



Protectors of Animals, Inc.
Board Meeting – March 27, 2012

Board Members in attendance: JoAnn Azzara, Stacey Doan, Denise Harned, Jody Macrina, Martha Murray, Ron Plante, Jordan Price, Greg Simpson and Linda Williams
Guest: Cathy DeMarco

1. President's Call to Order: Jody Macrina called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
2. Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Board meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the Board with changes.
3. President's Report:
 - Ms. Macrina distributed financial statements through February 2012 and advised that POA is doing very well reporting an increase of \$71,883 from February 2011.
 - Ms. Macrina reported that the profit from the Laughs & Leprechauns fundraising event on 3/3/12 is approximately \$18,779, with more checks expected from program advertisers.
 - Ms. Macrina advised that approval by POA's Board of Directors is required to give her the ability to sign HOPE Spay/Neuter Clinic's bank checks. JoAnn Azzara made a motion for approval; Denise Harned seconded, and the motion for Ms. Macrina to approve HOPE Spay/Neuter Clinic's bank checks was unanimously approved by the Board.
 - Ms. Macrina advised that she purchased a banner ad for POA on the WFSB web site for six months. POA has administration capability to make changes or add information.
 - Ms. Macrina distributed a list of sources for financial aid for pet owners.

 - Cathy DeMarco, HOPE Spay/Neuter Clinic reported that she and Ms. Macrina have been in contact with Waterbury Mayor Neil O'Leary's Office regarding funding for HOPE. A letter to the mayor is being reworked and will be mailed upon completion.
 - Ms. DeMarco advised that the Waterbury Police Department approached the Clinic to help Animal Control provide SNAP Tests for the pound. Their assertion is that the tests cannot be purchased without a prescription from a veterinarian. However, Ms. Azzara did a search on line and discovered that SNAP Tests can be ordered without a prescription.

During the previous administration, an agreement was struck between the two organizations whereby HOPE would purchase SNAP Tests and

Animal Control would pay for the tests at a much lower cost as opposed to taking the dogs for testing by a vet. HOPE was approved for funding by the old administration that would have offset the cost of the SNAP Tests; however, the funding did not materialize when the new administration took over. Ms. DeMarco has made Mayor O'Leary's office aware of the situation, but prior to setting up a meeting with the mayor, the reworked funding letter will be mailed.

- Ms. DeMarco reported that while on vacation, Dr. Lori broke her arm. Dr. Grace is covering for her on Thursday's until Dr. Lori heals.
- Ms. DeMarco advised that a "head hunting" firm was contacted to find a full-time veterinarian for a fee of \$5,000, and payment can be made in increments of \$2,500. Dr. Patrice would be HOPE's first choice for a full-time vet.
- Ms. DeMarco reported that HOPE needs an animal transport van. Ms. Macrina advised that her husband Richard is looking into finding an affordable van. Once HOPE obtains a full-time veterinarian and animal transport van, Ms. DeMarco believes the Clinic will be in very good shape.
- Greg Simpson advised he attended the CT Votes for Animals event at the Legislative Office Building.
- Mr. Simpson reported that Linda Denton will be giving a presentation to the Board on 4/17/12 regarding setting up a POA Humane Education Program.
- Mr. Simpson distributed the Annual Volunteer Report for the time period 3/15/11-3/14/12. Mr. Simpson advised that as of March 2012, there were 253 active volunteers, which is a 3 percent increase from March 2011. In all categories, volunteer participation has increased from last year.
- Denise Harned suggested that POA be on the eBay list of charitable giving. eBay operates through a program called MissionFish. MissionFish keeps 5 percent, and the rest of the donation is direct deposited into POA's account. POA would also get a full-page advertisement. With approval from the Board, Ms. Harned would set the program up. Approval was granted, and Ms. Harned will proceed.
- Ms. Harned advised that POA is getting many more hits on the web site as well as on FaceBook.
- Ms. Harned would like to set up a volunteer sub-site on the POA web site for scheduling, notices, etc. She will research the possibility of doing that.
- Ms. Harned advised that the Pet CPR/First Aid class offered to POA volunteers on 3/24/12 at the Wethersfield Police Department was a great success. Walt, the instructor, offered to repeat the class for volunteers as many times as needed.

- Linda Williams reported that a new, high-capacity washer/dryer was purchased for the cat shelter. Thanks to Sushama's friend who works for Whirlpool, the price for both appliances was \$1,151, including installation. Prior to the appliances being delivered on 4/17/12, the roof will be vented and a plumber and electrician will need do work at the shelter. Ms. Williams thanked volunteer Richard Robbins for donating \$1,000 towards the purchase of the appliances.
- Ms. Williams advised that the floor at the shelter needs to be professionally cleaned. Ms. Williams also contacted Peter regarding what cleaning chemicals can be used on the floor in the meantime. Ms. Macrina will ask her husband, Richard, who he would recommend to professionally clean the floor.
- Ms. Williams reported that she and Paul Zimmerman will inspect the stainless steel cages at the former Vet Specialist's office in Wethersfield for inclusion at the shelter.
- Ms. Williams requested approval for two fundraisers:
 - CT Sun Game Package – The Board decided against participation.
 - CT Vegetarian & Healthy Living Festival – April 28-29; \$100 for a 10'x10' space at the CT Convention Center; hours-10:00-5:00 on Saturday, 4/28 and 10:00-4:00 on Sunday, 4/29. The Board approved participation.
- Ms. Williams reported that Sara Taylor and Deb Nichols are interested in sitting on the Board. Stacey Doan will contact them.
- Jordan Price advised that he is summarizing information from the SWAT exercise and is working on POA's five-year plan and will start the 2013 budget.
- JoAnn Azzara would like to change the code on the shelter's front door, and that will be done on 4/1/12. An updated e-mail list of volunteers requiring the new code will be needed.
- Martha Murray reported that weekend adoptions are going well, and that kittens are already starting to come in.
- Ron Plante advised that East Hampton is doing well under Laura Goldner's direction.
- Dog event season is approaching with events set up at PetSmart, John Gagnon's, Petco and Help Willy's Friends in Durham, as well as various other events.
- Stacey Doan reported that she continues to work on grants. A \$2,000 TNR grant was recently received from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation, and Ms. Doan applied for a \$15,000 TNR Program grant through the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation.

- Ms. Doan suggested that capital improvement details, such as cat shelter expansion, need to be written up and ready to go for grants offering that type of funding.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Ms. Macrina at 9:25 p.m. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 4/17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Stacey Doan, Secretary