

TNR Committee

May 31, 2023

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

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Welcome Jessica Christiana

John welcomed Jessica Christiana, the new Animal Control Officer from A-Academy. Jessica is going to be the new designated person for Brick Township. Marcus was reassigned to another client; welcome Jessica. She is newer to animal control, she loves animals. Jessica was a probation officer for 9 years and took the animal control class for a change of pace. She has been mostly working down south. Jessica said she looks forward to working with everyone at Brick. Jessica was one of the animal control officers that responded to the hoarding case on Mantoloking Road. On that case, she did a lot of the cat catching personally responsible for catching 100 of the cats in that home. She is glad to be of service.

Colony Caregiver Update

Doreen reported that two more caretakers signed on, 56 total registered colonies. We have trapped 8 cats since the last meeting plus 4 kittens were removed from a feral colony that are going in to rescue. The kittens came from the problem on Barra Street and we jumped on it, according to Doreen. Since the May meeting, we have 8 new cats registered and a total of 89 trapped cats.

Sponsor Update

Chairman Talty explained this report comes for A-Academy. At this point we recognize the representative from A-Academy is new and we don't expect her to have a detailed report this evening. Jessica does not have an update but she looks forward to working with everyone.

Veterinarian Update

Doreen reported that there is nothing new; everything is going well with East Coast. They arrange coverage if the vet goes on vacation but they will likely close for the holidays (July 4th, etc.).

Issues or Complaints

Heritage Drive – Marcus was working on that. Jessica will investigate and update.

Chairman Talty reported that there have been 5 or 6 complaints to the TNR Hotline since the last meeting.

The TNR Committee bought 4 traps. Our new colony caregiver has 2 of them and we've caught 4 cats so far. One trap is on Barra Street – 4 cats and 4 kittens. There is a resident that that is not an approved colony, but she feeds and cares for the cats.

We had an inquiry from Jennifer on Laurel Brook. They have a female cat who just has kittens. Doreen offered to help her trap. It wasn't a complaint it was a request for help. Female just had kittens. Doreen advised not to interrupt a nursing mother and the trapping can happen at a more appropriate time.

Chairman Talty said the TNR Hotline is going to be generating more and more calls as we become more public and talked about more often in print and social media. Even other communities are calling us. We're a great resource for people trying to care for feral cats.

Rider Account Balance

Chairman Talty reported that there is \$6,546.73, which should get us another 65 cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated for rabies. We spayed/neutered 63 cats in 2022 and 26 this year so far. We've got funds for another year. Doreen said there are still outstanding invoices but she gets reimbursed in a timely manner so all is good.

TNR was at the Township's Green Fair on May 20 at Havens Farm. Committee members set up a table, displayed a trap, had an eye-catching banner, gave our information, etc. The weather was not cooperative. There was heavy rain throughout the day. We gave out a lot of information and good conversation with people who stopped by the table. The Committee will participate in another event 8/1 at Night Out Against Crime at Windward Beach.

Summerfest 50/50 raffle will be held again this year for TNR. The concert series starts the first week of July. We have to know if there is anyone interested in selling so we have the buckets and tickets ready. We raised \$4,000 for Brick TNR last year – it's a very successful fund-raiser. That totals about 40 cats getting spayed and neutered. The concerts are scheduled every Thursday night in July. One member of the public asked about advance sales, but we only sell them under the condition that the winner must be present. The tickets we use do not have areas where the name and number have to be included.

Next meeting date

July 12, 2023

Public comments

Member of the public (Fiona) has bins to collect donations. Two can be placed at Town Hall, one on the main level and one lower level. They can also arrange for bins to be left at grocery stores,

or other places where people can buy a donation while they're shopping. Brick Morning Rotary is assisting. Suggest bins at Summerfest too.

One public attendee asked for advice on socializing kittens.

Chairman Talty mentioned that not all colony caregivers provided up-to-date information on the colonies are required in the annual mailing. Not everyone gave the number of cats in their colonies, the sex of the cats in their colonies, and the status on their cats being spayed or neutered. A follow-up mailing will be going out to those who gave incomplete information.

The current TNR program does chip the feral cats trapped for colonies, but the TNR Committee did not always have the money for chips so not all cats are microchipped.

Meeting adjourned 6:08 pm