

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting September 17, 2015, 12-00pm, COA at VMCC

Attending were MacDonald, Brec, Murphy. Brooke, Jutsum. Excused Dwyer  
RuthAnne Cowing, ACO

Public: Peter Brown, Banner Reporter, Candace Nagle, Elizabeth Anne Brooke, Myra Gold

There were no public comments

1. The minutes of 7/18/15 were approved.
2. We voted to accept Mary Ellen Dwyer as the alternate for the AWC.
3. Candace requested that the committee support a MA ballot initiative that would curb farm animal confinement. The Committee voted 5-0-0 to support the initiative.
4. Elizabeth gave an overview of why so many Town foxes have mange. The coyotes have been overhunted, which has encouraged the fox population to grow. In addition, due to ingested chemicals used in herbicides and pesticides, their immune systems become weakened, and the mite that causes mange flourishes. This sequed into a discussion about how many phone calls our ACO receives about these ill foxes. Elizabeth has been fielding a lot of calls as well. This raised the question of perhaps creating a wildlife officer position. The ACO stated that essentially, the Environmental Police serve in that capacity, although their methods may not be in line with the Committee's Mission Statement. Also, the ACO stated that she would look into changing her voicemail to include Elizabeth's number for fox calls.
5. We discussed untethered dogs in cars, specifically on laps. Jeffrey volunteered to draft a PSA.
6. The Committee discussed drafting a comprehensive contact list of animal support organizations and resources on the Cape. Carol to work on that.
7. Next meeting 10/15/15.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Brec  
Clerk pro tempore