

TNR Committee

December 15, 2021

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

Not Present: Kathleen Carpenter, Scott Smith, Councilwoman Andrea Zapcic

Roll call

Chairman Talty welcomed everyone to the end-of-the-year meeting. Quorum is present. Chairman Talty reminded all who might be interested in serving on the Committee to email the Mayor and ask for consideration. Twelve members of the public (caregivers/ trappers, TNR supporters) attended the meeting.

Colony Caregiver Discussion

Marcus Perry reported that all is well with the colonies and had no issues to report. Rachel reported that she Trapped 97 cats this year not including kittens she was able to place. Doreen reported that in November she TNR'd 11 cats and so far in December she TNR'd 3. This is the quiet time of year, but it will be very busy come March.

Marcus has received complaints about a colony at the Wendy's by Jack Martin/Route 70. The employees at Wendy's are feeding them, which is a problem.

Sponsor Update

There is one update on Jackson Avenue (521). Marcus got a complaint. There are new residents there and the previous property owners had a colony. Those cats were technically abandoned. There are other feeders in the neighborhood who have been providing food. There are 8 or 9 cats, but all are spayed.

Public Information Campaign – New Flyer on Safe Repellents

The Committee reviewed the revised flyers as requested last month. The flyers are on the Township's web site and posted in public buildings. Members will make copies and hand them out throughout their travels. The Committee found them to be great resources to be shared with the public.

The Committee discussed handing them out at condo and apartment communities. However, people might not call for fear that their management associations might find out they're feeding cats and hopefully, maintaining a colony. It might be best to share the information with the Management Associations first to gauge their feelings about TNR.

Once the warmer weather comes, people can use motion detector sprinklers. It's a humane way to keep all kinds of animals from being on private property.

Caregiver Agreement

Chairman Talty have big thanks to Doreen for the boilerplate. All of the changes discussed at last month's meeting were made. Two additional changes were needed. On page 2, the reference to canned food should be revised to "Do not feed from cans." Also, on page 3, remove the reference to the program providing a feral cat tracking record and add the word "original" after maintain so as to read" Sponsors to maintain original rabies records at all times....."

Chairman Talty said the plan is to adopt the Caregiver Agreement at the next meeting.

Update on RFP for TNR Veterinarian Services

Chairman Talty explained the RFP process and how it is needed to secure a veterinarian specifically for the TNR Program. We hope to get responses and be able to appoint a veterinarian. The proposal is out on the street and members were encouraged to share it with potential veterinarians who work with TNR cats.

The Committee reviewed the RFP with the revisions and the addendum. All were glad to have the specific RFP.

Issues or complaints

Susan Castiglia expressed an interest to serve on the Committee. She has a colony at the Woods at Laurel off of Burnt Tavern Road. Her Association is looking for more information on the TNR Program. There was a problem with a roving feral who had two litters. The property is adjacent to Greenbriar 2. Cats come across from Lanes Mill too. The cat was eventually trapped and was diagnosed with feline AIDS. The community is averse to the program and with having feral cats in their neighborhood, she said. She asked for help. The Association put information in their community newsletter. The town home communities, unless you really push hard to act, do not get involved, she said. There is a section of the woods where the cats live. There's so much potential for community involvement/education. She has a very ill intact male and several three months old kittens. She's looking for Committee members to assist her with providing care or placement for this cat and her kittens. The mom is about two years old. None of them are handleable, according to Marcus.

Chairman Talty asked if she has written permission from the property owners to have shelters on their property. She does not. He explained that written permission from the property owner is essential for the colony to be recognized as part of the program and therefore, eligible for assistance.

The Committee asked about getting approval for colonies on Township property. Joanne Bergin explained that the location should be tied to the colony caregiver because of the daily responsibility involved. If a caregiver has to drive to a destination to care for the cats, it's not as likely to be successful. Also, if there's no one maintaining ongoing care the neighbors have to live with it and may object, which is not an ideal scenario.

Someone asked if people are receiving tickets for feeding cats. Summonses and violations have been written for ground feeding as it is a violation of Township code. When code enforcement receives a complaint, we first refer that to the Animal Control Officer to mediate.

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. Chairman Talty explained that the Committee was formed after the 2021 budget was adopted.

JoAnne Lambusta suggested a table at the Township's annual Green Fair, which is typically held in conjunction with Earth Day. Committee members agreed that having a presence at the Green Fair would be beneficial.

Next meeting

Wednesday, January 26 at 5:30 pm