



Honey Brook Township Dog Kennel Task Force

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Meeting began at 7 pm on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. John McHugh and Eric Olson started the meeting and discussed the goals for the evening. Amos Kauffman could not attend this meeting.

John McHugh thanked everyone for coming out this evening and stated that this meeting is the continuation of the previous meetings, the last meeting being held on Monday, October 9, 2017.

Steve Landes, Township Manager, provided copies of the Meeting Agenda which were distributed to everyone.

Committee Members

Meeting Facilitator: Eric Olson

Becky Ricci
Janne Ruffini
Terry Schmidt

Abner Stoltzfus
Liz Purring
Leslie Siebert
Benuel M. Kauffman

Levi Kauffmann
Benuel S. Stoltzfus
Melissa Needles

Topics Discussed:

1. Meeting schedule – John suggested pulling in different topics/issues within the next one to two meetings and determine what to do.
2. Arranging tour/visit to kennels – Initially, Levi suggested public approach him to tour his kennel. Then it was discussed to open up the tour to Planning Commission, area residents and Task Force Committee. It was finally decided upon to just open up tour to Task Force Committee and Planning Committee.
3. Communication – Are we doing a good job getting work out to community.
 - Sign up sheet informing when next meeting takes place.
 - Township website.
4. Ordinance – keeping of animals
 - Township regulates setback, type of building.
 - State must post license each year.
 - Melissa suggested Township get copy of ordinances from State.
 - Levi doesn't feel Township needs to get involved in inspections.
 - Melissa said Township requests kennel owners to have state license at conditional use hearing.
 - It's a way of Township keeping track of how many kennels are still in existence.

5. Selling of dogs, regardless of how many, is considered a kennel.
 - One panel member asked where in the ordinance does it state that once a puppy is sold you are designated a kennel.
6. State dog law – review and discuss
 - Number of dogs to be considered a kennel.
 - How many puppies can you sell/year.
 - How many dogs/acre.
7. Noise and traffic
 - Noise ordinance regarding barking.
 - Try to find means to dampen noise rather than amount of time dog barks.
 - Melissa suggested removing noise restriction from Ordinance Section 6-103, #2, Letter b, #7.
 - Complaints made regarding traffic flow on Dampman Rd.
 - Discussed by Committee and agreed it is not a problem.
8. Other municipal ordinances
 - Becky displayed ordinances from some other local municipalities similar to Honey Brook Township.
 - John (audience) circulated ordinances from East Earl and other similar municipalities.
9. Acreage and setback requirements
 - Setbacks should be different if agriculture vs. rural.
 - 8 – 10 acre requirements for kennel operation in other municipalities.
10. Health and welfare of the dogs
 - States domain for health and welfare
 - Need dog warden
 - If violation, what happens
 - Residents should have information as to how to go about ensuring violation is followed through.
 - If kennel owner operating poorly, other owners should talk to him and get him to get things in order.
11. Set time limit for the meeting at two hours
 - Agreed by all – two hour limit.

Public Forum:

Bob Witters:

How would the tours of the kennels be arranged?

- Tours open to Task Force Committee and Planning Commission
- Sign up sheet left at end of tonight's meeting: One list for Kennel Owners volunteering a tour of their kennel, one list for Committee and Commission members interested in touring.

Are we doing a good job of getting word out to Committee?

- Information has been posted on Township website
- Letters have been mailed out.

Why has the Board of Supervisors not been active until now?

- John responded by saying we are doing everything to get the word out by email, website, and U.S. postal mail.
- The Township, Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission need to have a clear understanding of the Ordinances.

Addendum:

Call upon outside help:

- Bring Dog Warden to meetings – Yes
- Invite Kennel Associations to meetings – Yes
- Invite Representative from Agriculture to meetings – No

Two Questions for Consideration:

1. Do we limit number of dog kennels or reduce the noise.
 - Melissa said legally hard to limit number of kennels.
2. What happens to dogs that can no longer be used for breeding.
 - Ben Kauffman said there's a shelter that takes them in.
 - There's a "go to" person who adopts and finds homes for them.
 - Kennel owners do not adopt the dogs that are bred.
 - When do you know it's time to stop breeding?
 - State suggests five years of age.
 - Kennel owners required to present paperwork to State regarding where dogs were placed after breeding.

Come in with recommendations for next meeting:

- List of kennel owners willing to show kennels to Task Force Committee and Planning Commission Committee.
- List of members wanting to tour kennels.
- Mailing list.

_____ suggested Township definition of kennel be in line with State definition of kennel.
Should put this on the Agenda to be considered at next meeting.

Sign in sheet was passed around for those requesting a letter be sent to them about the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.