

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2021 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Little Egg Harbor (“LEH”) Community Center.

There was a Flag salute and a moment of silence for our military and world peace.

Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Ann Mikos, Linda Cicco, Nancy Cotter, Diane Coyle, Richard Dutton and Maryann O’Neill.

The sole speaker at this meeting was Dorothy Reynolds, founder and past president of the Friends of Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter (“FOSOCAS”), a volunteer-based non-profit organization devoted to preventing cruelty to animals; promoting adoption, fostering, rescuing, neutering and spaying; trapping, neutering/spaying and returning feral cats through its “TNR” program; conducting other projects and fundraisers to benefit dogs and cats of southern Ocean County; and providing supplemental medical and veterinary care for animals at the Shelter and responding to their special needs. Ms. Reynolds reported that the Shelter had reopened the previous Saturday for normal visits on a walk-in basis after having been closed for such visits because of the COVID epidemic. She added that it is also possible to call the Shelter at 609-978-0127 and make an appointment to see a particular animal shown on the FOSOCAS website as available for adoption in a special pen at the Shelter used for this purpose. Her organization is always looking for volunteers to walk or foster Shelter dogs (email dogwalkers@fosocas.org or call 973-886-1916), foster kittens until they are big enough for adoption (call Sue, 609-709-0470) and bottle feed kittens (call Peggy, 609-709-4526). Anyone concerned about a feral cat in their vicinity can call the organization’s TNR hotline (609-597-6040) and arrange for the cat to be humanely trapped, neutered/spayed, vaccinated, treated for fleas, microchipped, “ear tipped” so that it can be immediately recognized as a cat that has been neutered and vaccinated, and released back to its outdoor home where a caretaker will provide it with food and water. The organization also supplies towels, blankets, toys and cat and dog food and treats to families who could not otherwise afford to keep their pets and accepts donations of these items, which can be dropped off at the Shelter. Ms. Reynolds also noted that localities’ animal control officers do not always bring animals they pick up to the shelter closest to where the animals were found and if you ever lose a pet it is best to check with all shelters in your region rather than just the closest one. She then reported that the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter is funded by the County, also receives some contributions from foundations, and in addition relies on contributions from individuals; it is an I.R.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible. The Shelter is located at 360 Haywood Road in Manahawkin and is scheduled to be renovated this winter. Cats and kittens available for adoption at the nearby PetSmart come from the FOSOCAS program and some have been fostered first. The adoption process is a fairly rigorous one and pets are not given to just anyone.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, November 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the LEH Community Center. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 A.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Richard Dutton, Acting Secretary, LEH Senior Citizens’ Advisory Board*