

TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly
DATE OF MEETING: July 15th, 2024
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:35 P.M.



MEMBER ATTENDEES: Mary Hastings, Sue Bernier (w/Izzy), Alexa Gilbert (w/Choco), Candy Van Sciver, Gabby Sakolsky, JoAnn Anderson, Josie Soraghan (w/Bella), Shirley Murphy (w/Blueberry), Stephanie Sykes, Chuck Goslin, Cindy Blum (w/Izzy), Amy Usowski, Rebecca Blair, Anne Thomas, Rose Fiore (w/Bella), Marilyn Rose Guarino, Wes Blair, Carol Rull (w/Raziyah)

GUEST Speakers: Jen Hyora – Cape Cod Lighthouse School
Dr. Beth Benson (w/Baschi), – caring for the senior comfort dog

1. The meeting was called to order by Amy at 6:35 and she introduced our guests and speakers
2. Special Presentations:
 - a. Jen Hyora, Director of Student Services at Cape Cod Lighthouse School
 - (1.) School started in 1995 and has 250 students chosen by lottery
 - (2.) H&P Comfort dogs have been visiting 2x a month to help with stress relief for students (and teachers)
 - (3.) Focus for the dogs is students with trauma, high anxiety, autism, etc. But all the kids seem to enjoy their visits.
 - (4.) Our dogs made their newsletter and Yearbook !!
 - b. Dr. Beth Benson, owner and member of Caring for Senior Dogs
 - (1.) The last 25% of a dog's expected life is considered "senior"
 - (2.) During this time, the dogs need more vet care and controlled diets
 - (3.) Weight control is very important
 - (4.) You Missed it !! – TONS of other good stuff on older dogs !!!
3. Mary reported on our new store: so far 14 orders with 32 items. Best sellers so far are the long sleeve "t" and the Grey zip sweatshirt.

Store closes this Thursday 7/18 and probably won't open again until the spring. If you want to order something, NOW IS THE TIME !!!
4. Financial – Sue reported:
 - a. Lynch Construction donated \$200 to us
 - b. We raised \$530 at Cape Cod Coffee and Tito's decided to double it by donating \$1000 that all went to Tommy's Place.
 - c. **Sue needs our members to give her the names and addresses of the vendors who donated gift cards to the raffle.**

5. Visitation & Events Site update (new & old):

a. **Outer Cape (Anne)**

- (1.) Veterans' outreach café' in Eastham
- (2.) Will visit P-Town Library in Sept & Oct
- (3.) Eastham library visits on Fridays for the summer
- (4.) Rock Harbor Respite still ongoing
- (5.) Going to look into Wellfleet Library
- (6.) Lily House pending (may be for staff)

b. **Mid-Cape (Amy)**

- (1.) West Dennis Library
- (2.) Dennis Memorial Library
- (3.) "Dream Day" camp at Nickerson Park
- (4.) Barnstable Adult Community Center for veterans
- (5.) Possible visits to veteran group homes in Dennis and Centerville
- (6.) In August, reach out to 2 schools Ezra baker (Yarmouth) & CC tech (Harwich)

c. **Upper Cape (Jeff)**

- (1.) Possible visit to Seaview Adult Daycare
- (2.) Possible visit to a camp to "comfort" counselors that was canceled last year
- (3.) 2 "Barks in the Park" (Harwich) full
- (4.) 7/21 Cotuit "Bark in the Park" NEEDS PEOPLE & DOGS !!! (they give us money for Cape Canine Relief charity so we don't want to lose it)

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S A LOT GOING ON AND WE NEED MORE DOGS, HANDLERS AND SPOTTERS. PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES !!

6. Regional Meetings feedback:

- a. Good sharing of ideas and concerns
- b. Amy - "Fun and Good group"
- c. Overall, very beneficial for first meetings under the new format

7. Open Discussion:

- a. For August meeting, Amy suggested a barbecue at her house
- b. September meeting will be the next "formal" general meeting (Dennis Library)
- c. Carol – if we get a swap request, only respond if accepting

8. Meeting adjourned 8:10

Respectfully submitted,

Mary & Brian Hastings