

Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2024

Selectman Norman Beckwith called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Calling of the roll:

Selectmen: Norman Beckwith, David Thorp, Bill Nye

Secretary: Carolyn Nye

Animal Control Officer: Joe Guyotte

Guests: Nikki Hamilton, Linda Hamilton, Kirk Hamilton, Floyd Harford

David made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 27, 2023, as written. Bill seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

No Treasurer's report.

Joe explained what it takes to become an Animal Control Officer. You need to pay a fee; you need to have 40 hours of basic training and once a year you must take an 8-hour refresher course. The selectmen are the only ones who can appoint someone to this position and the person must have a license within 6 months after being appointed. The selectmen regulate how much equipment the Animal Control Officer must carry 24/7 such as a catch pole, a chips device to determine if the animal has been chipped, safety gloves, first aid kit, cat carriers, and dog cages. An Animal Control Officer is not required to carry a handgun or rifle, but the state suggests that you do.

By law each town must have a designated animal shelter. Dogs and cats are considered personal property. It is illegal for an Animal Control Officer to go into a resident's home and remove an animal without the consent of the resident.

Any wild animals coyotes, foxes, racoons, skunks, bats are to be referred to the game warden.

Joe went onto explain a situation that occurred in Shirley. A resident had called him regarding a cat that had gotten onto her porch teasing the dogs. Joe was in Michigan on vacation. He told the resident that he would take care of the situation once he got back from vacation. He went to the home of the owners of the cat, and they told Joe that the situation had been dealt with by not allowing the cat to go outside anymore. Joe went to the resident's house who made the complaint to let them know about the cat, but the resident was not home. Joe called and left a message on their phone.

Joe explained to the selectmen that he has been the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Shirley for 19 years. He currently serves 11 towns and gets 1 or 2 calls a year from the towns he serves. Joe is on call 24/7 and anyone from the Town of Shirley is encouraged to call him with any animal issues.

The Selectmen all agreed that Joe will continue to be the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Shirley. Joe thanked the selectmen for their time.

Norman will be looking into buying new road closure signs.

David called American Concrete to get an estimate of how much it will cost for a 40-foot concrete box culvert for the Blanchard Rd.

David called Seacoast Security and they said there is a monthly fee of \$25.00 for any cameras that are installed in the Town Office, which includes cleaning and testing. The installation and labor come to approximately \$3,000.00.

Norman adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Submitted by,  
Carolyn Nye