

Hampton Animal Control Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2016

Present: Jim Thornton, Andy Anderson, Betty Bates, Melanie Paul, Henry McKelvin, Steve Bond, Angie Taylor; (Staff) Annette Oakley; (Guests) Laverne Johnson (Interpreter), Gary Hagy (Hampton Health Department)

Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Thornton called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Review Agenda & Approval of Minutes

Chairman Thornton reviewed the meeting agenda and noted that Gary Hagy from the Hampton Health Department is in attendance and will do a brief presentation on rabies, which will be under Current Issues/Trends on the agenda. He asked if there was any new business to come before the board. There being none, Chairman Thornton then asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

ACTION: Betty Bates made a motion and Andy Anderson seconded. A vote was taken and motion passes.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Bond reported the City of Hampton has posted the Animal Control director position and the Chief is reviewing applications, as it still falls under the Police Division. Ms. Paul inquired how long the process will take to get a replacement. Mr. Bond responded it depends on the review; he is not sure how long it takes.

Current Issues/Trends – Gary Hagy, the Environmental Health Manager for the Hampton Health Department, gave a brief presentation on Rabies: Overview of Epidemiology, Exposure Responses and Law. The following topics were covered:

- Rabies History
- Rabies Outline: Virus, Disease & Diagnosis, Signs & Symptoms, Risks, Animal Epidemiology, Control, Exposure, Laws, Vaccine Exemptions, Basic Message to Public, Resources
- Questions/Answers

Mr. Bond inquired if rabies can be transmitted by blood. Mr. Hagy responded he does not think so, as it's usually from the saliva; he will check on it, but it's unlikely. Ms. Paul inquired what if someone is walking and sees bats flying around, and something (liquid) drops on their skin. Mr. Hagy stated not if the skin is intact; with no open wounds or sores. Ms. Paul shared a situation where she was in her yard and was scratched by a cat. She stated she went to the military hospital and the doctor on duty forced her to get rabies shots; she had six. Mr. Hagy felt this was unusual. Ms. Paul then inquired if, for example, a rabid raccoon drinks water from a resident's garden pond, could its saliva

infect the fish or another animal. Mr. Hagy stated probably not, but he will check on this inquiry. Ms. Paul also inquired about bird feeders, using the same concept. Mr. Hagy responded probably not. Ms. Bates inquired if it's a physician's responsibility to report a bite. Mr. Hagy responded yes. Mr. Bond inquired if someone has an unusual pet and they are afraid it has been exposed, is there forced euthanasia to test it? Mr. Hagy stated they do have mechanisms in place, which would of course have to be done properly and legally.

Chairman Thornton thanked Mr. Hagy for his presentation.

Animal Control Report

Angie Taylor reported on the following items:

- Animal Control is in the process of filing two vacant positions.
- Animal Control Officers are getting Rabies Titers next week.
- Hampton Police Division has their own academy and Animal Control teaches a 4-hour block on animal complaints, what to do with dangerous dogs, rabies, etc.

Old Business

- Leash Law - Chairman Thornton gave background from the notes and previous discussion regarding the leash law issue. Mr. Price had provided information on the leash law of other localities for the committee to review and members were to come back with a recommendation. He asked for feedback from the committee and staff. After some discussion, Chairman Thornton stated at the next meeting he wants to either take action or not, and if so, what language would be used to make a recommendation to City Council. He suggested two things for the next meeting: receive additional information provided by Ms. Price (question from Mr. Anderson) and have the committee understand codes and information provided by Ms. Taylor. He stated if the committee would like to do something, he asked members to suggest specific language to be included in the statute. He asked Ms. Taylor to send the link regarding the applicable statute to members and they review it to understand the current statute. He has also asked Ms. Taylor to share how the Animal Control office is applying the statute. Chairman Thornton stated if members want to make any changes, to please come prepared to the next meeting by bringing the language they recommend to change, delete, etc. Once any recommendations are reviewed and discussed, he will call for a motion to move forward or not. Mr. Bond suggested if members have recommended changes, to please provide to the committee, if possible, a week prior to the next meeting. Chairman Thornton agreed and stated if there are no recommendations, he does not plan to continue discussing this matter anymore, as we need to move forward.

Ms. Paul stated she and Ms. Bates already brought recommended language to the meeting per prior discussions, but nothing happened. Ms. Bates stated she hopes we don't base decisions on statistics, but rather take a forward-looking approach; where would we like the

City to be in regards to quality of life. Chairman Thornton agrees, but stated City Council will want specific reasons for making any changes; something concrete.

Chairman Thornton requested Ms. Price be present at the next meeting to help the committee understand the laws and to speak to the statute. Mr. Bond stated he will have an Attorney available at the next meeting.

Public Comment

No member of the public was present.

New Business

- Feeding Feral Cats - Ms. Paul inquired why it's illegal for citizens to feed stray cats. Ms. Taylor stated it is a nuisance issue and it causes more cats to come into the area. She stated people are required to get a City license for animals or register for a feral cat colony. Mr. Bond also stated, in regards to the rabies presentation by Mr. Hagy, feeding stray cats can also feed other wildlife, including raccoons, so it's not a good idea. Ms. Taylor suggested, instead of feeding feral cats, get a trap free of charge from Animal Control and they will pick it up. The biggest concern from Animal Control is reproduction and spread of disease.
- SPCA Concern - Ms. Bates inquired what is happening in regards to liaising with the SPCAs in the area and getting them to refer people who bring pets in and forwarding to the Regional Center. Chairman Thornton stated, in regards to the Peninsula Shelter, there is owner-surrender, as the SPCA takes ownership and refers back to the animal shelter, who will take in and adopt animals. The SPCA has limited crate space, and they will pick up animals from the Shelter. Ms. Bates gave an example of someone going to the SPCA and being told the SPCA could not take the animal, but did not mention or refer them to the Animal Shelter. Chairman Thornton stated that should be the exception and assured her that will be corrected.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Thornton called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Anderson made the motion and Ms. Paul seconded. Motion passes. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

/mao