

Animal Advisory Committee

Annual Report for 2019

During 2019 the Animal Advisory Committee worked on a number of issues looking forward to the future.

- A main concern was continuing to develop plans for a new animal shelter if funding can be obtained to build one. The committee reviewed best practices and state standards to create lists of desired and essential functions a building should have. They then drew up floorplan drawings to represent these functions in an actual discussion design. Forwarded to the Municipal Building Study Committee, the design requirements and concepts are being incorporated in the planning for future municipal buildings.
- There has been additional progress in developing a stable volunteer program, with new involvement of the town's volunteer charitable organization, Rehoboth Animal Advocates.
- R. Panofsky took the lead in doing a redesign of the Animal Control Program's town website. It remains problematic for the town to provide internet connectivity to the shelter building, but the Committee expects progress soon. Access has been given to a computer in the Town Administrator's office, where a start can be made in developing computerized records and other supports for the animal control and shelter programs.

The big news is that, after successfully accomplishing all of its original charges, the Animal Advisory Committee has been dissolved. The Selectmen took this action at the BOS meeting of December 9, 2019, following a recommendation voted in the Animal Advisory Committee meeting of November 26. A review of the charges given when the committee was formed shows very good success in accomplishing them all. Policies are in place, town bylaws have been updated, a feral cat program is active in town, and the volunteer program is developing well. Operations have been systematized and the physical shelter improved. Members can continue to assist in less formal ways, and the Selectmen have approved Animal Control Officer Rob Johnson's appointment of Richard Panofsky as a volunteer at the shelter to continue to edit the webpage, help develop computer functions, and improve outreach and community education.

With this as our final report, the members of the committee thank all of the Selectmen and especially our liaison Skip Vadnais, ACO Rob Johnson, and Rehoboth's citizens for the privilege of serving you.

Richard Panofsky, Chair
Sarah Arrigo
Elizabeth Botelho
Amy Hurd
Nancy Scott