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DRAFT
Town of Tyngham
Planning Board Meeting
7:00 PM June 9, 2021



Virtual Meeting hosted via Zoom, Tyngham, MA 01264

In Attendance: Ellen Slater Gonnello, Rebecca Honig, Pete Salineti, Amanda Hamilton, Carol Hardy-Fanta

Public in attendance: None

ANRs, Courtesy Notices, Mail: We received several courtesy notices.

We reviewed and approved notes from May 19th.

Old Business:

Amanda was able to get several of our previous bylaw questions answered. She talked with ACOs in Monterey, Otis and New Marlboro.

Otis budgets 13,000 a year for the ACO role. The police are called in as often as possible but the ACO is called in as needed. There is software that plays the role of the barn book.

Question to be answered: Would we need to buy the software or is Pat able to share it?

We do not need a kennel; Otis and several other towns use a foster shelter.

The state sites many animal control resources and forms that may be helpful as we develop our dog bylaw.

Amada summarized the conversation she had with Cassie Keeley. Cassie advised:

- You only need an actual bylaw and that defines what is running at large in your community. All other questions get referred to the Mass General Law.
- At present unlicensed dog penalties need to be at least \$50
- Cassie (in Sheffield- is both ACO and animal inspector) mentioned that 2020 has been busy due to COVID and households getting and not training or controlling animals.
- Much of the work she does is in relation to potential rabid animals.
- Basic equipment includes: Net, gloves, carrier cage but certain pieces of equipment require training and licensing.
- She said we do not need a kennel license if we are just holding lost animals for a few hours.

Amanda summarized the conversation she had with Chief Backhaus

He mentioned that their bylaw is a way to have a mechanism for collecting fines. He said they needed an official bylaw in the event that someone wanted to appeal a fine. He's been police chief in

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Monterey for 33 years, they had trouble finding and retaining ACOs so he went through the training himself. They have a vet serve as the animal inspector. He mentioned that the biggest problem in Monterey is consistent failure to pass a leash law. Their current leash law is very difficult to enforce.

Ellie also did research and found out that

Matt Puntin motioned that when they brought it to us, they were interested in a simple leash law. There have been incidence where dogs have attacked other dogs, dogs have attacked bikers, and dogs have chased bikers. He asked if there is a way for us to redirect our thinking to just creating a leash law.

Ellie also looked at several Mass laws related to nuisance dog behaviors. Question that arose:

- Do we need to define who would hold the hearings in our town in order to enforce any bylaw related to dogs?

In summary, through this research we have learned that the bylaw can be much simpler than we previously thought, but we will need to work to define several terms (control for example) very carefully.

We then turned our attention back to adjusting the dog bylaw that we have been drafting for the past several months.

Ellie made a motion to re appoint Rebecca Honig as the clerk and the board reappointed Ellie as the Chair. All were in favor of Rebecca and Ellie remaining in these role.

New Business: NA

Our next meeting will be Wed June 23rd.

Adjourned at: 8:20

Respectfully submitted,

Submit to tyrcc@bcn.net