

**ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY, INC.  
8 DODD ROAD  
NEW MILFORD, CT 06776**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

Attendees: S. Armstrong; J. Basto; J. Bloch; M. Bloch; G. Briggs; T. Brindle; A. Cummings; R. Gardner; B. Gruber; T. Llewellyn; K. Lord; K. Marrotte; A. McKay; D. Moore; C. Newby; J. Olejniczak; D. Saraceni; M. Scott; E. Simo; J. Stanley

The meeting began at 8:02 pm. Janet thanked everyone for their flexibility and we apologize for the mix-up in the meeting location. We started our Annual Meeting with a brief introduction of Board members.

- Tracy Brindle is our newest member. She is our Director of Fundraising and comes to us with many fresh ideas.
- Renee Gardner, Shelter Manager mentioned that she is pleased to be working with a complete Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.
- Michelle Scott, Treasurer, has also welcomed the new Board of Trustees. Michelle also welcomed Janet Bloch as our new President. Michelle has been on the Board since 2010.
- Diane Saraceni, Vice President, has been on the Board for 1-1/2 years. She enjoys working together.
- Jill Olejniczak, Director, Public Relations and Marketing, volunteered at the shelter 20 years ago with Renee. She is happy to be on Board.
- Karen Marrotte, Secretary, has been on the Board since January, 2012, taking over the Whitney Hopchick.
- Also with us tonight is Cynthia Newby and Art Cummings. Both of them are on the Board of Trustees and they will be able to answer any questions you may have about our finances.

Secretary's Report – Karen Marrotte

- The minutes of the October 8 meeting was accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Michelle Scott

- Michelle handed out a Summary Report. October was a great month for us. Our investments were up by \$20K and we now have \$1.327. Michelle states that we have 70% of our monies in equities and 30% in bonds.
- Michelle mentioned that we are in very good shape thanks to the Maddie's Fund

check that we have just received. The check was for \$60,500.

- No one had any questions and a motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- A copy of the 2014 budget was available and is also on our website. The budget was prepared by Michelle, Janet, Renee and the Board of Trustees. There were no questions.

#### President's Report – Janet Bloch

- Janet thanked everyone for coming to our Annual Meeting.
  - She also thanked the staff for their interest and support.
  - Janet thanked Tracy Miltner for her support and brainstorming sessions.
  - Thank you to the Board of Trustees for their support
  - Thanks to the volunteers for all that they do
  - And special thanks to her husband, Mike, for his support and encouragement.
- The President's Annual Letter is in the mail and everyone should be receiving it shortly. We have mailed 3,950 letters.
- We are making contact with the Maddie's Fund group for 2014 event. We were able to place 55 dogs and cats at this year's event.
- At the end of the meeting, we voted on the 2014 budget. The vote passed by 20-0.
- Also we had elections for Vice President, Treasurer and Director, Public Relations and Marketing. All the candidates ran unopposed. Diane Saraceni, Michelle Scott and Jill Olejniczak will hold their positions until December, 2015.

#### Vice President's Report – Diane Saraceni

- We have three outstanding grants that we have not heard from. There will not be a membership meeting in December. Hopefully we will have some good news to tell you in January
- Please come to the "Holiday in the Depot" on December 13, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall. AWS will have a table with lots of kids stuff.
- For 2014, Diane is looking for grants for:
  - A conference in Vermont during April
  - Our Trap and Release program
  - New shelter printers with multi use functions
  - Security cameras

#### Shelter Report – Renee Gardner

- The shelter report for October 31, 2013 is:

	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Dogs</u>
In-house	59	*16

Foster	4	3
Taken In	11	10
Adopted	23	8

\*Does not include four Jack Russell puppies and two Miniature Pinschers puppies.

- As of October 31, we have placed 188 cats and 114 dogs during 2013.
- The new front window construction is complete. We are in the process of painting the store shelves before putting the store back together. The new sign, for above the window, has been ordered. We will be updated our website with pictures showing the window and the new sign.

Director, Public Relations and Marketing – Jill Olejniczak

- The “Holiday in the Depot” event has been posted on Facebook.
- We are looking into adding a donation button on the front page of Facebook.
- Our Holiday Bazaar will be at the Railroad Station on December 7, from 10:00 – 3:00 pm
- Calendars are still available for sale

Director, Fundraising – Tracy Brindle

- Tracy’s goal is to bring public awareness to AWS. She will also be looking at corporate sponsors.
- Our membership fees will be increased in 2014 and we are also looking to increase the number of members.
- Tracy wants to get our name out there and tell people who we are. We service towns that don’t know about us.

Fundraising Coordinator – Robin Carey

- Robin is also our Education Coordinator.
- She will be coordinating the Holiday Bazaar and has been working in the barn with Dawn Moore, getting ready for the event.
- Robin and Karen attended the “get to know you” event at Litchfield Pet Supply.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be January 13, 2014 at the shelter.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Marrotte

