

Town of Starkey
Workshop Meeting
March 22, 2018

Members Present:	George Lawson	Supervisor
	Fred Shoemaker	Councilman
	Bill Holgate	Councilman
	Jack Ossont	Councilman
	Alan Giles	Councilman
 Others Present:	Robin Hoppe	Resident
	Otto Hoppe	Resident
	Lew Ann Giles	Resident
	Glen Fahnestock	DVM Observer
	Yvonne Thomas	Resident
	Loren H Martin	Resident
	Mary Rose	Resident
	Rivka Davis	Resident/Planning Board Member
	Steven Fulkerson	Planning Board Chair
	Susan Walker	Resident
	Kenneth Zimmerman	Resident
	Raymond Hoover	Resident
	Lloyd Nolt	Resident
	Earl Ray Nolt	Resident
	Amy Fleet	Recording Sec.

The advertised workshop to discuss the moratorium on kennel regulations held March 22, 2018 at the Starkey Town Hall, 40 Seneca Street, Dundee, Yates County, New York was called to order at 7:01 PM by George Lawson.

Jack reported on the research Fred and himself had been doing to make recommendations for the following areas: number of dogs that would be allowed per facility, number of breeders, composting practices, rehoming percentages, and noise levels. They would like to see a way to verify where composting is being done, how it is being done and where it is being done in relationship to bodies of water in the area. Much of the information was found in studies done by Purdue that are available online, but two areas that there was not a lot of info on was the composting of waste and the impact of human contact. They were also able to speak with the director of this program at Purdue, Doctor Candace Croney who provided them with additional resources of information. Jack recommended we continue dialogue with Purdue during the moratorium process.

Fred commented that he was impressed by the American Canine Association being on track with the standards recommended by Purdue specifically kennel layout, when he attended their annual meeting with other board members. While attending this meeting he picked up literature about a kennel in the Town of Barrington that the board would like to tour to help compare standards with ACA and Purdue.

George thinks that our emphasis should be on creating a dog kennel binder with suggestions on how to deal with concerns associated with kennels. Included in the binder would be research studies to aid kennel owners on topics like composting dog waste, enclosure size, and air filtration. He recommends handing out copies of the binder to all kennel owners old and new. This compilation would be an evolving document, so as new or better research was done it would be added to the binder. It would also include guidelines for best management practices as recommended by Purdue or other credible sources. These guidelines would help an individual when completing the permit process and going before the planning board. His vision is that there may be some additional regulations, but they will be made with input from the breeders to ensure the regulations make sense and are practical. Kennel size, noise mitigation, and composting could be areas that might be targeted for further regulation.

Alan mentioned that our current regulations concerning waste disposal say that waste must be disposed of using a properly designed septic system and/or mixed with other livestock waste. Bob Yarnell (ACA) would prefer that dog waste not be combined with other types of livestock waste because they compost at different temperatures. He suggested we may want to remove the and/or phrase in the current regulations to coincide with this new information.

George checked with the Town and County associations to see if animal welfare and socialization issues would fall under our aegis and they wrote back and said yes other towns and counties have done this. At the ACA meeting the question was raised about the different layers of regulation and if Towns can regulate more stringently to affect local conditions and again the answer was yes.

George said that he had mixed feelings about the moratorium, but that he has appreciated the time that it gave him to spend learning about the kennels, meeting kennel owners, and attending the ACA meeting which showed that the kennel owners continually update their education on matters concerning kennels.

Alan commented on the talk Andrea Ambrosia from the USDA gave at the ACA meeting about the local Kennel Management Assistance and how they are another source of guidance for kennel owners. Kennel owners who used this resource dramatically improved inspection results.

George is recommending the binder be handed out with the building permit and should include a vision statement, regulations and recommendations. He is suggesting a separate binder because he sees the information on this topic to continue to increase and does not want the zoning book to become cumbersome. Some of the information needed is not yet available but will be in the near future and regulations will change if further studies indicate it is necessary.

Jack submitted a request to skype in Dr. Croney for the next workshop. George asked if breeders had an interest in skyping with Dr. Croney and they said they felt it was not

necessary because Bob Yarnell who is their contact with the ACA is in sync with Purdue and their recommendations.

Robin Hoppe asked if Starkey is open to more kennels or kennels with more dogs after additional regulations have been put in place? She expressed she felt unsure whether an uncapped number of dog kennels in the Town of Starkey or dog kennels that have a large number of dogs would be a good thing for our town. Jack said these questions are also being looked at by the board and how these two issues fit into the comprehensive plan. Several members of the board agreed it is not legal to cap the number of dog kennels or any business. There are a decreasing number of kennels in the Town of Starkey at this time. George feels that many of our residents became kennel owners because the family can help run the business, farming is tough, and they enjoy working with the dogs. The town is able to regulate the number of dogs per kennel and the board is seeking the balance on this issue.

Yvonne Thomas asked if criminal records of kennel owners are checked when they apply for a permit or if that would be a new requirement. Jack thought Tom Morris our animal control officer would be a good resource to contact about this issue. The question was raised whether we have legal footing to ask an applicant and what types of charges we can inquire about? George will check with the attorney.

Fred spoke in support of Jack's request to skype with Dr. Croney because he would like more info on composting, the number of dogs per caregiver, the number of litters, what happens to bitches that have caesarians, and on hearing loss.

The board resolved to skype Dr. Croney in at the next workshop meeting on April 12th and to submit written questions to her in between. Steve Fulkerson suggested written correspondence would be easier to reference in the future and would not be as easily misconstrued.

At the ACA meeting Jack and Fred spoke with the USDA and she said the Federal Government has redacted USDA records which may make it difficult to check on bad actors of USDA regulations.

George asked the kennel owners present if an annual visit by the County animal control officer would be offensive? He said it may help to appease the masses. The kennel owners said that the board should do what they needed to do.

Bill had questions about the NYSERDA contract, about the contractor, and if there were subcontractors. He also wondered how submittals would be handled and if estimates from last year were still good? George said he is listed as the contractor. There are subcontractors. Melissa will help George with submittals. Some of the information has already been submitted and estimates are still good from last year.

Bill Holgate made a motion to authorize Town Supervisor George to sign the NYSERDA Grant paperwork. Seconded by Alan Giles. Appr: 5-0

Ayes: Fred Shoemaker, Bill Holgate, Alan Giles, Jack Ossont, George Lawson

Noes: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM

Amy M Fleet

Deputy, Town Clerk
Town of Starkey