



CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

2019 NOV 21 AM 10:42

ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes: September 12, 2019

Members Present: Alicia Pensarosa, Jennifer Jackman, Jennifer Schmorrow, Jodi Swenson, Diane Corliss

The Animal Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Public Comment:

Caroline Haines discussed rodenticide and shared a photo of a deceased Raven. She noted there are bait stations at Market Basket, near loading area. Jodi confirmed she has taken in the raven the raven was in good body condition so she doesn't suspect west Nile virus, but it could be rodenticide poisoning.

Meeting minutes for August 29th will be approved at the next Animal Advisory Committee meeting.

Rodenticide Education

The Committee shared raptor boxes building plans. A question raised about acceptance of donations of wood materials in relation to public meeting law.

The Committee will build a few raptor boxes for demonstration.

Discussed encouraging bird houses instead of feeders to reduce rodent attractants.

Plan to have a Rodenticide presentation with Raptors are the Solution on October 19th. Need to find a location to host the presentation.

Discussion on purple trash bags continuing to be an issue in terms of rats, and human-wildlife conflict

Farm/livestock animal ordinances

Diane brought to the committee a need for a livestock ordinance. Noted Gloucester has chickens (mostly), goats and a few cows

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Discussion about changes and having to grandfather in current owners.

The ordinance change should address minimum yard, minimum storage, compost, and permits (currently only horses are permitted). Discussed recommending electric fencing with solar for predator exclusion and permitting chickens, goats, horses, cows, donkeys, burrows, alpaca, pigs, turkeys. The ordinance would be enforced by the Public Health Department.

Discussion about having 25 chickens to half an acre; constructing shelter to prevent predators and rats; enclosure of manure piles and feed.

The Committee will review ordinances from other town and discuss further at the next meeting.

Beach Area for Dogs/No Dogs

Discussion of having a dog-free area on beaches for autistic kids, elderly and others who want to visit beach without dogs

Wells Street- Rat Complaint

Noted that the neighborhood previously had very active bird feeders, but they have since been removed

The committee discussed trash as an issue as elsewhere

Piping Plover Update

Discussed upcoming meetings pertaining to piping plovers and submitted our recommendation.

- Council Vote to make permanent April 1 Dog ordinance on 9/24 - good to have AAC attendance and participation
- Piping Plover Plan meeting on 9/26 - Scott and Alicia will attend

Other Issues:

- It was suggested we Invite the new police chief to an AAC meeting
- Discussion about laws and regs around dog bites; Diane described laws and case by case evaluation

Public Comment:

Deborah Cramer noted she was approached by Mass Wildlife about the inclusion of Gloucester in beach disturbance study conducted by Virginia Tech. Deborah spoke with researchers at Virginia Tech. Deborah suggested Good Harbor Beach is probably too small, but Wingersheek may be a better site. They are studying threatened and endangered shore birds in addition to others. Deborah will share more information on the study.

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Next Meetings:

The next Animal Advisory Committee will be held on October 10th.

Agenda items to include:

- Planning for event
- Farm Ordinances

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm

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