



TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly
DATE OF MEETING: May 16, 2022
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

Member Attendees: Rita Bernier, Sue Bernier, Rebecca Blair, Wes Blair, Ashley Bulger, Karen Feeney, Rose Fiore, MarilynRose Guarino, Brian Hastings, Mary Hastings, Jeff Idels, Therese Koellner, Brian Ligammare, Cheryl McPhillips, Carol Miller, Maureen Starr, Sam Starr, Anne Thomas, Amy Usowski

Secretary's Report – Maureen Starr

- The March 21, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Bernier

- The January 1 – April 30, 2022, Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

Executive Committee Report

- The Executive Committee finalized the Hearts and Paws Comfort Dog bylaws.
- The following four standing committees have been established within the bylaws:
 - Membership Committee
 - Marketing Committee
 - Community Events Committee
 - Visitation Committee
- The following people have volunteered to be Chairpersons/Co-Chairs: THANK YOU!!
 - Membership Committee – still in need of a Chairperson
 - Marketing Committee - Ashley Bulger and Cheryl McPhillips Co-Chairs
 - Community Events Committee – Amy Usowski and MarilynRose Guarino – Co-Chairs
 - Visitation Committee – Therese Koellner and Mary Hastings – Co-Chairs
- We are still in need of a Membership Committee Chair. We currently have a number of people working on this committee, and they will continue to do the work that they are doing. The Chair will be a point person for the committee and the Board, and will have ample help.

The Hearts and Paws Comfort Dogs Board of Directors is as follows:

Jeff Idels – President
Sue Bernier – Treasurer
Maureen Starr – Secretary
MarilynRose Guarino – Member at Large
Rebecca Blair
Cheryl McPhillips
Sam Starr
Amy Usowski

Social Gathering

- All present at the meeting were in agreement that we should plan a social gathering for the entire membership. Amy was kind enough to offer having a barbeque at her house, and also suggested Gray's Beach as a venue for our gathering. She will reach out to the town to find out availability.

Difference Between Events and Site Visits

- Events are for all the HPCD members, during which we spread the word about our group and work on finding new members, as well as fundraise for local charities. Maureen emails a link to sign up to volunteer for all events. The slots are typically 2 hour slots, but you are not obligated to stay that long if you are unable. Just make a note on the sign up for the time you are available. Moving forward, after the sign up link has been emailed, it will be put on our website for ease in finding it. Additionally, reminders about events will be sent.
- Site Visits are scheduled visits for handlers/dogs and spotters. These are listed on the calendar, and are organized and maintained by the Regional Coordinators.

Finding New Dogs and Handlers

- We are excited to have grown our membership to over 30 people, however we are in real need of dogs!!! When you are out and about, reach out and talk to dog owners you encounter. Everyone loves to talk about their dog....this is a great way to form a connection and share your story of HPCD.

Recent Events Review

Jeff shared several wonderful stories about the good work that Heart and Paws is doing!

- The boy at Mullen Hall that has missed numerous days of school due to anxiety, but comes to school on Mondays to see the dogs. His mother was reduced to tears when explaining the benefits to her son....

- At the end of the Wellness Fair at Monomoy High School, the dogs were exhausted. A boy with CP was wheeled out to see the dogs and Violet was instantly rejuvenated and was nuzzling the boy....

- Literacy Night at North Falmouth was amazing. The children cuddled up near the dogs to read to them, while their parents looked on. Wonderful feedback from the students, parents and school...

- A student at Teacticket Elementary made a bowl in his ceramics class as a gift for Mae...

- Mullen Hall has a fundraiser each year and the children vote on who will be the beneficiary. They chose Hearts and Paws...

Walk N' Wag was a fundraiser for Sampson's Fund and was a great networking event. Along with all of the people attending the event, there were 15 other organizations present. We had a good number of people express interest in HPCD, and we also raised \$94 for the Sampson's fund. Rebecca has called twelve interested people and 10 have already responded. She has received great feedback, and feels that there are 2 or 3 very likely candidates. Additionally, the Cape Cod Chronicle interviewed us!

Upcoming Events - specifics can be found on the calendar in the member section of the website

- May 21st - Eastham Dog Owners Bow Wow Bash at Campground Beach
- May 29th - Cape Cod Cares for Troops
- June 5th - Lily House
- June 21st - Pups and Pints Cape Cod Coffee
- June 24th - Hounds of Highfield
- June 29th - Eastham Library Visit
- July 2nd - Bark in the Park - Cotuit Kettleers

Cape Cod Cares for Troops - Rocky's Warriors

- We are scheduled to be there from 12 PM - 6:00 PM. Please volunteer on Sign-Up if you have not already done so and are able to attend. Only CGC dogs are allowed at this event. Amy and Jeff will bring pop up tents. Please bring a towel for your dog to lie on, as we will be outside in the parking lot. We will be collecting both monetary and in-kind donations, such as dog food and toys. If possible, please bring a donation with you. If you are unable to attend, and wish to donate something, please email Maureen at mstarr8512@gmail.com to arrange pick up.

Lily House

- This event will be held at Home Depot in Hyannis on June 5th from 10 AM - 2:00 PM. We will be fundraising for the Lily House, who will have an Ambassador there as well. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with the Lily House, with dog visits in the future after the house is completed.

Fundraising

- Ashley had the wonderful idea of creating a Venmo for donations. She will work with Sue and Carol on all of the details to get this set up.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:00 PM