

Animal Control Advisory Board

Recorded minutes for Monday, January 7, 2008 (1-08-08)

Recorded minutes approved on: Feb 13,2008

Chairman Doug Davis opened the meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Police station meeting room.

Roll Call- ACAB members noted present were Doug Davis, Claire Stidsen, Shirley Rieven and Pam Donaldson. Noted as late in arriving. . ACO Louis Massa is also noted present.

Approve minutes – The following minutes were read and approved as noted.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from August 20, 2008 as written, made by Shirley, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.

1. Motion to approve meeting minutes from August 27, 2007 with changes as noted, made by Shirley, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.
2. Motion to approve meeting minutes from August 28, 2007 with changes as noted, made by Shirley, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.
3. Motion to approve meeting minutes from September 06, 2007 as written, made by Shirley seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.
4. Motion to approve meeting minutes from September 11, 2007 as written, made by Claire seconded by Doug. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.
5. Motion to approve meeting minutes from September 28, 2007 as written, made by Shirley, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.
6. Motion to approve meeting minutes from November 13, 2007 with changes as noted, made by Doug, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.
7. Motion to approve meeting minutes from December 10, 2007 as written, made by Pam, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.

Change to agenda.

None requested

Public session

Chairman Davis introduced himself, as did others, and welcomed Terry Sadler. She mentioned she intends sending a letter to the BOS and requesting to be appointed to the ACAB. The secretary noted she will then receive notification when she is pointed and will need to get sworn and although she may attend meetings she cannot vote until sworn in.

Appointments

None noted.

ACO Report

- 1) probable feral cat issue. Complainant Donald Smith, who is trying to sell his house, is disturbed with experiencing episodes of cat urination being found on or near his home so he may attend the meeting tonight. The ACO has been actively working with the person feeding the cats and is trying to avoid the need for intervention by the Town. He has talked with both parties and they seem to be working it out ok, however we need to watch this. 2) Bump still has overdue fines and ACO sent out a letter. The secretary commented the board needs to look into more types of recourse regarding these types of violators, this is something to research in the Spring. Everyone seemed to agree. 3) Dog bite in Leominster State Park dog lives in Sterling on 32 Newell hill Rd and is currently in quarantine. 4) Judith 7 Shawn Riley of 109 Sweet Hill own four dogs, 2 not licensed. They have underground fencing and recently two of the dogs, the American bulldogs' one of which seems on the aggressive side, escaped and ran to a neighbors yard where his young children were sledding. The ACO has issued them a warning

without fines for a first offense, counseled them as to the requirements of the bylaw and suggested they fix their fencing problem soon. He will continue to monitor this situation. Claire made a motion, seconded by Shirley to accept the verbal ACO report and without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.

Secretary report

- Town Clerk reported mailing 1452 invoice letters to dog owners at a cost of 4.41 each totaling \$ 595.32. The Chief has agreed to split the cost of this mailing but is hesitant to do this again. The secretary has said the Town Clerk is going to request more money in her budget, but the ACAB may need to go to a finance meeting to support this with facts.

Old Business –The board review a letter to be sent to WARL stating our concerns about them closing. It

Offers a suggestion that each town using their service provide a yearly donation, appropriated at town meeting, to assist them with their finances. However, first the Chairman will send a copy of this letter with a cover letter expressing the need to know if our help is warranted and if so then to try and set up a meeting with representatives from each of the towns using their services. Shirley made a motion for the chairman to send both a cover letter and the letter reviewed and for the ACAB to follow—up if needed, seconded by Claire. Without further discussion the AIF vote taken was unanimous and the motion carried.

New Business – Everyone read & reviewed the suggested ACO & AI inspection forms. Last Monday, the Town clerk mailed kennel application forms to each kennel owner in Sterling. Pursuant to the approval by the Attorney General of town meeting animal control bylaw amendments, or after February 14th, these inspection will begin and the need for forms to use imminent. The ACO inspection form was approved with noted changes, as was the AI inspection form. The Chairman will bring a copy of the AI form to the BOH for their suggested approval. These forms will be reviewed annually and may, even within a year, be modified if needed. Pam made a motion to accept the forms until further review and for the Chairman to suggest the AI form to the BOH, seconded by Shirley. Some further discussion regarding over regulating occurred and the AIF vote was three in favor and none abstaining and the motion carried.

Announcement – Discussion regarding choosing another permanent night for ACAB meetings supported the use of the second Wednesday of each month. Next ACAB regular meeting will be posted for Wednesday, February 3 , 2008 @ 7:00PM in the Police station meeting room, unless otherwise noted.

Adjournment – Chairman Davis entertained a motion to adjourn @ 9:30 PM , made by Claire, seconded by Doug and without further discussion the AIF vote was unanimous, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Claire Stidsen, secretary
ACAB