

# Hampton Animal Control Advisory Committee

January 21, 2016 - 5:30 p.m. - Lawson Conference Room

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## Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Thornton, Andy Anderson, Debbie Sheffield, Betty Bates, Melanie Paul, Linda Seely, Henry McKelvin, Steve Bond; (Staff) Jeff Walden, Therese Price, Annette Oakley; (Guests) Jim Harris, Laverne Johnson (Interpreter)

### Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Thornton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

### Review Agenda & Approval of Minutes

Chairman Thornton reviewed today's agenda and asked if there were any questions or changes. Ms. Bates inquired about the public information piece discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Bond stated he thought Ms. McCormick was in touch with Ms. Bates and he will follow up with her. After some discussion, Chairman Thornton called for a motion to approve the agenda.

ACTION: Betty Bates made a motion and Melanie Paul seconded. A vote was taken and motion passes.

Chairman Thornton stated the October minutes were distributed for review and if there were no changes, called for a motion to approve.

ACTION: Andy Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Debbie Sheffield seconded. There being no further discussion, Vice Chairman called for the vote. Motion passes.

### City Manager's Report – Steve Bond

Mr. Bond stated Animal Control is working diligently and Animal Control is doing well. He stated there are two Animal Control Advisory Committee members whose terms are expiring January 31, 2016; Ms. Paul and Ms. Sheffield. However, they can serve until either they are reappointed or someone else is appointed. He stated City Council is looking at doing all Board and Commission appointments in March.

Ms. Paul expressed interest in having Health Department representation on this committee. Mr. Bond stated he reached out to the Director, but she was unable to attend this meeting. He hopes they can have someone at the next meeting. However, he added they would not be part of this committee, but can attend meetings.

Chairman Thornton asked Ms. Paul and Ms. Sheffield to think about if they would like to, again, serve on this committee. Mr. Bond added that if they did not want to serve another term, the typical process would be that this committee make a recommendation(s) to City Council to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Anderson inquired about fees for FOIA requests. Mr. Price stated we cannot charge for requests for what is considered public information.

### **Animal Control Report – Captain Walden**

Captain Walden reported on the following items:

- In regards to reports of coyotes spotted in the Fox Hill area, Animal Control is looking for trappers. The lowest price is around \$150.00 and the property owners would have to hire the trappers. There are tips on coyotes on the Animal Control website and names/numbers of trappers.
- Officer East has resigned; she went to the Police Academy. Animal Control will post for a new position soon.
- Angie Taylor had a baby boy! Acting Manager is Sarah Woosley until Ms. Taylor returns February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Anderson inquired about what Animal Control had to do with the number of dog licenses, as there was a decrease from 2014 to 2015. He asked if Animal Control gets word on the animals that have rabies tag, but no license. Captain Walden responded that the Treasurer's office gets information and they cross check and send Animal Control information if not licensed (if they have a rabies shot).

Ms. Seely commented that she is glad Animal Control has a trapper now. She requested the animal trapping report from 2012 to present. Captain Walden stated that monthly information is on the website and inquired if she is referring to the yearly report because they submit a yearly report to the State vet. Ms. Seely stated she is interested in information regarding cats. In regards to the yearly report, Mr. Bond noted, if Ms. Seely is trying to compare years, we did not have a trapper for a year.

### **Current Issues/Trends**

No Report.

### **Old Business**

- Running at Large:  
Per discussion at the November meeting, Ms. Price gave a briefing on Running at Large. She stated a #2 misdemeanor is difficult to prosecute, so she is looking for a change, but would like to table until Spring. She would like to make it a strict liability offense.
- 501c3 Issue:  
Chairman Thornton noted he asked Mr. Bond to contact Robin McCormick to contact Ms. Bates regarding communicating on Channel 47, etc.

### **New Business**

- Rabies Issues & Running at Large - Statute 3.2-65.22:  
Per discussion at the last meeting, Ms. Price gave a presentation on rabies and the leash law (copy on file). She also reminded the committee about The Dillon Rule. After her briefing, she asked if there were any comments or questions.

Ms. Bates stated the Health Department has a very good website; she feels the issue is not a Hampton issue, but she is concerned with animals with rabies coming into the area from other localities/states. Mr. Price stated mainly wildlife and there is no real control over this; there is not real evidence regarding animals with rabies. Ms. Bates suggested asking Hampton Health Department how to break the increasing trend cycle and bring the numbers back down. Chairman asked if anyone had questions. There being none, Ms. Price said to feel free to send her an email with questions if you think of them.

Ms. Paul inquired why the Health Department does not have someone to come out and test a dead animal for rabies. Ms. Price stated if on private property, they are responsible to contact Hampton Health Department to come on their property. Captain Walden stated there is a cost involved, so if no reason to suspect rabies, the Health Department will not test. Ms. Seely inquired what Animal Control does in this situation. Captain Walden stated if private property they will not go on the property.

Mr. Bond stated he will ask a rep from the Health Department to address trends and rabies increase.

- Legislative Issues:  
Ms. Bates stated there are five bills before legislators and provided copies of related information from Legiscan (copy on file). She reviewed the documents on each bill and how one can monitor them; she specifically referred to the PETA shelter and it being listed as a humane shelter, as well as putting accountability in agencies authorizing euthanasia. Chairman Thornton thanked Ms. Bates for providing the information.
- Animal Control Report:  
Ms. Seely inquired about the Animal Control report. She then clarified she only wants the report on cats trapped by employees.

### **Public Comment**

- Jim Harris – Expressed concerns regarding his neighborhood where there are multiple dogs barking and smells of animals several years ago. He talked to the City Manager it took care of the problem, but the issues are coming up again. He did not know the Animal Control Advisory Committee existed and commended them and staff for their work. Ms. Sheffield asked Mr. Harris if he addressed the issues with the home owner and/or called Animal Control. Captain Walden suggested Mr. Harris get with him after the meeting and he can get more detailed information and address the issues. Chairman Thornton thanked Mr. Harris for attending and let him know Captain Walden will be glad to help.

### **Next Meeting**

Ms. Paul noted that at the last meeting the 'homework' for the committee was be to come prepared to discuss concrete ideas regarding the leash law and that she was prepared to do so. Chairman Thornton inquired if there were any comments or ideas the committee members wanted to share. Chairman Thornton concluded the meeting with homework assignments for the following items:

- Steve Bond: Provide an updated leash law matrix of the surrounding localities.

- Therese Price: Research if we can make a recommendation regarding the leash law to City Council that does not conflict with The Dillon Rule. As well as voice control language -- does it constitute immediate control?
- Committee: Be prepared to provide concrete ideas regarding the leash law at the next meeting.

After some discussion, it was decided that the next meeting would be held March 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Thornton emphasized that he did not want to continue discussing the leash law at every meeting; he would like to move forward or not. Mr. Bond inquired if the majority of the committee wants a change to the leash law and suggested we take a poll. Chairman Thornton agreed and asked members for feedback to be sure the committee was onboard. He asked members to go around the table and voice a 'yes' or 'no' for further discussions on this matter; the result was as follows:

Bates – Yes

Paul – Yes

Seely – Yes

McKelvin – Yes, if possible under Animal Control Advisory Committee

Anderson – Yes, open to exploring

Sheffield – No

Ms. Price stated she would prefer to wait until we have an updated matrix and have all the information before she gives her legal opinion.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Thornton called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Anderson made the motion and Ms. Sheffield seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

/mao