



Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB)

1 Park Street, Sterling, MA. 01564

Recorded meeting minutes for Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Approved (date): May 10, 2011

Chairman Doug Davis called to order the regular meeting of the ACAB at 7:13 PM on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 in the meeting room of the Sterling Police station, 135 Leominster Road.

Chairman Davis conducted a roll call with present members being: Doug Davis, Terry Sadler and Claire Stidsen. Cindy Miller is absent. Animal Control Officer (ACO) Louis Massa was also present. No other officials were present.

Board members read the uncorrected, recorded meeting minutes from March 9, 2011 and discussed that only two of the three members who were present at that meeting were now in attendance. Terry made a motion, seconded by Claire, to withhold approval of said minutes and have them included into the next ACAB meeting agenda for consideration of approval at that time. Without further discussion the AIF vote was unanimous, the motion carried and the ACAB uncorrected, recorded meeting minutes of March 9, 2011 will be added into the next meeting agenda for consideration of approval at that time.

No appointments were noted.

ACO Louis Massa submitted a written domestic animal report, however, no wildlife report was presented and other issues discussed were:.

1. The past issue regarding Mr. Lindholms' dog being at large issue, the ACAB suggested use of underground fencing as a possible solution and the ACO acknowledged a compliance update which was discussed. The ACO suggested since the complainant Mr. Hajdou was probably not aware of the compliance by Mr. Lindholm with regard to the installation of new underground fence a letter should be mailed to him explaining Mr. Lindholms' compliance with the boards recommendation of installing underground fencing.
2. The ACO discussed ongoing issues regarding the Meleen dogs being at large and requested both Steve and Ruth be scheduled to attend the next ACAB meeting for the purpose of an informational meeting to discuss the dogs at large, citations issued and fines not paid. He also indicated they may have an unlicensed dog issue.
3. The ACO discussed the success of the Spring Rabies clinic held in March at Sterling Veterinary Clinic and spoke of holding another such clinic in the fall. He will update the board with more details as they become available. He indicated the Spring rabies clinic enabled the Town Clerk to license on site 39 dogs which reside in Sterling.
4. Board members applauded Louis on a recent newspaper article detailing his involvement with the Sterling Police regarding the successful retrieval and return of the nine puppies recently stolen from a nearby animal shelter. It certainly evidenced his professional abilities and dedication to animal welfare.

Claire made a motion, seconded by Terry, to accept the verbal and written reports as submitted by ACO Louis Massa. Without further discussion the AIF vote was unanimous, the motion carried and the ACO reports were approved as submitted.

Under old business:

1. There was general review and discussion of the Animal Control bylaw, and
2. the secretary discussed some corrections which were recently made to the Town webpage for animal control and will update as needed, and
3. it was decided by ACO to keep the same format for the 2011 animal control newsletter, and
4. board members reviewed, then discussed, a response letter received from the Attorney Generals office after which they concluded a general consensus that with regard to requesting any additional information or action no further action be taken on this matter at this time, and
5. a brief discussion of town meeting articles submitted occurred with a board decision to continue further discussion of this subject to the next scheduled ACAB meeting, and
6. a final review of 2011 kennel owners, with regard to the new application process and ZBA exemption clause, showed only two kennel owners were tardy in filing, but they finally did get approval, which successfully concluded with the approval process by the ACO for all renewing 2011 kennel applications for current kennel owners. The overall ZBA process and resulting resignation of a former board member was discussed at length.

Under new business a unanimous board decision was made to have the secretary mail out a letter requesting the former ACAB member, Pam Donaldson, consider being reappointed to the ACAB and inviting her, if she so desired, to attend the next ACAB for more discussion of this subject.

Chairman Davis recognized the public audience to be, Joyce Maloney of 3 Beaman Road, whom board members conversed with after she expressed her interest in possibly becoming an ACAB member. The visit with her resulted in an overall suggestion and request by members present that she first complete all personal commitments before perhaps reapplying at a future date. Chairman Davis thanked her for attending the meeting and communicating her needs and goals.

The next proposed meeting date for the ACAB was discussed and will be posted as Tuesday, June 10,2011, unless notified otherwise.

Chairman Davis entertained a motion to adjourn. At 9:10 P.M. Claire made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Terry. Without further discussion the AIF vote was unanimous, the motion carried and the meeting of the ACAB was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Claire Stidsen

Claire Stidsen
Secretary ACAB.

Cc: Dawn E. Michanowicz, Town Clerk, 1 Park Street, Sterling, MA. 01564 - via e-mail to: TownClerk@Sterling-ma.gov

Gary Chamberland, Chief of Police, 135 Leominster Road – via e-mail to: sterlingchief@yahoo.com