

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting with David Gardner, January 8, 2015, 11-00am, Town Hall, Provincetown.

Attending were Carol MacDonald, Sherry Brec & Elizabeth Brooke; AWC members, David Gardner, Acting Town Manager, Peter Brown, Banner Reporter.

We asked David if he felt the current Zoning By-laws were sufficient to prevent another situation like the rabbit farm. That situation was under the radar, and when brought to light, a Zoning By-law was used to shut down the operation. He stated that it would be extremely difficult to amend a Zoning By-law.

We discussed Barn inspections, and gave him a copy of a blank State inspection form that is supposed to be completed for each barn on a yearly basis. This has not been done, and he would be speaking with the BOH as it falls under their jurisdiction. To change that, ie: have it fall under the ACO, would be an issue with their union, and the ACO's contract.

We also discussed having a member of the BOH or Health Agent attend our monthly meetings. The position of Health Inspector is currently vacant, but he will be seeking to expedite filling that position. As of now, the Health Department is understaffed, and it has been difficult for someone to attend our meetings. Hopefully, in the future, that will change.

We briefly touched on hoarding in the Town. While a complex issue, when an animal, or multiple animals are involved, the Board of Health contacts the ACO to assess the animal component of the situation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Brec
Clerk pro tempore