

TNR Committee

January 26, 2022

Attendees: Members: John Talty (Chair), Councilman Perry Albanese, Doreen Gesslein, Jo Anne Lambusta, Marcus Perry (A-Academy), Scott Smith

Excused: Catherine Daley

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Roll call

John welcomed everyone to the meeting. Approximately 30 people here in attendance including Committee members. John welcomed the two new members. Catherine Daley could not attend. John spoke to her background. Catherine has been a caregiver for many years and is a true caregiver at heart. Her colony has consistently gotten smaller and no new kittens were born from her colony. She is a role model for anybody and a great person, he said. John is delighted to have her on board.

John also welcomed Doreen Gesslein, a professional trapper involved in TNR for many, many years. She's a subject matter expert and we're honored and happy to have her on board, John said. Doreen explained how she began to get involved with TNR and how she gained experience and has, in turn, provided guidance and support to others and since 2012. She has TNR'd close to 700 cats.

John also welcomed Councilman Perry Albanese. He has a love for animals and extensive direct training. CM Albanese grew up in Brick and has lived here for 50 years. He works at the Ocean County Health Department in the Animal Shelter. He doesn't have as much experience with cats as Doreen but he is fully aware of the importance of neutering and caring for feral cats properly through the TNR program.

Colony Caregiver Discussion

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

Sponsor Update

Marcus is waiting on the new list of colonies. No issues to report.

Public Information Campaign

The Committee is moving along with great ideas. John explained that we try to add information monthly with tips and educational information. The public education campaign is essential. If complaints come in, we can address them better after determining whether or not they're colony

cats. People feeding outside of the TNR program are subject to penalties. The Township's web site has a TNR page where all of the information can be found. John gave his cell number to the group in the event anyone needs help or has a problem.

The Committee discussed a flyer on ear tipping since many people don't know what that means.

A member shared an article from the *Asbury Park Press* that cites an Urban Wildlife Podcast and an initiative to disband TNR programs. This Committee is proof of the need and the success of TNR programs.

One member asked if we can have a banner by the Quick Check that promotes the TNR Committee. More direct promotion is appropriate. A banner has to drive them to an event or a fund-raiser.

Hopefully, we can engage a member of the media to write an article about this group and promote its goals and activities. Judy Nunn from the Brick Times would be a good contact. Catherine Daley might be the person to share a success story that helps people understand the program.

One member said TNR should have tables at every Township event to educate people and raise money.

Caregiver Agreement

On January 18, letters from Chairman Talty were sent to 36 colony caregivers as required by ordinance, along with the Caregiver Agreement and Responsibilities; Liability Waiver; and Colony Caretaker Status Report.

The board unanimously approved the Caregiver Agreement as modified.

To date, 22 response have been received.

Doreen will cross check the list and make sure we have a complete set that reflects all existing colonies.

Update on RFP for TNR Veterinarian Services

The Township issued an RFP for Veterinary Services which was due December 21 and did not receive any proposals on that date. Typically, the Township needs to publicly bid if spending exceeds \$44,000 in total, or \$17,500 for individual vendor. Expenditures have not come close to

that. This allows the Township to do business with whatever vet we choose. The purchase order is the contract.

Vendors we have used include Cedars Veterinary Hospital, Jersey Shore Veterinary Service, VCA Fischer Animal Hospital and VCA Ocean County Hospital. Doreen will provide Joanne with contact information for other vets that will treat feral cats. People are who paying out of pocket can continue to use the vets of their preference. For those who need financial assistance from the Town, they have to use one with a Township contract. Doreen said the list provided by purchasing will not care for feral cats.

The Township can open a PO in a reasonable amount and the vendor can draw down on that, making it easy to use the vendor off-hours.

One member asked if we can contract with Jersey Shore Animal Shelter. They have a fully equipped clinic and should be approached about giving Brick TNR 1 or 2 days per week. John will contact them to see if they would be willing to provide time for Brick TNR.

Issues or complaints

Marcus has nothing to report.

A resident asked if she could be provided with traps. She would sit with the trap and make sure the cat received care and got collected and not left out in the cold. John said we generally hesitate in the winter but if the trapper intends to stay with the trap, she can coordinate borrowing a trap from A-Academy.

Fund raising

2022 is a wide-open page where we hope to generate revenue, John said. He asked all committee members to give thought to ways to raise money or direct funds to this important program.

However, from a budget perspective, we need to remember to have funds available to purchase traps. Marcus has a limited amount available.

JoAnne Lambusta previously 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.

She also suggested a sponsorship program for people who want to sponsor a colony. We could create marketing materials that show the cats in need. John also suggested contacting the stores about asking shoppers to designate their spare change to the TNR program. Also, we could

develop Giving Trees where people can pick items off the tree to be donated to cat colonies.
Wall Shop Rite has a donation box for animals.

One attendee asked about getting the Scouts involved. John encouraged people to get feelers out there.

One recommended a pet pantry for donations.

Next meeting

Wednesday, February 23 at 5:30 pm