

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2014**

Attendees: S. Armstrong; J. Basto; J. Bloch; R. Carey; R. Gardner; K. Lord;
K. Marrotte; J. Olejniczak; D. Saraceni; E. Simo; J. Stanley; A. Stauble

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

Secretary's Report - Karen Marrotte

- A motion was passed to accept the minutes from the February 10, 2014 meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Michelle Scott

- We have very good news. Our investment account is up and doing very well and our expenses are down. We did not have to take from our investments to cover the monthly bills. A motion was passed to accept Michelle's treasurer's report.

President's Report - Janet Bloch

- We have several fundraisers for this year.
 - Maddie's Fund - May 31 - June 1, 2014. Renee and Janet will be attending the initial meeting in New York on April 8, 2014. Renee and Diane will be taking care of the paper work. Jill will be taking care of all the Public Relations and Marketing items.
 - CT Community Foundation - Give Local - May 6-7, 2014 (Tuesday/Wednesday from noon to noon) This is a huge event and will run for 24 hours. We need to have an activity during the entire time. We will need volunteers to cover the whole event. Donations will only be accepted via Paypal.
- James, our Web Designer, has lots of new ideas for updating our website. We will let you know when the new and improved site will be available.
- Janet thanked Kelsey Lord; Joanne Stanley; Jocelyn Basto and Renee Gardner for all the hard work they put into the kennel this winter. We had snow drip off of the roof and iced up in the kennels. Every day the staff had to move dogs around and chop the ice. A round of applause followed. Good job ladies!

Vice President's Report - Diane Saraceni

- The 3-day conference in Vermont on April 12-14, will cover all the expenses for one person. This is a great opportunity to meet and share information with other local shelters.
- The application for a \$2,000 grant to cover some of our Trap, Neuter and Release expenses has not been decided upon. Hopefully we will hear shortly before kitten season.
- The application has been filed with the Town to add an AWS sign to the road sign on the corner of Dodd Road and Rt. 7. After our application is reviewed, we will need to attend a Town meeting for a presentation.
- The Chili Cook Off contest is canceled. It is a huge liability for the shelter and a representative from the Health Department needs to be present for the entire event to make sure the food is at the right temperature and is served properly.
- We will be working on the AWS cookbook after the Maddie's Fund event and Give Local. Anyone interested in submitting a recipe, should see Diane.
- We are still trying to reach Jerry at Green Bubbles Car Wash in Brookfield. Robin said she would stop by to see him. Green Bubbles will give a portion of one-day proceeds to a non-profit organization. Being they are in Brookfield, we are hoping it will be us.

Shelter Manager's Report - Renee Gardner

- The shelter report as of February 28, 2014

	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Dogs</u>
In-House	57	12
Taken In	10	8
Adopted	21	11
Foster	5	2
One Bird		
One Rabbit		

- The new round AWS sign has been installed over the new window at the front of the building..
- We will have new flood lights installed as soon as the weather breaks.
- Kelsey Lord has fixed the washing machine at no cost.
- The ice build up in the kennel area has a temporary fix and we will have to access the damage when the weather breaks.
- On a sad note, Andrea Roberts has passed away. She adopted two dogs over the past few years and they were everything to her. Andrea was a third grade teacher

and with her husband made many donations to the shelter. Although they lived in New York, they called CT their home.

Director, Public Relations and Marketing - Jill Olejniczak

- A huge Oak tree in Gaylordsville, where George Washington held a meeting, was dying and needed to be removed. While cutting the tree workers found a mother cat and kittens living in the hollow trunk. The cats came to AWS and were adopted. Dan Hicks wrote a storybook named the "Washington Oak Kittens". Dan will have a book signing at the Book Nook on Bank Street.
- The promotion material has been ordered for Maddie's Fund.
- We have an ad on Facebook looking for foster homes for kittens. Anyone interested in helping with fostering or our Trap, Neuter and Release Program should contact Renee. Sue Armstrong will be taking kittens, but there will be many more.

Education Coordinator - Robin Carey

- Robin and Janet went to St. Joseph School in Brookfield with Nashville (dog) and Mooky (cat). The school gave us a donation.
- The Sears store on Rt. 7 will be holding a Friends and Family Day on March 23-24 from 9:00 am - 7:00 pm (Sunday and Monday). We are looking for volunteers that can help us.

New Business

- I-95 radio is now sponsoring a "Pet of the Week" spot. Tune in at 7:30 am on Thursday mornings and listen to Renee talk about one of our charges. Anyone interested in being on the radio, should contact Renee.
- Our next membership meeting will be held on Monday, April 21 due to the conference in Vermont.
- Tracy Brindle our Director of Fundraising has resigned to be closer to family out of state. Diane and Jill will put something on the website to find a new fundraising person. We wish Tracy the best of luck and she left us with many ideas for events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Marrotte