

TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly
DATE OF MEETING: February 21, 2022
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

Member Attendees: Rita Bernier, Sue Bernier, Ashley Bulger, Debbie Cordo, Jeff Idels, Karen Feeney, MarilynRose Guarino, Therese Koellner Brian Ligammare, Cheryl McPhillips, Carol Miller, Maureen Starr, Sam Starr, Regina Stoker, Amy Usowski

Guest: Brian and Mary Hastings

Welcome

- Jeff welcomed all in attendance. Introductions took place as we had many new faces, including new members and potential new members.

Secretary's Report – Maureen Starr

- The January 18, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report - Sue Bernier

- Sue shared that donations were very strong and encouraged members to reach out to friends and family for donations if they felt inclined to do so.
- As the club's administrative costs have been covered with our dues and donations, it was agreed that we would not be doing fundraising for our club at public events. We will focus our fundraising on local charities, and if there is a time in the future when we need funds, we will do another donation drive similar to the one we did when we announced the new club.
- With some of the donated funds, we would like to create a large banner with photos of our teams in action, which will help illustrate what we do, and help draw attention when we are at local events.
- We have been nominated by the East Falmouth Elementary School to be a Community Impact Grant recipient from the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation. Voting will be taking place in March and information regarding how we get votes will be sent out to our members the first week of March.

Membership Committee – Sue Bernier

- The membership committee will be responsible for following up with potential new members and inviting them to attend our meeting, as well as addressing any questions they may have at point of contact.
- Our public events will be both fundraising for local charities, as well as membership drive opportunities.

Visitation Committee – Karen Feeney

- The new position of Regional Coordinator was explained. Our goal is to have an Upper Cape, Mid Cape and Lower Cape Regional Coordinator. These coordinators will work directly with the handlers, spotters and the venues to coordinate schedules and aid with any questions or conflicts that may arise.
- Our current school visits were discussed, emphasizing how different each experience is at each venue. When we interviewed with each school, and on future interviews at new venues, we will stress the fact that our visits are tailored to the individual needs of the venue.
- Jeff shared a beautiful “Arm” map of Cape Cod, showing what part of the Cape our current members live.

Venues- Amy Usowski, MarilynRose Guarino and Candy VanSciver

- The members of the Venue Team have been out visiting mid-cape visitation possibilities. To follow are some of the venues that have been contacted and have interest in our visits:
 - Dennis Memorial Library – Girl Scout meetings prior to our monthly meetings, and story hour on weekends.
 - Dennis Senior Center – a weekly meet and greet with visitors at the center
 - Dennis Public Library – Story hour/reading time with the children
 - Visiting Angels – visiting Seniors who are alone and are asking for weekly companionship.
 - Liberty Commons – They are working to figure out how they would use us. Ashley has a contact there and will reach out to her.
 - Yarmouth Library and Senior Center have been contacted and the Venue Team is waiting to hear back from them.
- The Team will continue to reach out to other venues, and will keep us apprised of any schedule for visitation that is confirmed.

Marketing/Event Committee – Amy Usowski and MarilynRose Guarino

To follow is a list of events that we are able to participate in throughout the year. This is not a comprehensive list, but a start to fill in our calendar for the year:

- March 19th and 20th – Hyannis Home, Garden and Lifestyle Event – we have been asked to participate and will have a table there. We are able to walk around the crowd to talk with people and share who we are and what we do. We have also been asked to do two half hour seminars (one each day). MarilynRose is checking to see where we would be set up, as there was some concern about the dogs being too far inside the crowd.
- May 21st – Suicide Awareness Walk in Hyannis
- May 14th – Walk and Wag Event in Harwich
- May 29th - Cape Cod Cares for the Troops – we have been asked to participate in the event and will be raising money the Rocky’s Warrior Program, which sends canine care packages to our military dogs.
- June 23rd – Cape Cod Coffee Evening with Us – we will fundraise for a local charity and Tito’s vodka will match up to \$500 in donations.
- Summer 2022 – Wednesdays we have been invited to participate in the Harwichport Musical Strolls
- Summer 2022 – Bark in the Park – date TBD
- Summer 2022 – Dog Day Luncheon – Share a dog with your dog – possibly partner with the Harwich or West Barnstable Fire Department

- Fall 2022 – The Lilly House, which supports terminally ill residents to live as fully as possible until the time of death, will be opening their doors. We will work towards raising funds to help with the opening of this incredible home.
- Fall 2022 – Harvest Day Celebration and Chatham Oktoberfest
- Winter 2022 – Santa Paws and Christmas Stroll

We should all be working on coming up with local charities that we would like to fundraise for and bring those ideas to our next meeting.

Multimedia Committee – Ashley Bulger and Carol Miller

- Carol has worked diligently on the website, and has almost finalized the public site, and will be adding more photos that include our members. The member's area is under way and contains important information that is only available to the members. Carol will be sending out log in information to each member individually in the near future.
- Ashley has been working on our social media, and working with the schools to see which pictures from our visits can be posted on Facebook. She plans on posting a featured dog of the month. Ashley also reminded us that we should like the club's Facebook Page, and that we should share the link with others. This has been a very powerful tool in getting our name out to the public.

Resource Committee

Our resource committee will be responsible for sharing educational information regarding visitations, dog training, educational resources/videos and blogs attached to the website.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 PM