

Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB)
Sterling Police Department, 135 Leominster Road
Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes - June 7, 2021

Roll Call:

Anne Marie Catalano, Fran Simonds, Lainey Armstrong, Kathie Nickerson, Cindy Miller, and Animal Control Officer Louis Massa

Absent: Terry Sadler and Edee McNamara

Other Attendees:

Karen Kase

In Chairwoman Terry Sadler's absence, Anne Marie Catalano called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Review/Approve Past Meeting Minutes:

After review, Fran Simonds made a motion to approve revised minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting. Lainey Armstrong seconded the motion. All in favor, with the exception of Kathie Nickerson, who was not present at the meeting and abstained. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Disaster Response Plan for animals update: Tabled
- Discuss ZBA Proposed Kennel Changes with Residents/Interested Dog Owners: Tabled until later in meeting.

New Business:

- ACO Reports: to date 1146 licensed dogs, 0 pending court action, 404 unlicensed dogs
- ACO Wildlife and Domestic Reports: Reports were discussed and reviewed. A motion to accept the reports as written was made by Lainey Armstrong and seconded by Cindy Miller. Unanimous vote. ACO Massa advised that, as of May 12, 2021, a late fee of \$25.00 per dog is being assessed for unlicensed dogs. He is sending emails to owners of the unlicensed dogs.

Discuss ZBA Proposed Kennel Changes:

Anne Marie Catalano sent a letter to the select board which indicated inability of the ACAB to speak at the ZBA public hearing.

ACAB intentions to oppose the proposed kennel changes were not noted on the warrant. A group of residents want Article 42 removed from consideration. After discussion, it was suggested ACAB make a motion to remove the article from consideration and establish an advisory Board of members of ACAB, Planning Board, BOH, ZBA, a designee of the Police Chief and 2 residents to research the issue and develop a town bylaw in compliance with state laws

Ms. Catalano believes residents should do this, not ACAB. With further discussion, she suggested that when the article is brought up at the ATM, ACAB states not in favor then others

weigh in. Anne Marie does not feel she could suggest a representative for the ATM; someone will need to read a prepared statement.

Article 42 was then read into the record. K. Nickerson made a motion that ACAB is in opposition to warrant article 42 for the upcoming town meeting and L. Armstrong seconded the motion. All in favor.

Unforeseen Agenda: None

Set Next Meeting Date: Members agreed on a tentative date for the next meeting of July 15, 2021, at 6:30 PM in the meeting room at the Police Department.

It was noted the appointments to the Animal Board expire on June 30, 2021. The list of appointees goes to the Select Board for their vote.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Nickerson and seconded by Miller. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.