion carried.

2. Housekeeping, updates, announcements

- The selectmen approved the ACO budget as submitted, for action among others at town meeting.
- R. Johnson reported on the four dogs and a number of cats in the shelter.
- We discussed commentary on Rehoboth Talk about loose dogs. Panofsky had responded and posted our new statement on Loose Dogs; one person replied with a thank you.

We followed the agenda in reverse order.

3. Discussion of progress on current issues: public awareness of policies through communications and activities; wi-fi and computer needs, volunteers expansion, and safety training for volunteers

- R. Panofsky will continue to review ways of communicating the new Loose Dogs statement and make other suggestions for website improvements. All he has accomplished so far is the Rehoboth Talk communication.
- There is no visible progress on the wi-fi and computer needs. The IT function in town is currently being revised and expanded.
- There is a new volunteer in the shelter. The President of the community organization Rehoboth Animal Advocates, Karen Frenier, has sent an email soliciting volunteers for the shelter.

4. Do public shelters take in surrenders—practices and policies

- Currently animals are taken as surrenders in cases of crisis or other difficulties, or when doing so meets a citizen's specific needs. This is an active policy, but not advertised. Surrenders are expected to be adoptable animals.
- Specific discussion of policy is deferred to a later meeting.

5. Current Shelter, compliance with codes and standards and meeting animal needs

- R. Panofsky updated the Committee on the Municipal Building Study Committee. An information session will be held April 18, 2019, at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall; town employees were specifically invited. A Political Action Committee has been formed; Panofsky will forward contact information to committee members.
- Panofsky explained that an important analysis being done by the Municipal Building Study Committee is of the significant costs for needed improvements to existing facilities if new buildings are not constructed. There is no "do nothing" scenario. Specifically, in this regard, input is needed from the Animal Advisory Committee and ACO about the Animal Shelter. Given a possibility of deferring construction of a shelter until after other facilities are built, what the present facility needs has special meaning. The Committee is not asked to make a recommendation whether or not to include a shelter in the present plans; the need is to inform the decision by better understanding improvements needed for the current facility if we are to continue using it for, say, ten years.
- Many improvements have been made by the current ACO.

- Discussion brought out the following as *essential and necessary further improvements, that must be done if the building remains in use for more than a year or two*:
 - Clean and potable water (water treatment and/or new well)
 - Ethernet hard-wired from present ending at the town hall building (if town hall is vacated)
 - Enclosing ceiling rafters
 - Keep the quarantine room, which is much used; specific improvements to be determined (see below)
 - Expand cat capacity including separate room for exercise/socialization, via a new building extension across the entire east wall. Include hand-washing sink.
 - Expand and refurbish the utility area also via the new building extension across the entire east wall.
- Discussion brought out a need to do further research on the following. Panofsky and Johnson will meet and review, contacting experts as needed. We'll aim for resolution at the late April meeting.
 - Sufficiency of the intruder alarm system, given the greater isolation of the facility if the town office is closed. (More police patrolling also will be needed.)
 - Is there a fire sprinkler system? While not required in codes, we feel it is essential.
 - Is the current quarantine area sufficiently compliant with state standards, re cleaning and water drainage, air, and outside egress?
 - Are other issues raised by the recent Rinehart evaluation and other findings sufficiently addressed?

6. Open session: Audience comments

- No audience was in attendance.

7. Any other business

- We will use our regular meeting time this month, the fourth Tuesday: April 25, 2019.

Adjournment

- S. Arrigo moved to adjourn at 7:30 pm; N. Scott seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Panofsky, Chair

Animal Advisory Committee
 April 2, 2019
 6:15 pm
 Blanding Library, lower level

Current Shelter, compliance with codes and standards and meeting animal needs
 Do public shelters take in surrenders—practices and policies
 Discussion of progress on current issues: public awareness of policies
 through communications and activities; wi-fi and computer needs, volunteers
 expansion, and safety training for volunteers