

TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly  
DATE OF MEETING: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library (Childrens' room)  
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:38 P.M.



MEMBER ATTENDEES: Jeff Idles, Amy Usowski, Sue Bernier, Mary Hastings,  
Brian Hastings, Gabi Scholsky, Bonnie Chiantera,  
Susan Harrington, Stephanie Sykes, Bob Schyllberg  
Wes Blair, Anne Thomas, Karen Long (NEW)

BY ZOOM: No members participated

GUESTS: None

SPEAKER: None

1. The meeting was called to order with Jeff asking each person to identify themselves.  
We had one new member attending - Karen Long
2. Wes (standing in for Rebecca) reported that we will have 3 new members: Karen Long,  
Tim Burrows and Alan Larabee. They will attend an orientation meeting next Thursday
3. **A Look Back at 2023:**
  - a.** Membership grew to 54 but Bill Norman and Janet Crossman have decided to drop out. Our canine members stand at 24.
  - b.** The number of events we attended grew from 8 to 11 and the charities that we supported grew from 6 to 9
  - c.** We've had three very good speakers in the canine officer, a counselor from Mullen Hall School and the representative from Rock Harbor. Any recommendations for speakers for this year would be greatly appreciated. We would like to get 5 speakers.
  - d.** We don't collect money for ourselves but through private donations we did have a surplus of funds. Thing to consider for purchase would be a tent, some new signage, more brochures and maybe some business cards for members to hand out.
  - e.** Virtual Service Pro (VSP) costs us \$700 year but it's money well spent as it is used for compliance and documentation. It could be used to keep track of shirts distributed. Sue could use some help with all of this on the Compliance Committee. You can contact her directly and she can supply worksheets for people to work off of.

4. Update on Recent New visitation sites:

- a. Visit to Sturgis went well. AT first students came in to the room in a large group but all 4 dogs handled it well and as the visitation progressed, everything went smoothly.
- b. Alzheimer's visitations are going well
- c. Eastham Library had about 8-10 kids involved

5. Upcoming events:

- a. Lighthouse Charter school is scheduled for Thursday 1/18. First 3 visits will introduce each grade level to what we do at Hearts & Paws. After this smaller group visits will take place.
- b. Friends of Sandwich Library will be scheduled .
- c. Lilly House – Anne will contact MarilynRose to contact them and see what their need may be.
- d. Home & Garden Show event in March is in the works (weekend of 3/23)
- e. In May we have the “Walk & Wag” in Harwich and the Veterans program in Hyannis
- f. June – Hounds of Highfield
- g. Bark in the Park, Bark and Sip, Bow Wow Bash are all on the calendar again
- h. We will attend the Turnip festival in Eastham again next fall

6. Open Discussion:

- a. Should we register our logo (trademark) ? Bonnie will ask a friend (patent attorney) about the cost
- b. Cape Cod Cooperative Bank wants to make a donation to us. They have a “Wear Jeans Day” where people have to pay \$5 to wear jeans to work. (donation comes from this)
- c. Next meeting will have more info on donations
- d. **We need to get the message out to all of our members about the importance of attending community events and being more involved. Events are spread out over the whole Cape and they help drive our membership as well as collecting donations for other charities.**
- e. **We also talked about encouraging more members to get involved in the operational running of the organization.**

7. Meeting was adjourned 7:43

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary & Brian Hastings*  
Secretaries