

TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Bi-Monthly
DATE OF MEETING: January 20th, 2025
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:35 P.M.



ATTENDEES: Amy Usowski, Sue Bernier, Jeff Idels, Mary Hastings, Brian Hastings, Bonnie Chiantera.

Amy Groden, Bob Shyllberg, Chris Washington, Sue Harington, Candy van Saver, Rebecca Blair, Wes Blair, Anne Thomas, Pauline Ahern, Doug Hill, Elane Hill, Kathy Carey, Lynn Ando, Allison Atwood, Christina Landry, Mark Pasquini, Carol Panasci, Frank Annuziata, Michelle Delongchamp

BY ZOOM: Shirley, Josie, Linda

SPEAKER: Leah, our guest, couldn't attend in person so Rebecca read a letter from her. She is the coordinator for a canine program at Cape Cod Hospital called "Dogs on Call".

- a. Dogs visit every other week on Tues, Weds and Thurs.
- b. On Tues the dogs meet with staff only in the ER and general floor.
- c. The dogs also visit, Behavioral Health, Oncology infusion rooms
- d. 3 north Cardiac and ICU patients
- e. KUDA Center & support group
- f. ** When our dogs go to the Hospital, they are under the guidance and direction of "Dogs on Call" program Not Heart & Paws

1. **Call to Order:** Amy called the meeting to order at 6:35 . She also congratulated our 6 dogs who passed the Therapy dog test . Tony, the instructor, who came from an hour off Cape, was very nice and professional. He has his own therapy center off Cape.
2. **Welcome to guests:** We had a very large turnout of new and prospective members and Rebecca thanked them all for their interest and she answered their questions.
3. **Financial:** The financial report from Sue was held until the next meeting as there were a lot of areas to discuss and many new people (& dogs) in attendance.
4. **Therapy Tests:** Besides reading the note from "Dogs on Call", Rebecca also gave a summary of the therapy testing mentioned by Amy. She said that she thought everyone had fun and that we have established a very good working relationship with Tony.
5. **Visitation Reports:**
 - a. **Outer Cape:** - Anne reported that the Eastham Library would be on the first Saturday of the month; The Terraces would be on the 3rd Wednesday; Rock Harbor Respit is the 2nd Monday and the 4th Thurs.; AIM Wellness in Wellfleet (substance abuse program); and Provincetown Library.
 - b. **Upper Cape** – Jeff reported that 3 dogs a week visited all four Falmouth elementary schools; he's talking with the ARC of Pymouth group home and the Emerson House (Gosnold House) about visitations.

- c. **Mid-Cape** – Amy reported that we visit Chatham Elementary, the Lighthouse Charter School, and Ezra Baker School all on a regular basis. We have visited the Dennis Senior Center and the Cape Cod Mall Alzemeizers Center for quite some time and we just set up a visitation schedule with the Helix Center (after school for troubled kids). The Veterans Outreach Center would also like to set up a program.
6. **Upcoming Events:**
- a. Thursday, Jan 23rd, - Volunteer Festival at the Harwich Community Centr 4-6 (fund raise for wildlife relief from the California fires.
 - b. March – Hyannis Home and Garden show (TBA)
7. **Newsletter:** Amy Groden sent out our first edition in December. She’s planning another one for this coming March. Anyone who want to submit any article must do so by March 10th. **Please share our newspaper with your friends !!!**
8. **Gear Update:** Mary Hastings reported that we will probably be changing to another on-line vendor for our store. The current “store” is going to require bigger orders than we can provide. She is currently working to make sure we can get the same (or similar) items at a reasonable expense. Please look at the newsletter on the website that has a link to the previous store to see what we currently offer. Let Mary know about any other ideas for things to add. Right now the “store” that she’s talking to would deliver all purchase in bulk to the Cape for pick-up at a general or regional meeting unless some other individual arrangements are made.
9. Meeting Adjourned at 7:45

Respectfully submitted,

Mary & Brian Hastings