

Wildlife Rehabilitator's Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Division of Fish & Wildlife, Northern Region Office

April 24, 2019

WRAC Purpose: The purpose of the WRAC is to provide advice and assistance to the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to improve the wildlife rehabilitation program and the care that is provided to injured and orphaned wildlife.

Committee Members Present: Diane Nickerson (chair), Giselle Chazotte-Smisko, Carol Dragland, Heather Freeman, Tracy Leaver, Dr. Nicole Lewis, Dr. Erica Miller, Dr. Jennifer Norton, Michael O'Malley.

Committee Members Absent: Philip Brodhecker

DFW Employees Present: Paulette Nelson

Public: Kelly Simonetti, Jean Parker, Althea Quigley

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes from the January 23, 2019 meeting were approved via email on 3/13/2019.

Update on training class for DFW: Tracy Leaver reported that they continue to work on the content and are making progress.

Update on Veterinarian sign-off sheet: No report

Update regarding providing liability coverage for people who transport animals to rehabilitators under Wildlife Conservation Corps: Question is – are these volunteers doing work for the Division? Discussion followed and Mary Monteschio, DFW Regulatory Officer will be invited to the next meeting to answer questions.

Pest Control Operators Update: Diane Nickerson and Paulette Nelson met with three nuisance wildlife control operators. The gentlemen referenced a book that they use for teaching courses. NYDEC uses the same book for their permit exam for pest control. DFW will investigate obtaining this book.

There was further discussion about what was learned in the meeting including that nuisance wildlife control is being conducted by many more people/companies than thought. This includes roofers, chimney sweeps, lawn care companies, and homeowners.

Four people have expressed interest in participating on the pest control subcommittee. Ms. Nickerson will send out letters to WRAC for selection to the subcommittee to select two of those people.

Veterinarian Report: No report.

Update regarding Nosey's Law: How does Nosey's Law affect rehabilitators? Can they still take animals to schools, etc.? Are their facilities considered permanent? Discussion followed and questions were deferred to next meeting when Mary Monteschio, DFW Regulatory Officer, will be in attendance.

New business:

Heather Freeman expressed concern about some wording in the Guidelines. She believes that some of the wording in the mammal section may be too broad or vague. For example, a person who is permitted to rehabilitate all rodents wants to add skunks. Currently, the person just needs to get a recommendation letter from a licensed rehabilitator acknowledging the person's experience. Is an apprenticeship required? The wording in the Guidelines should detail what experience is needed. Discussion followed. The DFW will send out another copy of the Guidelines and Ms. Freeman will work on some more details and discussed at the next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Motion to adjourn was made by Giselle Chazotte-Smisko and seconded by Tracy Leaver. Meeting adjourned at 11:01.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 24 at the Division of Fish & Wildlife's Northern Region Office at 10:30 a.m.