

Therapy Dogs of Vermont Board Meeting March 1st 2023 Minutes

In attendance:

Colleen Sauve

Valerie Smith

Dede Larow

Michele Shepard

Call Meeting to order : 1805 hours

Vote to approve minutes from previous board meeting : approved unanimous vote

Vote to approve Treasures report: approved unanimous

Applications for new Board members- a few people interested the board discussed sending a letter out to all members with the board application attached. It was noted that not everyone may read the woof so this was another way to drive interest.

Discussed apparel provider and if now was the correct time to change with the website changes. Noted that our website had conflicting information of the current apparel provider (Jc Image) but also showed the former provider (Sew Unusual)

Discussed providing shirts to all certification team members. It was decided that while we are determining if we are going to stay with this apparel company or not; that the board will purchase one (1) shirt per certification team member, Memebers will be given the option to select any product from the full offerings of JC Image.

Michele Offered to head this up by Emailing Emily Reed and asking her to compile a list of names, style color and size requests. The shirts will all be embroidered with the TDV logo and the phrase "Certification Team". The option to add alternate embroidery was given to the certification team leadership.

Crisis Response Team – It was decided to wait for Susan to proceed with anything related to crisis response, she should be able to start working on it tentatively in early April.

New WEBSITE. Dede advised that she had a contact who would possibly interested in developing out new website or could get further leads from them.

It was discussed if we should just revamp the currently website vs build a new one entirely. Collect bids from several companies, and weight the options.

Zoom Account: it was decided that TDV would pay for 1 account and the credentials would be shared with HUB directors and the Certification Leadership should they have a need to use the platform.

Membership

Currently we have 149 members

77 of which have no renewed for this year, Colleen advised she would send reminder letters out.

It was determined to include a welcome to all New Members in the WOOF moving forward.

UVMCC- they have not replied to any requests for a meeting since the fall to discuss the difference in policy. Board decided that potentially they were no longer a good fit for our organization any longer. The board decided to stop reaching out to UVM MC, unless they so decided to contact us.

The board discussed creating a new policy in regards to people wanting to bring their dogs to work with them. The need to outline, expectations, working vs not working, safe places for dogs to be not working, etc. it was determined that the Certification leadership would be asked to put this policy together and present it to the board. In the mean time it was determined a reminder sent out to current teams might be helpful. Also sending them a document to sign and return stating they understood, Also discussed sending this annually with renewals.

The process of new certification team members was a little confusing, Colleen had just attended the Evaluator training and advised that it was not clear what her next steps were. Michele added this was pretty consistent communication wise with the leadership team, When she first joined the certification team she would not get emails asking for availability to attend tests and clinics. The Board discussed the need for better communication from the leadership team as well as mentorship to people interested in taking on further rolls with in TDV. IT isn't always clear what is available.

List of all of our HUBS – Emily Lester might have this information.

A request was made for patches vs bandanas. We discussed incorporating over the collar slip on bandanas vs the current style, Michele offered to research this.

Summer Gathering: A member offered her land for use to bring handlers and dogs together, the board decided it was too risky on many levels. To include the canine influenza that is spreading currently.

Annual Meeting

Will be held at the Armory in Berlin (Michele Will reach out to the Armory), a date for October 14th was set. A request for another meeting possibly in person was made for April or early May to go over details for the meeting.

The discussion regarding speakers and sessions for the annual meeting included asking Steve Reiman to deliver the Key note address. Colleen Volunteered to reach out to him.

Valarie Mentioned that the Amazon Smile program that donates a portion of sales to select charities is no more.

Clarification on why Therapy dogs cannot be fed a Raw food Diet, It is a CDC requirement for therapy animals.

Meeting Adjourned 1959 hours

