

TNR Committee

December 14, 2022

Attendees: Members: Councilman Perry Albanese, Catherine Daley, Doreen Gesslein, Marcus Perry (A-Academy), Scott Smith (acting chair)

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Absent: John Talty, Jo Anne Lambusta

Roll Call and Welcome

20 people in attendance including Committee members.

Colony Caregiver Update & Discussion

Doreen reported since the last meeting we have 2 new caretakers signed on to the program on Manasquan Court and Walnut Drive. TNR Committee members and volunteers have trapped 12 cats since the November meeting. Additionally, up to 63 cats and 21 kittens went into a rescue since the TNR program started this year.

Scott Smith shared information on the *Group Me* app he set up for volunteers who want to trap. It's much less obtrusive than the constant rings from text messages and much more private than Facebook. Interested volunteers in attendance signed up with Scott's assistance.

The Township has acquired a trap for use during these initiatives. Joanne was asked to follow up with the Buildings & Grounds crew about a tag with an imprint that can be affixed to the trap identifying it as Brick Township property. If someone is interested in borrowing the trap, he or she needs to attend a TNR meeting and make a request. The Committee agreed that only registered colony caregivers can borrow the traps. Also, a two-week deadline will be imposed for anyone interested in borrowing a trap. Anyone borrowing a trap must agree not to leave it unattended and must articulate to the Committee their plan for trapping. Traps will not be leant out during the months of December, January and February.

Sponsor Update

Marcus reported that everything is fine with our sponsors.

Veterinarian Update – ear tips and TNR activities

East Coast Vet is still doing our spay neuter procedures along with ear tipping, microchips and vaccinations. The clinic will be closing through January 2nd for the holidays.

Issues or complaints

No complaints have been received since the last meeting. Scoot said that the Police and Code Enforcement work with colony caregivers if there are issues or complaints. People are in violation of the Township code if they are feeding cats without being an approved colony.

TNR Hotline calls/emails

The TNR hotline has received a number of calls. Inquiring about how to become a colony caregiver and what's entailed.

Update on TNR Rider account balance

The account balance in the TNR rider as of today is \$10,090.

Next meeting is February 1; public meeting at 5:30

Public comment

There is a lot of support for a system to help community members communicate with each other. The *Group Me* app is an ideal way to keep in touch and opt in and out based on each person's availability. Alerts can be disabled and people can log in only when they're free to assist. As the group's administrator, Scott initially sends out invitations to anyone who provides him with an email address. Once you accept the invitation, you open the app, click on the group and you are officially a participant. There are calendar features, individual messaging, etc. but the main purpose is group communication, Scott said. He is happy to turn the admin responsibilities to another volunteer who wants to lead the charge.