

**August 22, 2017
Board Meeting Minutes
6:30 to 8:00 PM
Centre County PAWS, Inc.
Adoption and Education Center**

Board Members/Staff Roll Call

Dave Abler, Lisa Bahr, Bob Conn, Brian Eppley, Chris Faust, Ginny Ishler, Laurie Knisely, Ginny Newman, Joan Ritchie, and Carolyn Lambert

PAWS Members

No members were present.

Member Question and Comment Period

There were no questions or comments.

Action Item - Approval of July 25, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes – Carolyn Lambert

Bob C. made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2017 meeting. Joan R.. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports

President – Dave Abler

- Dave reported that Kris C., Yvonne R., and Monica W. were unable to attend. Brian E. will be late.

Vice President– Yvonne Riley

- Yvonne – was not present. No report was submitted.

Treasurer – Laurie Knisely

- Laurie – Laurie stated that she was not able to meet with the Finance Committee.

Recording Secretary – Carolyn Lambert

- Carolyn – No report at this time.

Staff and Committee Reports

Director of Finance – Brian Eppley

- Brian was delayed so his report will be presented following discussion of the strategic plan.

Director of Operations – Lisa Bahr

- Lisa – Emailed the report. She reported that the number of dog adoptions is 198 compared to 184 in 2016. She noted that there have been more dogs with behavioral issues this year than usual. Fortunately, training has helped to find suitable homes for several of these dogs. Lisa stated that the increased training costs will be reflected in the dog training budget, however, she thought it was necessary to provide professional training for the owners. Lisa noted that increased training helps to avoid negative incidents which could be attributed to PAWS' negligence. Now, dogs can be adopted with scheduled training sessions with a certified dog trainer. The number of cat adoptions is similar to 2016. The Kitten Days of Summer Program occurred during June and July. The donor has agreed to support a September program and the Publicity Committee has created a theme. Lisa reported that the SNAP numbers are down from 2016. She thought it was due to eliminating clients from Huntingdon County but thought it was vital to the PAWS mission to focus on S/N efforts. Lisa suggested that the Board look at the budget to see if PAWS can help Huntingdon and other neighboring counties. Dave A. noted that PAWS received 107 voucher applications from Huntingdon County in 2016.
 - **Comments and Questions.** Ginny I. asked how many cats could be spayed per day. Lisa stated that it depended on the gender and age. The mobile veterinarian is scheduled for 2 hours for a maximum of 12 S/Ns. Brian E. remarked that the 2017 nonferal budget is \$67,000 with 58% used while the feral budget is \$28,000 with only 48% expended. Discussion followed on the challenges and opportunities related to S/N programs, vouchers, and clinics. Ginny N. questioned if PAWS could leverage a match with other organizations. Lisa commented that she would check with neighboring counties to see if any have S/N programs. Dave A. suggested that the Board think about the issues and come up with a plan for 2018.

Director of Development and Marketing – Chris Faust

- Chris – Emailed the report. Chris announced that an estate gift had been received. She suggested that the amount could be added to the Operations budget, however, based on the budget guidelines the gift will be added to the Reserve account. The next major event is the Fur Ball on September 23, 2017. Sponsorships for this year exceed the amount for 2016 due to new sponsors and increases in current sponsor donations. Items for the live auction are being collected. The mailer for the Matching Gift Campaign was sent out and so far, about \$10,000 has been received. Chris noted other publicity events, including an ad for PAWS in the August issue of Town & Gown sponsored by Wiscoy and Halfmoon Valley Animal Hospital and The Happy Kamper 5k at the Grange Fairgrounds on August 19th. Last, Chris stated that she is applying for a Freas Foundation grant.

Nominating Committee – Joan Ritchie

- Joan – No report at this time.

Personnel Committee – Kris Clark

- Kris – was not present. No report was submitted.

Unfinished Business

Dave suggested that the evaluation of the Strategic Plan proceed by discussing the progress made on each goal.

- 1. PAWS will enhance programs directed at reducing companion animal overpopulation through spay/neuter programs and education.**

Lisa B. commented that PAWS is taking donated food to the Faith Centre in Bellefonte and is discussing options to help the Women's Resource Center. Women in domestic violence situations may need to surrender or find temporary shelter for pets. Chris F. noted that a previous Centre Gives request for proposal stipulated that the funds from that program needed to be used for community engagement. Ginny I. asked if emotional support groups would be a possibility. Discussion continued on possible programs that would meet the Centre Gives guidelines for future grants.
- 2. PAWS will continue as a regional leader in animal sheltering best practices.**

Lisa B. stated that the PAWS physical facility is being maintained, although there are routine repairs occurring. Bill First and Chris K. have been very helpful with repairs as needed. She noted that the Pet Partner program has improved for dogs and cats and more volunteers are participating. She thought that the program had contributed to getting animals adopted. Lisa has developed relationships with the Executive Directors at the Central PA Humane Society and the Humane Society of Cambria County.
- 3. PAWS will successfully place homeless dogs and cats in forever homes, promote responsible pet ownership, and be a visible presence throughout Centre County.**

Dave A. noted that PAWS is assessing appropriate audiences for PAWS activities and applying for grants to support our efforts. Lisa stated that she believed PAWS should be open more hours. She thought that there were enough front desk volunteers, but not enough adoption counselors. She commented that PAWS may need to consider hiring adoption counselors. Chris F. noted that PAWS information materials were being reviewed and revised as needed. Ginny N. asked what PAWS does to recruit volunteers. Lisa responded that PAWS doesn't need additional efforts to recruit volunteers because so many complete volunteer applications already, but does need to continue to work on retention. While PAWS has a core of loyal volunteers, floor volunteers tend to be short-term. Discussion followed on possible solutions to keep floor volunteers committed long-term. Dave A. noted that the budget would need to be reviewed to see if PAWS can afford to pay for adoption counselors.
- 4. PAWS will present a welcoming environment, supportive climate, and accurate information for volunteers, donors, members, potential adopters, and other visitors at our facility and events.**

Lisa presented the results of a 3Q survey, which showed an overall positive opinion of PAWS. All respondents (n=20) were satisfied with the application and adoption process for dogs. Overall, 95% of respondents were satisfied with their experience at PAWS. Ginny N. stated that she would like to discuss the current plans for membership and how to recruit more members. Dave A. commented that he thought it was a good idea. Chris F. stated that PAWS has offered more presentations on fundraising, medications, and dog training.
- 5. PAWS will continue to cultivate robust, enduring financial health and stability for the organization.**

Dave A. stated that PAWS' financial situation is better since the mortgage was paid. Ginny I. asked if there were any plans to add buildings on the property. Dave A. stated that the PAWS building was an exception to the zoning code and approval from the township would be needed to add additional buildings. Ginny I. suggested building an indoor facility for exercise in the winter and agility courses. She thought that local trainers might be willing to pay to use. The play yard has been

beneficial for dogs and having another area would be great. Related to staff development, Laurie K. noted that she and Lisa are meeting with the Chair of the Personnel Committee to discuss options.

Director of Finance – Brian Eppley

- Brian – Emailed the report. Brian presented the financial summary for July 2017. He stated that the budget should be at 58.3% for the year. Expenses are at 57.6% while income is at 58.5%. The main areas of income are dog adoptions, regular donors, and the Fur Ball. The matching mailer was sent out in August. Since the donations from this mailer are not only for spay/neuter, they will be reported under the general donation line. There were no questions.

New Business

None at this time.

Ginny N. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joan R. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM, followed by an executive session.

2017 meeting dates –**September 26**, October 24, November 28, December TBD later