

Red Bank Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Minutes

2/11/2025 - Minutes

1. No Agenda

Attendance of Appeal:

- In Attendance: Paul, Carla, Mark, Mary, Dan, Laura, Jenna
- Absence: TJ

Board (Previous Meeting):

- Vote for chairman and vice chairman of the committee
 - All current members voted in for the 2025 year:
 - Paul: Chairman
 - TJ: Vice-chairman
 - Carla: Secretary
- Review 2025 meeting schedule: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 2 (because of dog days on September 6), October 14, November 11, December 9
- Food Drive
- Mary Warner to review visit to pet expo
- Rabies clinic December 6th, 2025
- Pet adoption days:
 - Prospective days for adoption days: Middle school is still offering their space for adoption event
- Porchfest: October 4th: Have dogs for adoption walking around

Mary's update:

- Met with the environmental commission to partner
- Visited a garden on Westside Avenue, Patty White (master gardener)
- Could be space used for future demos and community garden
- John Gibbons will be Mary's coach and leverage the guides for Red Bank township
- Need 6 houses to launch in the spring with continuous expansion
- Awards to be given in December to participating houses
- Set up a table at the environmental fair: the date is April 10th at 5 pm (Thursday)
- Engagement Committee: Laura/Mary to work with Pat Pinto and team up on community engagement

Action Items:

- TJ to talk to the special events committee about an alternative date for dog days
- Carla to talk to outpost/ RBRC AHS (Newark)
- Next meeting we need to have a preliminary conversation on dog days & activities

- River Center meeting on January 21 with Rivercenter to talk about the calendar of events
- Broadwalk/International pet day

Reports (New Business):

Events Schedule for 2025:

- Paul handed out the events calendar he got from his meeting with River Center
- Dog Days:
 - We need food, possibly Boardwalk Zepps, etc.
 - Face painter, etc.
 - Dog Games
 - Photo Booth
 - 20 vendor tables to capture
 - 50/50 Raffle (Wallace Street)
- Animal food drive:
 - April 12
 - July 12
 - October 11
 - December 13
- Rivercenter will help with marketing
- Environmental Day at Middle School (April 10th): Mary is to have a table set up to talk about the Native Plant Society
- International Dog Day: August 26th
 - Work with Rivercenter on having something on the boardwalk
- International Cat Day: October 29th
 - Work with Rivercenter on Witches Night Out
- Porchfest: How do we participate?

Mary's update (email from February 11, 2025):

- Now: We have joined the Patchwork for Wildlife initiative, which started in Lake Como and has spread to include Belmar and Point Pleasant.
- Red Bank Approach:
 - We are fortunate to have a starter habitat garden on West Westside Street. This will be augmented and used as a teaching garden with this initiative.
 - Six “starter homes” will be identified near this garden to provide additional examples of what is good practice (previous driveways, native shade trees, leaf mulch, etc.)

My activities to date

- Submitted for a \$500 grant at the NPSNJ Native Plant Society of New Jersey
- I met with the executive director of Monmouth NPSNJ, Kim Rowe, and she has agreed to provide members to partner with us at events. Provide literature, etc. May also give presentations
- I met with Mayor Portman, Kate Triggiano, the Deputy Mayor, and Borough Administrator, Jim Gant. I described our initiative and requested each city council member plant one new native plant in their yard as a leadership step that we can use in communications. He agreed. They were very

excited about the award approach and the ability to track progress with Jon's tools.

- Met with the Environmental Commission. Their Leaf Blower initiative, Shade Tree Initiative, and probably others are a perfect fit for the broader scope of our project. A partnership here is important. I will be working with Jenna Leder, Master Gardener. She will ensure we have a native plant table at the Middle School Earth Day event on April 10. I also requested each member of the EC to plant one new native plant in their yard, and I believe they were in agreement.
- I met with Patty Whyte, a Master Gardener and the current caretaker of Westside Garden. She is thrilled with our plans for the garden and she is thinking of hosting a monthly topic at the garden.
- Jon and I walked West Westside Avenue and identified 6 "starter" homes we could use for education in addition to the garden. We will follow up on homeowners' interest in letting us highlight their eco-friendly example(s). I note several Certified Wildlife Habitat homes in this area and my area of town that we could look into.

Action Items:

- Mary to follow up with Laura/ Pat Pinto on community engagement
- Carla to send out the vendor list from Dog Days 2024 as a starting point
- Laura to work with Vin Gopal
- Mark/Carla to work on an event for AHS Newark

Conclusion:

- Next meeting is Tuesday, March 11th
- Paul motioned to adjourn the meeting