

## **TNR Committee**

**July 12, 2023**

Attendees: Members: John Talty, Councilman Perry Albanese, Catherine Daley, Doreen Gesslein, Jo Anne Lambusta

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Absent: Scott Smith, Jessica Christiana (A-Academy)

### Confirm quorum and welcome

### Colony Caregiver Update and discussion

Doreen provided an update. We got two new caretakers that signed on since the last meeting. There are three colonies that no longer exist. The program has 53 registered colonies, with 308 cats total. Doreen also reported that since May we trapped 7 cats, one was pregnant, and 4 kittens that went to rescue.

The TNR program has 4 cat traps we purchased to help trap cats. Colony caregivers with feral cats in need of spay or neuter and rabies vaccine are provided with a trap and given assistance trapping if needed. The colony caregiver is responsible to take the cat to the vet used by the TNR program.

### Status of 2023 follow-up mailing for additional information on colonies

A mailing went out to all colony caregivers asking them to specifically list the number of cats in their colonies, the sex of those cats, clarification if they are fixed and clarification if they are chipped. The responses have been coming in with more handed in tonight. The data will be compiled on the TNR colony list and shared at next month's meeting. Also, Doreen will directly contact any colony caregiver that did not reply.

### Sponsor update and appointment of Doreen Gesslein

Changes at A-Academy created an opportunity to revisit the TNR sponsor appointment. Chairman Talty has considered the sponsor appointment and advised that Doreen Gesslein is the most appropriate choice to be the sponsor. Through her vast network and commitment to the TNR program, Doreen is the clear choice for this important role as outlined in the ordinance establishing the TNR Committee. Fortunately, Doreen agreed to be the sponsor. She has the most qualifications and does most of the work for the Committee, said Chairman Talty. She will be taking on additional duties and responsibilities and is prepared for that. Chairman Talty explained that when Marcus from A-Academy got reassigned, TNR went without a sponsor. He reviewed the TNR ordinance, and realized that every sentence defining the duties of the sponsor

are things Doreen is already doing. It was an easy decision to ask Doreen, he said. Fortunately for us, she eventually agreed. She is highly qualified and has the most experience of anyone. The Committee applauded her dedication to the TNR program and expressed appreciation of her hard work, which really is making a difference in the feral cat colonies in town and accomplishing those goals.

#### Veterinarian Update

The vet from East Coast Spay Clinic was on vacation last week. He's back this week and everything is back to normal. There are no incidents to report – we have a very good relationship with the vet. During the week he was away, People for Animals in Robbinsville helped out; they also take walk-ins.

#### Annual Report

The TNR annual report was completed and submitted to the Township Council as required by ordinance. A copy of the report will be emailed to the Committee.

#### Issues or complaints

Silverton Road – this is not necessarily a cat complaint. The complaint was about ground feeding, which is not allowed. The complaint was referred to code enforcement

#### TNR Hotline calls/emails

One caller to the TNR number was interested in signing on as a Colony Caregiver. She completed the required paperwork and will be starting to trap soon. Another caller has one cat that she needs to trap.

There was also an inquiry from a resident on Laurel Brook.

The colony caregiver at 821 Lynnwood Avenue is retiring. He took the cats with him, and was able to trap them for relocation.

#### Update on TNR Rider Account Balance

Chairman Talty reported that there is \$5,050.76 balance in the TNR Rider. Perry Albanese volunteered to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at the first Summerfest and generated \$645 for the Committee.

Chairman Talty explained that the Committee is very focused on what our money is spent on. For example, the Committee has purchased cat traps, microchips, veterinarian costs to spay and neuter and the vaccinations. We only spend money on activities that are specific to our name: Trap, Neuter and Release. We're spending money on the things that matter: spaying and neutering. We use the money to achieve the organization's goals, he said. The cat traps were a great investment. We have 4 Brick TNR traps that get lent out for no more than one week.

Upcoming fund-raising events include three more Summerfest 50/50 raffle sales. Concerts will be held, weather permitting, the next three Thursdays.

Public:

Cheryl is familiar with an apartment complex with a variety of cats and the tenants cannot get permission to have a colony. She asked if we can we trap and get them to the vet as part of the program. Chairman Talty explained that is not allowed. TNR funds can only be spent on cats in a colony. Anyone can trap and they can get the cats spayed or neutered and vaccinated. He also explained that there is not much you can do without permission from the property owner.

Donation Bins

One member has been working with the Rotary Club to acquire donation bins that can be used to collect items for the Colony Caregivers. There is a process to getting donation space at Town hall. TNR has been given the space for the month of September.

Next meeting Date:

Wednesday, August 30 at 5:30 pm