

TNR Committee Minutes

November 23 2021

Attendees: John Talty (Chair), Joanne Bergin, Jo Anne Lambusta, Marcus Perry (A-Academy), Scott Smith.

Not Present: Kathleen Carpenter

Excused: Councilwoman Andrea Zapcic - at another township meeting

Roll call

Chairman Talty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Quorum is present.

Colony Caregiver Discussion

Marcus reported that all is well with the colonies and had no issues to report.

Sponsor Update

Marcus had nothing new to report. There has been no change in colonies. Also, Marcus does not trap in the cold weather.

Public Information Campaign – New Flyer on Safe Repellents

A flyer was developed at the Committee's request to help educate people on safe and effective ways to help repel feral cats from their properties. The committee liked the flyer and wants to use it whenever possible. The Committee requested one change to the title. Instead of it being: Trap-Neuter-Release, the title will be: Trap- Neuter-Return. The flyer will be released on the web site and in public places.

Caregiver Agreement

Chairman Talty asked Committee members to review the proposed agreement using a template prepared by Doreen from Animal Birth Control.

Scott Smith said defining a caretaker should in some way include providing medical/health care. The message should be "to the best of your availability," because not everyone can afford to provide medical care for feral cats.

If you trap a cat that's in need of medical care, call Animal Control who will take the cat to the vet.

Many caregivers and TNR-friendly people pay for these services out-of-pocket. It's a personal decision people need to make, but the Township program is different and has to follow procurement laws for services.

Scott Smith reminded everyone that when TNR was first established, funding for the program was supposed to come from donations and fund-raisers from colony caregivers. That was part of

their responsibilities. The Committee wants to do more to support colony caregivers and not expect them to offset medical costs.

Doreen reported that 450 cats were spayed and neutered in 2021 without financial support from the Township. 132 cats went through the TNR process.; 34 kittens were taken in by local rescues.

The microchips are important and we need to allow for that in the TNR Veterinary specifications.

In terms of contact information, microchips have to be assigned to the registered colony.

There was some discussion on how to handle it when a cat is trapped and needs care. Once we have a TNR vet in place, the Committee asked how a resident can access those services. Doreen feels it's too much to expect from the project sponsor. The Committee asked if colony caregivers can take the cats directly to the vet, or if they will need a purchase order in advance. The Township's Purchasing Department will set up a process once we have funds in place and a service provider is on board.

The feeding section of the agreement needs to be modified to exclude cans of food from being used. Animals should not be fed directly out of cat food cans.

The Committee also agreed to remove the sections regarding home visits, which are problematic from a safety and insurance perspective.

Adoptions should be done through established, local non-profit rescue organizations that deal with friendly placements on a regular basis.

Page 1 should be modified as follows: what to do "at the approved colony property."

Update on RFP for TNR Veterinarian Services

The Committee also reviewed the Request for Proposals for Veterinary Services specific to the TNR program.

The proposal form needs to be modified to allow for boarding to be an optional cost and not part of the spay/neuter/ear tipping line item. The third line item should be modified to include distemper. Hernia repair, rabies prep and boarding should be removed and replaced with "Cryptorchid" and "neuter." Ear chip will be replaced with EAID Chip Insertion. Otherwise, the RFP is good to go and will be released by the Township.

Issues or complaints

Doreen mentioned that the TNR hotline number is not working. She left 2 messages that went unanswered. Joanne Bergin will get that corrected.

Fund raising

No updates. However, from a budget perspective, we need to remember to have funds available to purchase traps. Marcus has a limited amount available.

Next meeting

Wednesday, December 15 at 4:30 pm..

Joanne, as always. thanks again for all your work. above is a copy that can be sent out and can you also include pdf copies of all documents reviewed/referenced at the meeting .. Thanks,
John...