

# ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

- A. **CALL TO ORDER** – the meeting was called to order at 5:22pm
- B. **ROLL CALL of Commissioners** - In attendance: Anna Accetta; Cherie Aronson; Colby Collier; Cathy Kamen; Susan Stanek; Dawn Woods-King. Also in attendance: Lt. Luke Holder; Capt. Garon Delmonte; ACO Scott Ellingson. Guest: Marty Foley. Staff: Susan LaFond, Recording Secretary
- C. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Marty Foley, volunteer rescue trapper was here to visit the commission and touch base. She is the individual who trapped the many cats at Caswell Cove for spay, neuter and adoption.
- D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 11/13/23 motion to approve by Ms. Kamen; second by Ms. Accetta. Approved unanimously.
- E. **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT** – Chair Collier reported that Nick Sambides, a reporter from the Milford Mirror, called him to set up an appointment to speak with “members of Animal Control.” Mr. Sambides reached out to again via email this afternoon; Chair Collier will respond tomorrow to reconnect but says he is still unclear what Mr. Sambides is looking for. The chair will clarify Mr. Sambides’ wishes and email the commission and ACO Ellingson with an update.
- F. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Ms. Acceta reported the budget was reduced by \$341 used for FIV testing, which was deducted from Other Med Fees and Services. Donations from November have been deposited but are not yet posted. Ms. Accetta explained posting of invoices and deposits is delayed from the initial time of the transactions. Total unallocated funds are currently \$180,230.00.
- G. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
1. **Building Improvement Subcommittee** – Ms. Kamen has had no new contact with DPW Director Saley. Lt. Holder said the Police Department has contact information for a contractor who could create an estimate for work not under DPW purview to be performed at the shelter, such as better use of existing space, new furnishings, etc. Capt. Delmonte will share the information with Ms. Kamen.
  2. **Grooming/Welfare Subcommittee** – Ms. Kamen is still waiting for a W-9 form.
  3. **Toby’s Rescue** – Ms. Kamen has had no contact with the group since the last meeting.
  4. **Red Cross/Training** – Ms. Kamen is still waiting for a W-9 form.
- H. **WARDEN’S REPORT** – ACO Ellingson distributed copies of the monthly report for review. Motion to approve by Ms. Stanek; second by Ms. Accetta. Approved unanimously. Cautiously optimistic that new vehicle will be acquired about mid-January 2024.
- Motion to approve by Ms. Stanek; second by Ms. Accetta. Approved unanimously.
- I. **DEPARTMENT REPORT** – ACO Ellingson reported Russell was returned to the shelter by his adopter. There is some interest by the adopter’s ex-wife, who said she bonded with Russell. Some research will be done before any decision is made to adopt Russell out again. Lazlo is still available. A black lab/pit mix is currently in quarantine. A tan and white mixed breed was picked up and is also being evaluated. Apollo was adopted by a family from Massachusetts. Two dogs who have been in safekeeping due to owner medical issues will hopefully be picked up this week. There are two cats in the shelter for safekeeping; the owner will come in to sign over the 2 cats as she is unable to secure cat friendly housing. A female gray cat, approximately 10 years old, was dumped in a crate by Cumberland farms and is in the hall cage for adoption. A black female, possibly pregnant, was an intake from a rescuer.

ACO Ellingson met with the new Mayor regarding the budget; asked if Orange funds can be used for facility improvements. It appears the Mayor is currently working with DPW Director Saley on an initial evaluation of the existing Animal Control facility.

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ACO Ellingson received and returned reporter Nick Sambides' call. Mr. Sambides said he is looking to do a story about shelter volunteers. ACO Ellingson said he has one volunteer who is interested, but camera shy, which is normal for many volunteers.

**J. CORRESPONDENCE – Donations – not yet posted. The person who returned Russell donated \$300 but that may have been after November 30.**

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Review and Vote on 2024 Meeting Schedule - Motion to approve by Ms. Accetta: Second by Ms. Woods-King. Approved unanimously.**

**L. OLD BUSINESS**

**Motion at 5:38pm by Ms. Stanek to enter executive session to discuss new ACO candidate interviews; second by Ms. Kamen. Motion at 6:13pm to return from executive session by Ms. Kamen; second by Ms. Stanek.**

**Reporter Nick Sambides entered the meeting room during executive session. He was asked to leave the room and told he could return once the commission resumed the meeting. He instead provided his business card to Chair Collier who said he will contact Mr. Sambides Tuesday.**

**Motion by Ms. Kamen to nominate William D'Avignon as first choice for the Assistant ACO position, with Richard Davis second. Ms. Stanek seconded. Approved unanimously.**

**M. ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 6:16pm**

**New Business, not on the agenda, may be brought up by a two-thirds' vote of those Members present and voting.**

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, (203) 783-3230, FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.**