

Shelburne Working Group on Human-Wildlife Interactions Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020

Present: Don Rendall, Jon Cocina, Lisa Vear, Jim White

Facilitator: Don Rendall

Notes: Jim White

1. Motions to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: no public comments.
3. Discussion of policy draft:

Don said that he sent a policy draft to Bob Lake, the Shelburne Animal Control Officer (ACO), and invited him to attend this meeting to offer his feedback. Mr. Lake chose not to attend, but provided brief written comments (attached) that were read aloud twice during the meeting. One of Mr. Lake's comments was that the policy would expand his position. Jim pointed out that the need for such expansion had been recognized since the very first meetings of our sub-committee.

Mr. Lake also explained that the ACO has historically been a volunteer. When no volunteer was forthcoming, he was appointed into that role by the police department. Jon stated that the new policy will require someone who will truly be a "champion" of policy intent in the role. There was some discussion then about other possible positions in the departments of town government that might offer a candidate and an appropriate connection to an animal policy. Jim wondered how many hours the ACO puts in now. Jon wondered how much of a budget was set aside for the AOC. Don's quick research indicated it wasn't much. Perhaps about \$3,500 in total. Jim wondered whether the position could be split with enforcement staying in the police department, while other responsibilities which focus heavily on data collection and training/education, could go elsewhere.

There were other unanswered questions. Are Shelburne police empowered to put down a deer that has been injured, or must wardens do that? Could Shelburne police put down an injured raccoon? What activities now take up the time of the ACO?

The sub-committee concluded there was a need to recommend to the Select Board that a funded champion and an expanded budget were needed to accomplish the expanded responsibilities outlined in the new policy.

The discussion then moved to steps for bringing the policy draft to the Select Board. Some reorganizing of the document was discussed. The following steps were broken out to prepare the draft for a vote to approve by SNRCC in January:

- A. Don agreed to draft a cover letter to the Select Board.
- B. Jon agreed to do final editing of the main sections of the policy. "Key Definitions" will be moved to the appendix. There will be two sections remaining. Section A - Overview will be renamed "Policy." Section B will retain the title "Principles." All other material will go into the appendices.
- C. Jim agreed to review the pieces that will go into the appendices and to organize the final package.