

House Rabbit Network, Inc.

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

October 20, 2012

Roll Call

Present- Linda Massey, Diane Mayer, Suzanne Trayhan

Absent- Kathleen Bourdelais

The meeting was called to order at 10:10am. A quorum was present.

Bylaws

The proposed bylaw changes to not allow interested persons were signed into effect.

Kathleen

There was a general discussion about Kathleen's lack of attendance and unwillingness to try to work with the board of directors. It was agreed that this needs to be resolved sooner rather than later.

Action Item: Decision was made to request a meeting with Kathleen within the next week to try and resolve differences. If she refuses, then we will send an email asking her what her plans are.

Facebook

Our facebook page was discussed, including how the admins are set up. It was agreed that Suzanne and Linda would be the only two true admins with complete control over the page. All the remaining admins would be changed to Content Creators, allowing them to post for us. We are going to look into reducing the number of admins that we have. Many of the current admins are not posting at all. Current admins are: Melissa, Jill, Jillian, Kathleen, Beth, Tara, Bailey and Suzanne

MA Law regarding Foster Homes

There is a proposed state bill that will put strict regulations on foster homes and rescues groups in Massachusetts. Currently it is unlikely to be brought up for a vote but we need to have someone monitoring the situation to keep HRN apprised of any happenings.

Action Item: We will look for a volunteers to take on this task.

Monthly Reports

It was agreed that we should restart the monthly reports. They were helpful for getting updates about what is happening in various sections of the organization. We should set up an email address reports@rabbitnetwork.org where they can be submitted by the committee chairs. The secretary will process the reports to post them.

Transfer of rabbits into MA

The Massachusetts Dept of Agriculture law regarding the transfer of rabbits into MA was discussed. To be in compliance with the law, the board agreed that no rabbits would be transferred into MA from out of state foster homes or rescue groups. (Those rabbits would need to be handled by our out of state foster homes). We can accept private surrenders from adjoining states.

Action Item: Suzanne will draft an email to be sent out to the foster list reminding our volunteers that we cannot take in rabbits from out of state. We will also post the policy online. Volunteers caught doing this may be subject to removal from HRN.

Sanctuary Policy

There was a general discussion about HRN sanctuary policy. We want to set up two types of sanctuary homes. HRN Sanctuary, and sponsored sanctuary. For both types of sanctuary we need to know where the rabbit is located.

For a sponsored sanctuary rabbits, a person will assume financial responsibility for the rabbits. Since they remain HRN bunnies, they have access to our discounted medical care and may write expenses off on their taxes. This type of sanctuary status is good for rabbits with ongoing medical problems such as dental issues. The person sponsoring the rabbit will be entitled to make the medical decisions and essentially treat the rabbit as if they were their own.

It was agreed that it should be difficult to get HRN sanctuary status for a bun. HRN sanctuary status is primarily for hospice situations or where it is not in the rabbits best interest (for medical reasons) to be moved. Someone requesting HRN sanctuary status for a rabbits should have a letter of recommendation from a vet, along with supporting documents on why a rabbits should be sanctuary.

Vote: By unanimous vote the board agreed that for a rabbit to be considered HRN sanctuary it must be approved by a majority of the board of directors.

Action Item: Set up contracts for sanctuary homes

Action Item: Update Sanctuary policy online.

Shelter

The shelter is going well- volunteers seem happy and we have had several adoptions. We need to start planning the second year- starting in Dec or Jan. Ideally we would like to lease our location for a second year. Need to check with the landlord if this is possible. The shelter can use more visibility and more volunteers.

Action Item: Create a web page for the shelter on our web site.