

TNR Committee

May 15, 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 (absent)

Roll Call and Welcome

Please turn all cell phones on silent

Colony Caregiver Update & Discussion

Doreen reported that we TNR'd 5 adults, 2 females (one was pregnant) and 3 males

Two more people signed up since the last meeting, with a total of 34 cats so far this year.

Trappers are using Brick TNR traps daily.

Sponsor update

Doreen reported there is nothing new.

Veterinarian Update

Doreen reported that all is well with East Coast Vet. Doreen reminded everyone they can go to Holmdel (Spray and Neuter Center of Holmdel) if they prefer. Brick TNR gets charged what East Coast charges (which is the approved pricing) and Doreen, through Animal Birth Control, pays the balance. This gives people more options where to go. The Holmdel clinic does not take walk-ins, they only take appointments. Doreen has to authorize use of the clinic in advance and make the arrangements because of the payment structure. Appointments are harder because you have to act when your trap.

TNR hotline calls

Chairman Talty reported that we got more calls this month from outside agencies than in previous months. Chairman Talty returns all calls and talks to them about their cats and our program. Our web site should be clearer that we only cover Brick, he said.

Our program's funds and volunteerism all goes to the TNR mission, so the program is very intentional and has proven results, Chairman Talty said. If this were to expand, it might be disjointed or inconsistent.

Feral cats can be a hotbed discussion. Chairman Talty is glad that Brick TNR is back and we're very blessed with all the help we've gotten to make this program successful.

TNR Rider Account

There is currently \$1,868.31 in the rider account. Chairman Talty said we will accept donations from anyone so that we can do more work for the betterment of the entire community. The Township has not given us 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 52 cats! Councilman Albanese is excited to help sell the raffle tickets again this year.

Money is getting tight because we are so busy trapping and providing care for cats and getting them through the TNR program. Chairman Talty 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: this Saturday, 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. TNR will show traps, hand out educational material and talk to people about the Brick TNR Program.

Public comment

One member asked if there was an update on Greenbriar Association agreeing to have a donation drive for Brick TNR.

Chairman Talty explained that we did a letter for people to take to their associations. The Greenbriar board is reviewing the request and will let us know. Hoping they will pick a month this summer to allow donation bins in their clubhouse.

A member from the public asked Ivy at St. Paul Lutheran if the Church will do a drive for the TNR program, specifically food and donations and the Church is considering that. TNR will get a free booth for the Blessing of the Animals in September. Last year the event was cancelled due to inclement weather.

A member of the public asked if a slide was made for BTV requesting volunteers and donations. Chairman Talty will check with the Township. Doreen said the problem with asking for donations is the lack of a place to store donations. We don't have a storage location.

A member of the public also asked if there is a BTV slide that promotes the monthly schedule for the bins at Town Hall. Township administration has developed a calendar and has posted it. Chairman Talty will get a copy.

Chairman Talty explained that TNR is an activity that gets done by a certain type of person who understands and supports feral cat programs. There is so much need out there for a variety of social and economic needs that sometimes people have to prioritize where they spend their money for non-profit causes.

Doreen advised that there are 73 current caregivers – none of them have asked for donations, but many would appreciate it. Catherine doesn't feel that any of them are in dire straights and cannot care for their colony without donations. The number of cats in any given colony should decrease over time and not increase, she said.

Doreen reminded everyone that the vet clinic in Red Bank will euthanize for free. There are organizations that work with feral cat caregivers. There is no other service they do for free. Keep that in the back of your mind and they're open 24/7, she said.

Fund-raising was also discussed.

Chairman Talty explained that the Town gave us \$10,000 to start the program. Chairman Talty was initially concerned it wasn't enough, but once we figured out our mission we used that and continued to replenish our account. This is the time of year when the funds are at their lowest. Our biggest fund-raising event is right around the corner. Each cat averages about \$100 for the TNR services. With having such limited resources, we have to be very clear on how we spend out funds. We don't spend money euthanizing and are so grateful for other organizations who do that for free. We take care of our mission and cover those costs. ABC will pay for flea meds, etc. to enhance the services we provide, Chairman Talty said.

We are guided by the Township ordinance that outlines the rules of our program. Yes, there are probably some feral cat colony caregivers that are not registered in our program, but people are trickling in because we've developed a good reputation and we appreciate their commitment.

Chairman Talty thanked everyone for their role with TNR whether you're trapping or donating, or caring for a colony, everyone contributes in his/her own way.