

Animal Control Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016

I. Call to order

Maribeth called to order the regular meeting of the Animal Control Commission at 6:04 PM on September 12, 2016 at Lancaster Community Center, Public Meeting Room.

II. Members/Attendees Present

The following members were present: Phil Eugene, Maribeth Eugene, Phyllis Tower, Jan Johnston, Joyce Moody, Kelly Quill, Mary de Alderete.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved.

IV. Updates regarding Beckner compliance regarding vicious dog complaint.

Phyllis provided pictures of a new enclosure and detailed notes regarding a visit she and Jan Johnson had made on August 24th to Mr. Beckner's property. She noted that Mr. Beckner has fulfilled all requirements as noted by the Commission, with the exception of the identification via microchip and photographs. Phyllis let Mr. Beckner know of a low cost clinic held at the Tractor Supply, and he has mentioned to her that he would complete this portion as soon as he was able to. Phyllis will reach out sometime during the week to double check.

V. Discussion of dog complaint filed on August 22nd regarding "Wilson", owned by Monika Gibbons.

The Commission reviewed a spreadsheet showing multiple dog complaints logged with the Police Station throughout the 2016 year. Phyllis mentioned that this table only showed the current year, although there were other complaints filed from year's past. The Commission discussed strategy to making sure the owner would comply with the Town's bylaws and decided to first try a letter stating that the dog must remain under the owner's control, by means of a leash or enclosure, and the letter would be served by Constable. A note of possible fines and further actions by the Commission should be noted. Mary will provide a draft letter mentioning the documented incidents and then the owner would be given a chance to comply. Phyllis will also reach out to members of the neighborhood to let them know that if the dog enters their property, they should take pictures as "proof", which could help if court actions needed to be instituted.

Mary will also check with the Assessor's Office in order to determine the owner of the property, and a copy of the letter will be sent to them, as well.

VI. Updates from Phyllis Tower, ACO

AUGUST

Dogs:

Loose dog on beach, police had nothing in log, no future calls.
Missing Yorkie Bolton Station Rd
Medium sized dog dragging a leash side of N Main
Loose dog again Nicholas Dr
Loose dog Nichols Dr again
Loose dog on Nicholas Dr large 100+ pounds
Dog struck by car Sterling Rd, owner present.
Found Yorkie that was thrown from a vehicle at the post office, PT called to come to lobby.
Loose wh dog with blk spots went behind a house High St Ext and Mill
Neck Rd lost his two dogs; Boxer and a wh lab
Dog bite Deershorn
Caller concerned for dog he returned to owner on N Main, offered to bring back.
Concern for neglect dog on N Main – no neglect noted, may be a matter of opinion.
Large white dog Hill Top (Wilson)
Two large loose dogs on Brockelman; blk Shepherd w/red collar, other off white and fluffy
7:30 am Golden Retriever High St Ext advised dispatch to advise officer lived on Mill St
Dog following postal truck on Sterling Rd
Loose older blk lab running through Blue Heron at night
Concern for dogs at George Hill officer checked and animals have been moved to back field
Loose dog, possibly Greyhound seen running through Culley's
Two loose dogs on Neck Rd one jumped on the officer's car causing damage
Barking dog for hours heard from Blue Heron, reached potential owner, dog's cable caught on fence
Two large loose dogs chased her cat up a tree N Main
Loose dog Colony Ln upsetting dg dying from cancer and urinating on his porch
second call dogs have returned
Older blk lab seen walking on Mill St
Loose dog wh w/blk spots wandering on Goss Ln friendly resident trying to catch
upon arrival called resident who stated she had called dispatch, owner had come for it
Large loose white dog Hill Top officer advised resident it was from the area, resident read phone number on tag and resident in route to pick up dog (9/10)

Cats:

Lost 8 year old short haired cat High St Ext
Caller lost her friends 15 year old blk/wh cat 2 nights ago Hill Top
Missing orange cat Bolton Rd
11:35 pm cat hit by car on Mill St still alive, officer arrived had passed on, or cat no microchip
Missing grey tiger cat High St Ext

Wildlife:

Report of a bobcat on Neck Rd
Woodchuck tapped in a hav-a-hart trap wants advice; told must release on property per Mass wildlife laws

Bat advice

Dead raccoon Connor Ln, officer noted was dead

Injured bird AUC, gone when went back

Mangy coyote on Shasta, not apparently sick

Woodchuck advice Nicholas Dr

Injured Great Horned owl Neck Rd, died.

Coyote killed one of neighbors free range chickens on Rigby, concerns for her cat. Told to keep inside for quite some time.

Livestock:

Missing goat from a residence on Brockelman (not Manny's Dairy), goat found in chicken house

Motorist reported two bulls on wrong side of fence at Manny's (not told about)

Injured bunny found on Ponakin

Quarantine:

10 day quarantine dog to person

VII. Unlicensed

- a) The list is down to 7 people (8 dogs). PT will look through list and make contact with owners.

VIII. Other Business

- a) As Jan will be retiring from the Commission in November, new members should be sought. Mary will post an "advertisement" in newsletter and on website.
- b) Next Meeting Date to take place Monday, October 3rd at 6:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

Maribeth adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.