

TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly  
DATE OF MEETING: Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library  
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:40 P.M.



MEMBER ATTENDEES: Jeff Idels, Sue Bernier & Izzy, Mary Hastings & Millie, Brian Hastings, Susan Harrington, Mike Reposa & Lewy, Wes Blair, Marilyn Rose Guarino, Amy Usowski, Bill Norman & Sky, Josie Soraghan, Rebecca Blair, Theresa Koellner

BY ZOOM: Sam Starr, Gina Corbo, Rebecca Stoker, Ame Thomas, Beth Benson

GUESTS: Michael Keller, Susan Gerlach & Kendi

SPEAKER: Joe Ambrosini, Cape Cod K-9 Unit

1. Jeff welcomed everyone on such a “bad weather” night and introduced Michael Keller And Susan Gerlach with their yorkie named Kendi
2. Our guest speaker was Joe Ambrosini, a retired K-officer. Joe is also the founder and President of the Cape & Islands Canine Relief Fund.
  - a. The purpose of the Fund is to raise money for the support of retired police dogs
  - b. When a dog “retires” most often the dog’s handler adopts the dog. Most of these dogs live approximately 4-5 years but there is no “retirement support” for the dog’s vet bills or upkeep.
  - c. Currently, the fund supports 3 dogs and Joe pointed out that one bill ran \$6000.
  - d. The fund has a trailer which goes to many events to raise money for this support as well as holding fund-raisers like a motorcycle ride on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> starting at Patriot Square.
  - e. The fund also sells annual space on their trailer for business advertising or support.
  - f. Joe also explained how police dogs are trained and that the dogs have two personalities: (1) “Alpha Dog” is when the dog is keyed up and working and (2) “Beta Dog” is just like your normal “friend” to the handler. The handler has certain commands which elicit the “Alpha”. Many of the dogs come from Germany and Czechoslovakia.
  - g. He told us that he would never set up a dog up for failure so retired police dogs really could not be “Comfort Dogs”
  - h. Joe answered many questions and gave a very interesting and informative presentation. It is hoped that we can fund raise for the “Cape & Islands Canie Relief Fund” in the future.
3. Theresa then led the group in activity that got everyone out of their “comfort” zone. She randomly set up groups to come up with key words to relate to questions posted around the room. It was fun and interesting.
4. Amy reminded everyone of the urgent need to find an Outer Cape Coordinator for our group. As our group grows and expands in this area, we really need someone to interact with the venues like Lilly House and the Wellfleet Council on Aging

5. Marilyn Rose mentioned that Lilly House was holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for their hospice on Saturday Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. She mentioned that last year we raised \$1400 for them and that maybe we could fund raise for them again in October.
6. Upcoming events:
  - a. No Octoberfest in Chatham for us this year
  - b. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Cape Cod Beer (Hyannis) will hold a fund-raiser for the Sampson Fund from 5-8 p.m. in their parking lot.
  - c. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – Turnip Festival in Eastham & “Kids Day at the Library” to fund raise for the Family Pantry (sign up coming)
  - d. Other events to come ?
7. Mary Hastings shared a book “Madeline Finn & The Library Dog” with a story that describes something like we do when we visit libraries for kids to read to the dogs. The book can be shared with anyone who would like to use it.
8. Most of the “Open Discussion” centered around “socializing” at the end of the meeting. Board meeting to be held soon.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.