

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting March 17, 2016, 12-00pm, COA/VMCC, 2
Mayflower Street, Provincetown, MA

Attending were Brec, Jutsum, Brooke, Murphy. Excused, MacDonald, Dwyer
RuthAnne Cowing, ACO
Officer Daniel McGonagle, District Officer (MA Environmental Police)
Jason Zimmer, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, District Supervisor
Sergeant Kevin Clayton, MPA, (MA Environmental Police)

Public:

Jean Cassidy, Avis Johnson, Lynn Miller, Steve Wright, Ann Wood, Julie Knapp,
Sherry Dranch, Jan Fox, Leslie Parsons, Tara Conant, Linda Loren, Robin Evans, Tom
Donegan.

Public Forum:

The AWC had asked the Environmental Police to present a general overview at this meeting of what they do regarding Wildlife in Provincetown. It quickly diverged into a specific discussion about foxes, mange, feeding, and medical treatment. The medication of foxes in the wild falls under the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Wildlife. It is illegal for anyone that is not a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to medicate foxes. The major concern of the EP was the habituation of foxes to humans because of feeding. Public safety is a number one priority. They stated that the fox population is self-regulating, and mange is a Cape-wide problem, which will never be eradicated. They also stated that hunting has no impact on the coyote population, who are a natural predator of foxes.

It was discussed that perhaps there could be a finite permitting process allowing a few non-licensed people to treat the foxes with medication. Fisheries and Wildlife said they would present that to their group. It was also stated that Rehab facilities are the last resort for ill foxes. If they can be trapped, they are usually too ill to rehab, thus they are euthanized.

One resident told her story of medicating a fox and kits locally. The EP had been involved in that particular case, verbal warnings were given, no fines imposed.

Many other issues about foxes were discussed (fact and myth) that have previously been addressed and documented in prior minutes of this Committee.

1. The minutes of 2/18/16 were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Brec
Clerk pro tempore