

**Animal Cross-Border Control
Task Force Meeting**

Minutes
July 28, 2015
Palmer Town Hall, Room 1
Palmer, MA

Present: Joshua A. Garcia (PVPC), Wendy LeSage (Palmer ACO), Jane Duggan (Wales resident), Charlie Blanchard (Palmer Town Manager), Jamie Yates-Yee (Monson Business Owner), Wayne Yee (Resident); Lynn Salem (Monson), Leis Phinney (Wales Town Clerk); Susan Coache (Palmer Town Clerk); Barry Mongeon (Warren FinCom); Dario Nardi (Warren SelectMan); Abaigeal Duda (resident); John J. Janulewicz (Palmer Acting Police Chief)

Others Present: Rachael Max (President of 'Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary, Inc. '); Wyath Aloisio (Journal Register)

Decisions:

- The next meeting is August 25, 2015 at 2pm - Palmer Town Hall Meeting Rm. 1

1. Introduction:

- Wendy opened the meeting and had everyone in the room introduce themselves.

2. Update on Regional Agreements:

- Joshua provided an update on the progress of the IMA. So far, Warren has provided a letter to the PVPC expressing its interest to participate fully in the proposed regional arrangement. Hardwick is in process in presenting to Selectboard and having legal counsel review. Most likely, Hardwick only is interested in sheltering services and so is Ware. Moving forward, it may be that the regional arrangement will only address sheltering needs for Ware, Warren, and Hardwick. As for Monson and Palmer, their existing arrangement for sheltering and ACO will continue but at a proposed cost of \$2.00 per resident.

3. Update on Potential Grants:

- A grant request application for \$4,000 was submitted to the Mason Animal Foundation (<http://www.masonanimalfoundation.org/apply/>). The Foundation was established to provide financial assistance to an animal shelter looking to expand or remodel. So far, nothing has been heard back yet.
- The Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant is currently being debated at House Committee and the PVPC is keeping a close eye as to whether or not that grant will become available to apply for. The CIC grant is a State program originally through the MA Executive Office of Administration and Finance (MA EOAF), made available for municipalities to implement innovative 'shovel-ready' regional projects designed to improve service efficiency. Up-to \$500,000 can be applied for.
- Joshua referenced the list of grant resources on the draft analysis that can potentially pay for a combination of capital costs as well as operating costs, etc., that committee members can apply for to assist with initiative.

4. Design and Building Update:

- Wendy updated the group on an informal conversation she had with an Engineer Contractor. She said that it can cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to have someone come in and design the shelter and provide cost projections.
- Members asked about what the current property is zoned for on Old Warren Rd - the potential future location for the new shelter. Looking into...

5. Special Guest Speaker - Rachel Max, President of Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary, Inc.:

- The focus of the conversation was on cats. Cats and how to deal with them has been a growing concern in the region. Rachel talked about preventative measures and education as a way to reduce stray cat concerns.
- Wendy works with Rachel on numerous occasions for cat issues. At the moment, Wendy only responds to cat issues when there is a public safety concern (i.e. Evictions, injured cat, etc.). The lack of capacity to respond to cat calls and to house a cat was mentioned as primary reason. Members hope to have new shelter effectively be able to address cats as well.

6. Other Business / Set Next Meeting Date:

- Next meeting date scheduled for Aug. 25 at 2pm.