

TNR Committee

June 23, 2021

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

Not Present: Kathleen Carpenter

Roll call

Sponsor Update

A-Academy (the Township's Animal Control Officer) has agreed to be the Program Sponsor, who acts as the program's point person/coordinator for the Colony Caregivers. As the program's sponsor, A-Academy will supervise the caregivers and ensure the colony limits are maintained. Marcus reported no new updates at this time.

Public Education Campaign

The Committee discussed developing two different information sheets: one for the public and one for caregivers. The Committee also discussed developing material that outlines the goals of an effective colony using infographics. There is one infographic that shows a pyramid – one cat neutered has this effect.... which is exactly what we're looking to promote. Any educational material developed can be shared on BTV, the Township's Facebook page, the Township's web site, and distributed to the media via press release. The Committee mostly favors graphics for visual messaging.

Two sample flyers were shown: the "Did you know cay pyramid" which shows the exponential growth in the feral cat population without a TNR program, and a Neighborhood Flyer that helps educate people on the dangers of feeding stray or feral cats. The Committee also discussed creating a generic flyer about the Brick TNR program for those who have no idea what the program does.

Issues or complaints

Several members of the public attended the meeting: Catherine Dailey, Anthony Garcia, Debbie Taylor, Michele Restaino, Lisa Eliopoulos, and Doreen from Animal Birth Control.

Michele Restaino from Port Road is not happy with the colony in her neighborhood. Marcus explained that trapping attempts were unsuccessful and not able to occur on the weekend when the resident uses the property. Marcus trapped for more than 30 days and only caught a possum. Committee members suggested other cat deterrents such a citrus, coffee grinds and coyote urine. Ms. Restaino wanted permission to trap on her own, but Office Scott Smith said it is best not to

encourage trapping on your own, because Animal Cruelty is called if the trapped animal isn't attended to in a timely fashion. Marcus also added that re-trapping a feral cat is "like mission impossible." Doreen suggested the Committee focus on messaging that people who feed must fix because there are a lot of hostile people. TNR is a community program and people want to feel like they're part of a solution, she said.

Committee members asked for a TNR hotline number to be established and promoted on the web site and in all print materials about the program. They also hope that a flyer specific to Brick's TNR program can be printed prior to the first Summerfest concert.

Updates on colonies

Marcus has no new colonies to report, although he believes there is a new one in Laurel Brook that must complete the required paperwork. He will follow up with the colony caregiver.

It was also reported that a colony remains at DPW.

Fund-Raising

An application has been approved for the Summerfest 50/50 raffle proceeds to be donated to the TNR Program. Resident Lisa Eliopoulos volunteered to help sell tickets.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to 5 pm, Wednesday, July 28 via Zoom.

Public Comment

Two emails from residents were received and read for the Committee: one from a resident in Cherry Quay and one on Pier Avenue. Marcus will continue to work in those areas to assist colony caregivers and address any complaints.