

TNR Committee

April 3, 2024

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

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Roll Call and Welcome

Please turn all cell phones on silent

Colony Caregiver Update & Discussion

Doreen reported that two more people signed on as colony caregivers – we now have 71 registered colonies which brings us up to 405 registered, fixed cats.

Since the last meeting, volunteers have trapped 15 adults including 11 females – 8 of which were pregnant and 4 males.

The veterinarian costs for pregnant cats are more expensive based on the term of the pregnancy. Costs are \$30 and up for pregnant cats. Holmdel is cheaper but it's not a walk-in clinic which can be a hardship for trappers.

John reported that one of our trappers is finishing some things she started and then she'll be taking a break. She'll let us know if/when she will trap again after her break. John gave kudos to volunteer trapper Carol, who is coming to our meetings and doing a lot of trapping.

Doreen reported that East Coast Vet is closed this week for spring break, and that next week they are only open Monday and Tuesday.

In doing research John said there are people who wonder if the Trap-Neuter-Return program is effective reducing the cat population in feral communities. The simple answer is yes, he said. As the Brick TNR program grows and becomes more well-known for its diligence and mission, people who had unregistered colonies are now getting registered. This helps make sure all colony cats are spayed or neutered, receive their rabies vaccine and get ear tips. Because we're continuing to find people that have had colonies that aren't managed, now have a formal system to access to help get those cats fixed, he said. Waiting until after they're pregnant presents a bigger problem.

John was at People for Animals in Robbinsville last week and was impressed by how well-run it is. The facility is very nice, well-staffed, clean, and organized. It was his first time at this office with his dog and was impressed that the staff was so caring and courteous.

Zack from A-Academy said there has not been a lot of activity recently because of the rain. He was at a complaint earlier today on Midstreams Place.

Zack also mentioned a complaint he received (not about feral cats) on Las Olas Place. HLEO Scott Smith agreed to go to the property with Zack on Wednesday. The complaint alleges there are

roosters, chickens, ducks, EMUs and dogs. The complainant is concerned that there is not enough room for all of these animals

Issues or complaints –

Code complaint Midstreams Place – there are several shelters on the property. She was a colony caretaker some time ago. She has to re-up the paperwork. Doreen will talk to her to perhaps address the neighbor complaint.

TNR hotline calls/emails

Trapping in the Cypress area off Jackson – there are a few colonies in that area.

Sweeney Avenue off Maple – has now become a colony. It will have 12 cats total after all trapping is complete. John visited the site, it's conducive for a colony.

Seaside Heights inquiry about replicating our program - The Borough needs to be on board and we will be happy to assist. All of our hard work is evident on the TNR web site and we have developed a thorough road map for how to implement a program.

Rose Matthews – John spoke to the resident to talk to the Mayor in the town where she lives.

Sky Manor – Doreen is trying to connect with the caller.

Student request for community service credits

John received a call and a letter from a high school student in Neptune City who spent the summer with friends here in Brick. Last summer, she assisted helping with some feral cats by trapping them. She wants a letter confirming her community service.

John read her request letter.

John was amenable to providing the letter. She completed 30 hours.

The Board approved the letter.

TNR Rider Account

There is currently \$3,174.31 in the rider account. We'll accept donations from anyone so that we can do more work for the betterment of the entire community. The Township has not given is additional funds since they gave us seed money, although our volunteers help generate donations by selling 50/50s. We made a lot of money this past year, bringing in \$5,200! That covers care for approximately 52 cats!

Money is getting tight because we are so busy trapping and providing care for cats and getting them through the TNR program. John noted that this money is ONLY spent on TNR services. Nothing is spent on the volunteers, or anything outside of the TNR parameters. Every penny is accounted for with receipts. We're very efficient with our funds.

Doreen's non-profit has been doing other things for our cats that we don't pay for: flea and tick treatments before being released from the vet; de-worming, etc. Chairman Talty said she is a tremendous, tremendous asset.

2024 events

Green Fair: May 18th 10 am to 2 pm at Havens Farm at 515 Herbertsville Road, the Bob Anstett Cultural Arts Center. Chairman Talty and Catherine have worked the event before and found it very successful.

Sunday, 4/21 All Fur One Rescue is having a free vaccination clinic with \$20 for microchips. Pre-registration is required on the organization's web site.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30 pm

Public Comment

A member of the public asked about the status of volunteers and donations added to the B-TV slide. John reported that the Township's Public Information Officer likely did a second slide specific to volunteering and donations, but will confirm.

A member asked for an update on publishing a calendar for a list of what the donation is for the month at Town Hall. It was not being advertised anywhere, but we follow a generally consistent calendar: September is back to school supplies, November is a food drive for Thanksgiving; December Toys for tots, etc. However, the suggestion was appreciated and the Township will be posting a calendar. This month is spring cleaning supplies for the women and children at Dottie's House, residential units in Town for victims of domestic violence.

Another member thanks John for providing a letter for her to take to her senior to see if they will allow a bin there for donations to TNR. John drafted a letter for us when volunteers solicit these requests in senior communities. The member who received the letter was very grateful.