

The West Branch Animal Control Commission met on March 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present were Red Provine, Amy Lynch, Ashley Olson, Al Beyer and Leesa Johnson.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Old Business:

- A. Dog Tags/License: At the last meeting we reviewed having a license for up to 3 years depending on rabies vaccinations. Which would mean that we would have to change the current ordinance. The current ordinance reads from chapter 55.5B that a new tag shall be issued yearly for the life of the animal. We have two choices. Eliminate "B" or we can change the wording to say that a new tag can be issued for up to 3 years depending on status of rabies vaccinations and yearly fees still apply. With the inclusion of a "lifetime tag" we would have to eliminate "a new tag." Suggestion to eliminate "B" from the ordinance. Moved by Amy and seconded by Leesa. Motion Carried.
- B. Dog Park Concerns: Last meeting there were concerns raised about dog waste – any new ideas? Amy spoke with a few dog park regulars to see if they would be interested in checking for tags. Leslie said that they could give them access to look people up. Kind of like a Neighborhood Watch System. We will do inspections when we do the annual spring cleanup. Potential problem may be caused by the excessive amount of snow this season.

New Business:

- A. Police Report: Nothing to report.
- B. Budget: Al checked and the current budget is \$2,500 per year. A little over half of this is used for stray cat boarding and testing and other miscellaneous items.
- C. Conversation about stray cats: Red spoke with a community member about the potential of getting a couple stray cats for his barn. There are local communities that are implementing a system of catching strays and giving them stray cats for their barns. A catch, spay/neuter, and release type of program. SNAP is currently in effect in West Branch but Al wonders who pays for the fees. How the process would work is in question. Al says to contact the West Branch Animal Clinic for inquiries.
- D. Dog Park Improvements: Larry is willing to donate a culvert for a new "play area" for the dog park. Red is asking a vendor for some donations as well. We will assess during spring cleanup.
- E. Other Improvements: The County owns a small area to the south of the current park and are considering getting rid of it. One of the concerns of the current park is that there is no "small dog" park. We can investigate options such as an Eagle Scout project or Amy mentioned that someone had approached her about community service projects.
- F. Spring Cleanup: Tentatively set for April 28<sup>th</sup>. Will reassess at the next meeting.

G. Dog Park Gate: Last meeting we discussed a locking/coded gate. Amy did some research and a good one will be about \$400. Al says that there are funds available for this. We will also assess this situation during spring cleanup.

Next meeting will be April 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.