

Animal Control Board
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
Virtually

Members Attending: A. Miller, D. Straub, R. Rosato, H. Brown

Others Attending: S. Smith, I. Litvinov, C. Reed, S. Herbert, BCTV

Call to Order

Mr. Rosato called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. He noted that a quorum was present.

Ms. Smith stated that Ms. Baller and Ms. Cordero have been called out to a humane emergency and are unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Straub, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Animal Control Agency Report

No report

Old Business

- **936 N 5th St** – more than six dogs / cats

No update

- **438 N 9th St** – keeping chickens

No update

- **318 Pine St** – more than six dogs / cats

No update

- **1048 Mulberry St** – more than six dogs / cats

No update

- **100 Neversink St** – more than six dogs / cats

No update

- **618 Thorn St** – more than six dogs / cats

No update

- **1234 N 6th St** – more than six dogs / cats

No update

- **1023 Greenwich St** – more than 6 dogs / cats

No update

Mr. Reed introduced Ms. Herbert and stated that she is a new health inspector who will follow up on animal issues.

Ms. Herbert stated that she tried to find information at these properties but that in many cases there are high fences in the rear and no answer to knocks on the door. She stated that she was unable to see cages or other evidence of animals.

- **Animal Ordinance amendment** – more than six dogs / cats versus animal point system

Ms. Smith stated that she is unsure if this amendment was supported by the Animal Rescue League. She noted the need for follow up with Ms. Baller.

- **Feeding outdoor animals**

Ms. Smith stated that someone will need to write the text for the social media posts.

Ms. Miller expressed the belief that the ARL Communication Specialist would be writing this text. Ms. Smith stated that she has not received any further information on this topic from ARL.

Ms. Herbert questioned if this is related to feeding strays. She stated that the City has received several complaints and that citations are issued when the feeder does not follow the regulations.

Ms. Miller stated that feeders need guidance about how to properly feed colonies. She stated that some residents are unaware of the regulations and some don't understand them. She also noted the need to educate police officers so that threats don't continue. She stated that there are many colonies and many feeders.

- **Providing Education at Community Events**

Ms. Smith stated that this topic was also going to be addressed by Ms. Baller and the ARL. She stated that she has no update.

Ms. Miller stated that this was a new ARL initiative based on their new mobile unit.

- **Zoning Ordinance Amendment**

Ms. Smith stated that the Zoning and Planning Offices are working on several Zoning Ordinance amendments. She stated that the Animal portion of the amendment will be part of the Phase 3 update.

Reorganization

Mr. Rosado noted his need to relinquish the chair. He questioned if anyone was interested in serving in this capacity. He stated that Ms. Smith provides much support.

After a brief discussion, **Mr. Rosado moved, seconded by Mr. Straub, to appoint Ms. Miller as Board chair. Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

None

Expiring Permits

- 1711 Cotton St – 10 cats, 4 dogs

Mr. Reed stated that this owner has contacted Property Maintenance and requested an extension to file her updated permit application. He stated that she now has 5 cats and 2 dogs. He stated that she needs to obtain dog licenses and get the animals vaccinated.

Ms. Smith questioned if Mr. Reed had provided a deadline to file. Mr. Reed stated that he did not provide a deadline. He stated that the owner is struggling financially at this time.

Ms. Miller stated that her clinic in Birdsboro is holding a vaccination and chipping event in August. She stated that Berks Humane also holds “pay what you can” clinics occasionally.

Mr. Reed requested this information so that he can share it with pet owners.

- 1034 Court St – 22 cats, 1 dog

No update

- 2416 High St – chickens, ducks

No update

Other Matters

None

Next Meeting

Ms. Smith was asked to poll members for their availability for a meeting in July.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk