

2019 SEP -9 AM 8:40

Animal Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday July 25, 2019

City Hall Conference Room-1st Floor

Members Present: Alicia Pensarosa, Beth Klinefelter, Jennifer Jackman, Jennifer Schmorrow

Council Liason Present: Scott Memhard

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

Public comment:

Gardner Winchester:

Discussion about birds and other wildlife getting caught in nets on O'Maley Middle School fields and other city properties

Netting that hasn't been disposed of properly has been left in the woods near the field

He requests that the City render their equipment animal safe at the end of the season

Has spoken to City Council about the matter along with the director of Gloucester Little League

Kim Smith:

Concerned about the sunset clause put in place for the dog ordinance

Concerned about taking down the barriers and enclosure when the plovers are still there

Deborah Cramer:

Discussion about the fact that the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Act covers adult birds not just chicks, nests, etc.

End of public comment.

Piping plover discussion:

Discussion about what worked and didn't work this year

Discussion about the volunteer training and how the volunteer groups were split

Most felt that the fencing was taken away prematurely

Discussion about other cities and towns that don't take their fencing down

The City made the decision to take down the enclosure

Discussion about the sunset clause and how to make sure we plan in advance before next season

Discussion about the buffer zone and the wording in the ordinance

Discussion about lack of fencing for the plovers near the creek

Work on volunteer cohesiveness for next year

Discussion about evidence of nesting pairs on Wingaersheek and dogs off leash while birds were attempting to potentially nest

Talk to the conservation commission about nesting pairs on Wingaersheek

Discussion about next steps, writing a report for this year and comparing it with what other beaches do

Discussion about dune restoration and erosion on Good Harbor Beach (GHB) and the future of GHB

Discussion about keeping the lifeguards and other City employees involved in training for the plovers

Will add plover discussion to next agenda

Meeting minutes approved from 6/25/19

Batting cage nets:

Discussion about reaching out to Val Gilman and the City and researching other nets that could potentially be used that are bird safe

Dyke's Pond:

Discussion about moving forward with contacting invested parties and working on a solution

Moved to put Wild Animal Acts agenda item to next meeting

Discussion about rodenticides being used by the City, going to reach out to the City's contractor to see what they use

Next meeting tentatively set for Thursday, August 22nd

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm