

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

Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2021

Roll Call:

At Police Department: Terry Sadler, Chair; Anne Marie Catalano, Fran Simonds, and Animal Control Officer Louis Massa

Attending by Remote Connection: Edee McNamara

Absent: Kathie Nickerson and Cindy Miller

Other Attendee: Elaine Armstrong

Call to Order: Chairman Sadler called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

Review/Approve Prior Meeting Minutes:

After discussion, Anne Marie Catalano made a motion to approve revised minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting. Fran Simonds seconded. Roll call vote: Sadler - aye; Catalano - aye; McNamara - aye; Simonds - aye; Unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Brief Review of Outcome of Meeting with ZBA regarding Kennels:

ACAB Chair Sadler participated in the meeting and her opinion is that the ZBA is firm in their decision to limit kennels by allowing them only by special permit, with their belief that four dogs in one household is enough. Member Catalano's impression of the discussion was that the ZBA does not want to be bothered with the application process. The next step is a public hearing on this bylaw change and then a vote by residents at the annual town meeting.

Disaster Response Plan for Animals Update:

Anne Marie Catalano sent a draft plan to ACAB members for their review. She will be preparing a proposal for items needed, such as a camera for a picture record of each animal as well as sticky collars.

New Business: None

Reports:

ACO Reports: to date 494 # licensed dogs; too soon in the year to report on # of unlicensed dogs

ACO Wildlife and Domestic Reports: After review of the reports, Edee McNamara made a motion to approve both reports. Anne Marie Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Sadler - aye; Catalano - aye; McNamara - aye; Simonds - aye. Unanimous vote.

Discuss Upcoming Rabies Clinic scheduled for March 13, 2021: The clinic will be held at VCA Sterling between 12:30 PM and 3:00 PM on March 13. The clinic is open to pet owners from any town.

Public Session: None

Appointments: 7:15 PM - Meet with Elaine Armstrong, potential new member:

Ms. Armstrong attended the meeting to meet the ACAB members and share her background. She is passionate about animals and is the proud owner of 2 cats and 2 dogs. Her enthusiasm for joining the Board was very apparent and she offered to assist at the upcoming rabies clinic.

A motion to approve Elaine's appointment to the Board was made by Fran Simonds and seconded by Anne Marie Catalano. Roll call vote: Sadler - aye; Catalano - aye; McNamara - aye; Simonds - aye. All in favor; motion carried.

Lainey, as she likes to be called, was asked to submit her application to the Select Board for their approval and vote.

Unforeseen Agenda: None

Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 6:30 PM. It will be held at the Sterling Police Department and will also be available for viewing via Zoom.

Adjourn: Fran Simonds made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Edee McNamara seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.