

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

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NEW MILFORD RAILROAD STATION
NOVEMBER 10, 2014**

Attendees: Deb Armstrong; Sue Ellen Armstrong; Janet Bloch; Mike Bloch; Robin Carey; Art Cummings; Amy Gantert; Renee Gardner; Karen Marrotte; Audrey McKay; Dawn Moore; Tom Mulvihill; Diane Saraceni; Ernie Simo; Pam Southworth

The meeting began at 7:33 pm

Secretary's Report - Karen Marrotte

- The minutes from the October 13, 2014 meeting was accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report - Michelle Scott (absent)

- Michelle sent the Profit & Loss Statement as well as the Balance Sheet for the month of October, 2014. Also she sent a copy of the 2015 budget that was prepared by the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. This budget will be voted on later in the meeting.
- Ernie Simo raised a question regarding the Depreciation. Janet will contact Michelle and get an answer for Ernie.
- A motion was passed to accept the financial reports with the exception of the Depreciation question.

President's Report - Janet Bloch

- Janet stated that our Adoptions have increased during the past year. We have placed 203 cats and 155 dogs into loving, forever homes. This is a new record for AWS.
- We have noticed that our presence in Brookfield has gone up. Also the number of volunteers from that town has gone from 22 in 2013, to 36 in 2014.
- Janet mentioned that she is very pleased with the progress that we have made in the short time that she has been President. We have a dedicated Board of Directors and Board of Trustees. Everyone has been "hands on" and we are strong once again. We have been working closely with Union Savings Bank Wealth Management and our fundraising efforts has gone up.

- We have seen an increase in heartworm in dogs in the last year, which means that our medical funds are depleting. One dog with heartworm means at least three months in the shelter and frequent trips to Candlewood Animal Hospital for treatment.
- Our number of volunteers and donations have both risen in the past year. There has been not only a monetary increase, but also a number of people in attendance. Our biggest events for 2014 were: the Valentine’s Day Cat Open House; Give Local; the Breakfast at Candlewood Valley Country Club; Dog Days; and finally the Holiday Bazaar.

Vice President’s Report - Diane Saraceni

- Our presence at the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce was well received. The event took place at the Candlewood Inn. We made \$56 in donations. There was over 100 people in spite of the rain. We played the tape of Tiger’s Tale for the entire event. Thank everyone for their help with this event.
- On December 12, we will participate in Holiday in the Depot in Washington from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.
- On December 8, we will have our first meeting regarding the 50th Anniversary of AWS.

Shelter Manager’s Report - Renee Gardner

- We had no maintenance issues this month
- Animal Report - October

	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Dogs</u>
In-House	63	24
Foster Care	5	2
Taken In	22	12
Adopted	31	21

- Six new puppies were born in the shelter last week. Momma “Pepper” and babies are doing fine.

Director, Public Relations & Marketing - Amy Gantert

- Petco will be holding an event. We will have a table of literature and applications. No animals will be going.
- A link to order an AWS calendar will be added to the Mayor’s Alliance webpage. They are located in New York City. Other organizations are also listed there. The listing will be in alphabetical order so we are hoping to be sold out soon.

Thanks to Deb Armstrong who has been selling calendars at the New Milford Farmer's Market each Saturday.

- Voices has placed our ad in the weekend edition right in the center of the page. The page shows upcoming events and festivals for other agencies. Our local radio station 98Q would like us to do a "Pet of the Week" spot similar to the one that we do on 105.5.
- Amy Gantert, Art Cummings and Karen Marrotte will be attending a fundraising seminar on October 19 in Waterbury.
- The AWS displays at local banks have been very successful.
- Amy has been reviewing our website to keep it as user friendly as possible. If anyone has any suggestions, please pass them along to Amy.

Education Coordinator - Robin Carey

- Robin and Barbara Levitt have sent letters to Rumsey Hall and Montessori schools in Washington regarding the Red Rover program. She has made 16 contacts with parent/teacher organizations.
- The Holiday Bazaar will be held at the New Milford Railroad Station from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. There will be a chinese auction and something for everyone.

Unfinished Business - No

New Business - Voting

- The following positions are open for nominations
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Director, Public Relations & Marketing
 - Director, Fundraising
- The voting took place by ballot. The President, Secretary and Director, Public Relations & Marketing position were all confirmed unanimously (14-0) keeping with the current Board member. The position of Director, Fundraising remains open. The 2015 budget was approved (14-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Marrotte