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*Wendy Joyce*  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BRANFORD  
DAN COSGROVE ANIMAL COMMISSION MINUTES

November 19, 2024

**Present:** Marilyn Vailette, Gretchen Dale, Melodie O'Connor, Bernice McKay, John Dendas, Eric Maas

**Absent:** Laurie VanWilgen, Laura Burban

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

**Minutes from the last meeting-** were reviewed, Bernice McKay made a motion to approve the minutes, John Dendas seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Monthly Reports-** were reviewed, Melodie O'Conner made a motion to approve the reports, John Dendas seconded the motion. The reports were unanimously approved.

**Annual Report** -the annual report was reviewed. Melodie O'Connor made a motion to approve the report. Bernice McKay seconded the motion. The annual report was unanimously approved.

**Updates at the Shelter**

--In Laura Burban's absence Wendy Joyce gave a report on a case that is pending on an animal cruelty case and advised that a warrant is being issued soon and she wanted the commission to be aware of it when it became public

--Wendy reported it looked like we would be hiring an outside cleaning company as the current company is still not performing up to expectations.

--Wendy reported we have 261 volunteers who are now trained and ready to do reading and dog walks and hiking.

--Dan Cosgrove Shelter applied for a \$10,000 Loeb grant for a dog training program and received \$4500.

-- Laura Burban, our DCAS Executive Director received an award on November 16<sup>th</sup> from the Mark Twain House at their annual Bark Twain Bash for her outstanding service and help to the City of Hartford Animal Shelter.

--Gretchen Dale reported that the Dan Cosgrove Medical and Wellness Endowment was up and running. 150 letters have been sent out to major supporters and donors of the shelter. Several major press releases have been published and WTNH did a TV spot on the HOME fundraiser and the Dan Cosgrove Medical and Wellness Endowment.

## Fundraisers

-- Ellie is working on the year end annual appeal.

--Home Event- will be held November 25<sup>th</sup> at HOME restaurant in Branford. There are still tickets available.

--Eric Maas reported he is still trying to connect with the female tennis player in Florida who is helping rescue dogs become service animals and is hopeful we can coordinate something with her. Eric is trying to see if we can develop a relationship with Broward County Humane Society.

Melodie O'Connor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marily Valette seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM

Respectfully submitted.

Gretchen Dale

Secretary

Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter Commission