

TNR Committee

April 26, 2023

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

Absent: Councilman Perry Albanese

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Confirm Quorum and Welcome

Colony Caregiver Update & Discussion

We have two new colonies: one on Barra Street and one on Beverly Boulevard. A third one is pending on Downey Avenue. We have a total of 54 registered colonies with a total of 362 cats all registered. Seven cats since the last meeting have been TNR'd.

In 2022 we registered 63 cats; so far in 2023 we registered 19 cats, for a total of 82 cats since this program re-started. The Program is working. By trapping and getting cats spayed or neutered, ear tipped and vaccinated, we are keeping feral cats healthy and preventing widespread growth in the number of feral cats.

One member reported that 3 of her 4 feral cats have become indoor cats. The mother cat will not come indoors but the others are doing very well. All have been fixed.

There was a complaint about the colony on Green Grove Road. This is a registered colony. Neighbors are concerned because she has the house on the market and they worry that several cats will be left behind when the home sells. The cats roam and burrow. There are only 6 cats there, according to Doreen. Feral cats are wild animals who will find a new food source, she said.

2023 Renewal Mailing

Doreen wants a letter sent insisting that we get the names of each cat in each colony, and ask if the cats are male/female and if they are fixed. There are currently 54 registered colonies. Joanne will coordinate the mailing.

Sponsor Update

Marcus said there are no issues.

Veterinarian update – ear tips and TNR activities

Doreen reported that everything is good with East Coast. The vet's schedule is changing and the group will be updated with any scheduling changes.

Issues or complaints

John apologized for anyone who is still waiting for an email response. He forwarded some complaints to Marcus that he did not receive, but we have resolved the problem.

Barra Street Colony – several residents in the area have called the Township to complain about this colony which is not registered with the Township. They called at this same time last year. Marcus conducted a site visit and advised that the caregiver was filling out the required paperwork. A year has gone by and that has not happened and now the cats had kittens, which is the basis of the complaints. The Colony caregiver is going to trap and take them to East Coast. This will prevent any new kittens,

Beverly Boulevard – On April 4, the TNR email received a complaint about a cat being taken care of by a property owner on Beverly Boulevard. The cat is a feral, outdoor cat. The owner completed the paperwork to register as a colony. That has been provided to Doreen. The complainant does not find this acceptable. In a follow-up email, she was advised that, as a registered colony caregiver, the feral cat can remain without any violation of Township code. She was provided a copy of the safe repellents flyer. She continues to complaint to the Town, code enforcement and left a flyer in the neighborhood mailboxes about this meeting, encouraging others to come out and agree that caring for this feral cat is unacceptable.

New cat traps

John Lolla put the tags on the traps and Doreen is going to take them with her for the Barra Street resident.

TNR Hotline calls/emails

Chairman Talty reported that the Hotline received approximately 6 different calls - some from other states - from people asking how they can get their cats fixed. We start the call by asking if the caller is a Brick resident because not a lot of communities have a TNR program. John wants the web site updated to emphasize it's for Brick Township only. Doreen said she will help out-of-towners as she has resources from across the State.

Update on TNR Rider account balance

The account balance in the TNR rider as of today is \$7,101.21.

2023 Events

Green Fair May 20, 2023

Night Out Against Crime August 1, 2023

Scott suggested a table near the field where the demonstrations are held.

Joanne will send out an email for sign ups.

Next meeting date is Wednesday, May 31 public meeting at 5:30

New Business

Doreen reported that Brick TNR has been a very good example for other municipalities to follow. Doreen has been at the forefront advocating for municipalities to embrace the TNR program, particularly in towns where there are people committed to the cause as it keeps feral cats healthy, safe and cared for. Doreen updated everyone on the work she has been doing to support a new TNR program in Lavallette. In two months, we have TNR'd 17 cats in Lavallette, Doreen said. The Mayor there is very pleased.

Public

A question came up about food donations. She asked if people could chip in for a storage unit to keep donated pet food and supplies. Chairman Talty said we have \$7,000 in the TNR Rider - that's going to do about 70 more spay and neuters. The money goes fast, he said, because the cats are coming in pregnant. The mission of this program is to get as many cats spayed and neutered as possible. The only money we spent is on spay and neutering feral cats, the purchase of 4 traps and 2 drop traps, and microchips. The money we're spending is on the mission, he said. All of the Committees' services have been completely volunteer. John is the Chair but gave credit to the people around the table who give their time to this program. Board member Catherine Daley is down to 5 cats when at one point she had a colony of 29. Those are our volunteers. JoAnne Lambusta just loves animals, as does CM Albanese and Officer Smith. It's the kind of committee that makes this easy due to the hard work of everyone in the audience and those around the table. The commitment to take care of these animals is enormous: food and shelter. For right now, we have to work within the confines of our mission and our available funds. Chairman Talty applauded everyone in the room for getting involved and for being there daily.

We are not a charity; we're not a registered 501 c3.

The ordinance that governs TNR technically requires the caretakers to seek donations so you're absolutely allowed to do that on your own, he said. As a community, you can seek out those donations.

ABC is a non-profit so Doreen can solicit but has no storage space.

Everybody's hearts and minds are in the right place. Are people willing to donate? Talk to them and see, Chairman Talty said. We need the leg work done. This is a collection of the community of like-minded people.

Doreen offered to apply for grants or make financial requests on behalf of people who need things.

John took a poll on what people are spending. One member of the public said she spends more than \$500 per month for her 18 cats. You feed the cats based on what you can afford, she said. Can we put containers out in Town Hall for collections? The Township will likely agree it if someone can get us containers.

Scott updated everyone on Group Me

Officer Smith provided instructions on how to sign up and search for Brick TNR Community to help everyone communicate without needing Facebook or deal with endless text messages.

Meeting adjourned 6:25 pm