

TNR Committee

May 18, 2022

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

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Roll call and Welcome

Eleven people in attendance including Committee members.

Colony Caregiver Discussion

There are 37 registered colonies to date and paperwork has been sent to a new colony caregiver. Marcus Perry reported that all is well with the colonies and had no issues to report. A packet was mailed today to another colony caregiver. The list will be updated after that paperwork is received and Doreen conducts a home visit.

Sponsor Update

No updates from Marcus; everything is going well.

Sponsorship Flyer

The flyer was approved at the last meeting and copies will be available at the Green Fair that is coming up this weekend.

Veterinarian Update

Eight cats have received services from the TNR program since we first worked out the details with East Coast Veterinary Clinic in April. The TNR veterinarian contract stated in March and in six weeks, 8 cats have been neutered.

East Coast is a spay and neuter specific facility. They provide specific services including rabies vaccine and ear chip with chips we provide. East Coast is one of the few walk-in clinics in Ocean County. Most places you have to make an appointment, which is almost impossible with TNR.

Issues or complaints

John said the hotline is receiving calls from outside of Brick, mostly from residents of other towns asking about how to start a TNR program in their community. People also need resources and are calling us for help.

John did receive a complaint about ground feeding at Waterside Gardens. That complaint is being investigated. There are trappers who focus on that area. Doreen reported that 43 cats have been trapped and spayed/neutered over the years.

Fund-Raising/ Upcoming events

The Green Fair is on May 21 and we will have a table for TNR. This is one way for us to share information, accept donations, and sell baked goods. The hours are 10 am to 2 pm and it will be held at Havens Farm on Herbertsville Road. We'll have sponsorship material and educational information. We'll accept donations/sponsorships.

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 22 at 5:30 pm.

Public comments

John reported that this week the Town received an OPRA request, an official public record request from PETA. They're very anti-TNR, according to some members of the public. The Township responded to the request in accordance with the law. We provided a copy of the Annual Report and pointed them to the TNR web site.

We will be starting a Frequently Asked Questions page on the web site as a resource for others. John encouraged suggestions from the Committee in regards to questions we should be posting.

A great first question for the FAQs is the role of TNR. The responsibilities of a colony caregiver are to feed, shelter and provide medical care. It's the caregiver's cat, TNR helps defray the cost of the spay and neuter, which is essential to the program's success. The Township, or TNR, doesn't adopt the cats, the colony caregivers do. TNR supports a specific component that's beneficial to the community

A member of the public provided her scenario: she has four feral cats at her house and leaves food outside for them. She is a registered colony. She has space for the cats that protects them from the elements. The neighbor across the street just put down fresh mulch and she's trying to prevent the cats from ruining their new mulch. Coffee grains might work to deter that. She approached the neighbor and they've talked about it but she should get permission before leaving things on their mulch such as coffee grinds. Her neighbor might call the Town to complain.

Residential areas pose a unique challenge – make sure the habitat isn't an attractive nuisance for somebody else.