



TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly
DATE OF MEETING: January 30, 2023
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

Member Attendees: Sue Bernier, Rebecca Blair, Wes Blair, Ashley Bulger, Lorraine Cowhey, Karen Feeney, MarilynRose Guarino, Susan Harrington, Brian Hastings, Mary Hastings, Therese Koellner, Jeff Idels, Kristina LaChance, Carol Miller, Patrick Otton, Greg Peach, Maureen Starr, Sam Starr, Regina Stoker, Anne Thomas, Amy Usowski, Candy VanSciver

Guests: Mary Heikes, Abby Heikes

Secretary's Report – Maureen Starr

- The December 19, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Bernier

- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
- The group has grown to 42 members and 14 CGC dogs

Welcome

- Welcome to new members Lorraine Cowhey, Susan Harrington and Patrick Otton, and guests Mary and Abby Heikes

Events

- We had been asked to participate in the Dennis Health and Wellness Fair. As the request was at the last minute, we were unable to participate, but we will look forward to the next opportunity.
- Amy passed out a spreadsheet listing 2022 events and fundraising recipients, which also contained suggestions for potential new venues. We will use this information to help create an event schedule for 2023.
- We will be participating in the Home, Garden and Lifestyle show at Barnstable High School 3/25 and 3/26. MarilynRose is working with the venue to ensure that we are in a location that is best for our dogs. A sign up with pertinent information is forthcoming.
- Sandwich Library has contacted us about holding two Reading to the Dogs events. Therese and Maureen are working out the details.
- Patrick has been in contact with the Orleans Library, and they have expressed an interest in our program. Amy and MarilynRose will follow up.
- Anne reported that the Eastham Library will be helping with Eastham's Windmill Weekend, which is held in September. This would be a great event for us to participate in. Amy will follow up.
- Lily House is currently looking for a place to hold a fundraiser. This will most likely occur in the spring.

Annual Letter

Jeff reviewed the Annual Letter he will be sending to our supporters. This letter is not intended to be used to raise funds, but to share our great story with our supporters and all those we have been involved with.

Training

- MarilynRose reported that Annie at the Chatham Dog Club has posted her manners training schedule on line. Annie is undergoing surgery and will be unable to help with CGC testing while she is recovering.
- Amy has reached out Heather Garre to confirm that she would test our dogs for CGC certification. Heather is not currently running CGC training classes, but has manners classes available, which are listed on her website.
- Jacky Penswick has offered to hold CGC training classes and testing for our dogs. She is located in Sandwich. Members should let Maureen know ASAP if they are interested in participating in a class.

One Year Anniversary Items

- Rebecca will be calling members who have not been active in order to see what we can do to help them become engaged again.
- The Annual Board Meeting will be held on February 16th.
- Carol reviewed visit protocols, highlights of which are listed below. The website contains a wealth of information and resources as well. We are continuing to grow and learn, and will update/add to these guidelines as is necessary moving forward.
 - Spotters are responsible for checking in, and are meant to be the eyes and right hand of the handler/dog teams.
 - Spotters should refrain from engaging in outside conversation, as their focus should be on the handlers/dogs and environment.
 - Everyone should meet outside prior to entering a visit site. This give the dogs an opportunity to greet each other prior to going to work.
 - Dogs should always be on a leash, which should be no longer than 6 feet. Handlers should watch the body language of the dogs, and take breaks if necessary.
 - All parties should arrive on time and stay for the entirety of the meeting, unless alternate plans have been discussed with the Regional Coordinator.
 - Handlers and spotters are asked to commit to a visit schedule to make coverage consistent. If you have a conflict with a scheduled visit, you should reach out to your Regional Coordinator to help find coverage for you.
 - New members are required to shadow a visit to see what a visit entails, prior to going out on their first assignment.
 - Treats are allowed and should be provided by the handler. If handlers are going to allow participants the opportunity to feed the dogs, permission from the director of a site should be obtained.

Open Discussion

- Amy passed out a printout of our current visitation schedule.
- In an effort to get more support for the Upper Cape, Ashely will be posting information regarding Hearts and Paws on Facebook.
- Ashley handed out a questionnaire to the handlers which should be filled out and returned to her. She will be using this information to help introduce the dogs on social media.
- Ashley shared a handout which contains tips and tricks for taking pictures and videos. Please send pictures/videos of the pups in action to Ashley for social media.
- Patrick shared the business card he has created for Sky.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:45PM