

TNR Committee

July 28, 2021

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

Not Present: John Talty, Kathleen Carpenter

Roll call

Sponsor Update

A-Academy (the Township's Animal Control Officer) is 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 on efforts to assist one colony caregiver at 397 Clark Drive who is unable to continue to care for the cats.

Public Education Campaign

The Committee previously focused on the need to educate people on the TNR program. Since then, a flyer was prepared and handed out during the three Summerfest concerts to date. The Committee members reviewed that flyer and discussed the need for more flyers specific to TNR issues. Doreen from Animal Birth Control offered to forward several helpful flyers that can be added to the educational material being developed. Those will be uploaded to the TNR section of the Township web site.

A dedicated phone number was established for the Township's TNR program. That number will be included on all educational materials.

Issues or complaints

Last meeting, the Committee heard from a resident on Port Road. Marcus reported that he has set two traps since that meeting in the problem area.

Updates on colonies

Scott Smith addressed an issue at Lions Head South, where a trapping was conducted at the request of the Association. A colony was started there by a resident without permission from the property owner. Marcus and John Talty spoke to the Association and the resident and ultimately had to trap. Some residents in the community who were upset about the cats went to extreme measures such as using moth balls to deter the cats from the area. This is not a recommended approach and is in fact detrimental to all other wildlife. Approved, safe deterrents include coyote urine and coffee grinds.

The Committee also discussed next steps with the colony caregivers. They would like to host a colony caregiver meeting to better understand the needs of these caregivers and how the Committee can help. Jo Anne Lambusta volunteered to work on information packets for the colony caregivers that lists available resources. Councilwoman Zapcic agreed the meeting would be a good opportunity to engage the colony caregivers.

Fund-Raising

To date, \$1,330.00 was raised via Summerfest 50/50 raffle proceeds. One more concert is scheduled with another 50/50 raffle.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to 5 pm, Wednesday, September 1 in person at Town Hall. Colony caregivers will be invited to this meeting.

Public Comment

16 people participated on the Zoom call. Rachel Fondi is new to trapping but has always been a “rescue person.” She is very interested in the Committee’s goals and next steps and shared resources and ideas. Rachel has a resource for spay and neuter clinics that she will send to JoAnne for the colony caregiver handouts.