



**Sweetpea F.O.R. Animals, Inc.  
Board Meeting Agenda  
John Bauer Senior Center  
17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612  
June 2, 2016**

**Board Meeting 7:00-8:00pm  
Executive Session**

- 7:05pm Call to Order

**Members Present:**

- Dick Clark
- Mary Clark
- Mary Sheehan
- Liz Ahmadi
- Bobbie Bigelow
- Maria McDonnel

**Members Absent:**

- None

**Guests/ Attendees:**

-

**Old Business: (7:00-7:10)**

- Approval of May 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- MM motion to approve, MS seconds k& is passed

**Treasurer's Report: (7:10-7:15)**

- Inuit payroll will want to keep until can pay all taxes, etc.
- American alarm – 2 bills within 2 days of each other, only slight difference of totals, difficult to differentiate itemized list. Figuring this out
- Waste management needs to be followed up – has not yet changed
- MS – where are deposits coming from? MC responds from various donations
- Westside bill (will be making quarterly donation to Sweetpea - \$2500) made payment out of medical fund → MC to scan and send to BB to incorporate in minutes
- Rebuild account – payments to Cutler are only that have come out of account at this time
- TD Bank mortgage account – enough for a few more months (5125 balance), but will need to transfer funds from other accounts in order to continue

*(Public Discussion) (7:15-7:20)*

- None

**Committee Reports:**

➤ **Rebuild Update (7:20-7:25)**

- Full set of drawings sent for estimating (should be back within a few weeks) to be given to Dan Brodeur
- RDK – project time & money donated. Also time donated that was not paid for by the company while working as hourly employees. Total to date \$29,075.00
- Nitsch bill – Sandy Broch, soil testing. Has only charged \$250.00 for services so far.
- Will need to file variance for setbacks that not currently meeting – zoning is 150ft from all property lines and do not meet (but same as current shelter building, not making worse but not making better)
- MC – is there any type of time frame? MM – is a process, town has asked if MM wants to go in front with both variance and special permit together? May not want to, variance will be difficult. Want to come to town with special permit by end of month (this before variance situation)
- DC - grandfathering for setback, in deed from many years ago, what is happening with this? MM – relationship shown between existing shelter and new building, will try to use grandfathering that exists in deed. Zoning wants in front of BOS rather than informal setting.

*(Public Discussion) (7:25-7:30)*

- KD – properties bought behind new building location commercial or residential? MM – residential (noise may be issue)
- DN – how are lots behind gaining frontage for driveways to road? MM – aerial map shows that can enter from another direction
- MB – what street do those lots access from? Turkey? MM – do not know about the plots of land, only know sold. MB – Rutland or Paxton? MM – believe Paxton.
- DB – special permit? MM – in order to run kennel on non-conformal sight. DB – and variance? Who go in front of? MM – Variance only for land limits. In front of accessors

➤ **Marketing (7:30-7:40)**

- Whiskers walk on Sunday
- Long Subaru event was success
- Mara Kraft rant – received word that did not make cut
- Waiting for PayPal information in order to be able to send thank you notes for last 2 months (up to date until that point).

*(Public Discussion) (7:40-7:45)*

- Where does PayPal information come from? MB – comes from account. MS did previously with Deb Young, will pass information to BB

- DB – marketing with fundraising? Can we publicize how much we made at each event? MB – thinks that this is a good idea, could keep tally. DB – encourage people to continue donating. DN – posts info on FB if info is relayed. Have MB send info to DN for anything that she would like posted – MA brings up printed sheet that MM has made of all events, MM will give to DN

➤ **Animal/ Volunteer (7:45-7:55)**

- Volunteer recruitment- about 50 applications. Equal amount for cat, dog, and misc category (business end). Given MB some contact info to know who can help with what; certain people have already volunteered for specific events (ex- Spooktacular)
- Possibly create newsletter to keep volunteers updated?
- DaVinci needs to be publicized in order to find home
- Stella – thought had set something up then found out she went somewhere else, MA & KD would like to know where she has gone. DC – friends with Gabby (vet tech at Westside), will be able to spend money on vet bills, will follow specific instructions – vet 1x/wk for 1<sup>st</sup> month and then 1x/month following until otherwise instructed. DC has lost contact because cannot get down to clinic as often. MS – had adoption fee been waived? DC – yes. MS – can contact info be given to MA & KD as they are animal committee and responsible for follow up and home check. MM has info and will pass along to committee chairs. MC – heard original backed out because of vet bills. KD – individual was not told this from beginning, only after 4 weeks of contact and day of signing. MC – also heard afraid of being able to get medication. KD clarifies that this was from beginning only because specific medication was back ordered from clinic. KD – says got nervous & panicked after hearing that Stella may be needing much more involved veterinary care that was not clarified in the beginning.
- MM – committee is liaison for board and for public, need to communicate better moving forward at this point. Need to involve everyone in more cohesive way
- MA – getting out of clinic for day visits 2-3x/ week
  - (Public Discussion) **(7:55-8:00)**
- DN – jack old English bulldog – not placed by June 9<sup>th</sup> will be put to sleep, big fluffy rescue – over time has developed aggression that owner cannot control. Or be able to send to trainer (\$800 per month). Rescue that is uncomfortable with taking on the dog at this time without being sent to training. EA – where after training? DN – Rescue. MS – after training if returning to rescue, without reinforcement then how will not get bad again? DN - Know of at least 2 placements; states in adoption application that Sweetpea would take dog back. Melanie contacted by Big Fluffy Animal rescue via FB and Verizon email account. NB suggests animal committee go for home visit to analyze situation. KD asks where dog is. DN – Jessica says that will house dog for short time so not immediately put down and will have dog sent away for training.

- *If adopted last summer then adoption application should be in shelter manager software*
- *NB – what is dog. DN – male, old english bulldog. NB - Why have not looked for other no kill shelter?*
- *KD asks if has been any reports? DN – does not believe so*
- *DC has been trying to work with other rescues to get some help, will have adopted owners name & contact – sounds as though adamant that will not work with anyone. Still under contract that should notify Sweetpea before any such drastic measures are taken with an animals that we have adopted out. Located in Harwich. MC – who will follow up? DC- will get as much as can will info and paperwork. MM – keep with animal committee & DC*
- *AE – language in contract – questionable on what should be? DN – intended that cost to be brought to rescue. Or surrender fee*
- *DN – reports of bite, no. Known to have bitten with 2 previous homes.*
- *NB – could be due to medical reason?*
- *MS – who would trainer be? Some dogs do not improve with training. Animal committee needs to work with DC to properly evaluate.*
- *MB – if allow dog that is known to bite to be adopted, does this cause liability. MM – information is disclosed to persons of interest, know ahead of time, be able to be placed with correct home.*
  - *AE – not sure on liability for shelter, yes there is liability for dog owner. Will do further research*
  - *DC – Chp 140 MA general law. Biting – ACO has highest say in dog bite (human or dog to dog) → most will look at issue, what caused and is dangerous dog – “dangerous dog hearing”. If biting recorded – measures taken, if not recorded then up to individual that has been bit.*
  - *DN – last page there should be statement at bottom if known biter for adopter to sign so that avoid liability.*
  - *MM asks for EA to review application language so Sweetpea is not liable. Addendum for taking an animal back – situation when cannot take animal back. KD or adding time restraint.*

**Adjournment & Dismissal: 8:06pm**