

Bloomfield Animal Shelter Board Sept 16, Meeting Minutes

MEETING DETAILS

Chairperson: Jenny Martin

Secretary: Tracy Toler-Phillips

Date: 9/16/2025

Time: 7PM EST

Location: ZOOM LINK

II. ROLL CALL.

PRESENT: Jessica Sobharam, Andrea Antola, Jennifer Martin, Sharon Estrow, Tracy Toler Phillips, Jaclyn Mendyk, Veronica Solano, Jennifer Martin, Tom Icolari
Council Liaison: Sarah Cruz

ABSENT: Gregory Hann

III. CALL TO ORDER.

Meeting Minutes: Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Recent Event Updates

Veritage Event: The committee discussed whether animals could attend future events. It was determined that animals could be present on a case-by-case basis, with final approval pending formal email confirmation. The idea of a potential dog parade was also mentioned.

Montclair Latina Fest: A discrepancy arose regarding participation in the Montclair Latino Heritage Celebration. Jess advocated for attending to provide information about the Bloomfield shelter, citing a desire to educate neighboring communities. Jaclyn and Thomas Icolari expressed opposition, stating that the committee's focus should remain on the towns it serves, particularly since other towns have their own shelters. Thomas Icolari further clarified that he was the one who denied the event due to the shelter's limited capacity to take on outside commitments. The committee agreed that future event requests must be formally submitted via email to avoid confusion.

Harvest Fest: Councilwoman Cruz confirmed the upcoming Harvest Fest on October 11th as an opportunity for the shelter. The shelter is seeking volunteers to staff the table.

Other Events: The possibility of an "AnimalPalooza" event was raised for future research.

Fundraising

The committee discussed ways to support the shelter financially. Jenny suggested a petition for sight line guards for the dogs. Jaclyn stated that the most effective way for the committee to help is through SOBAS (Support Our Bloomfield Animal Shelter), as their 501(c)(3) status is ideal for donations. Jaclyn also mentioned that the shelter would welcome donations specifically for the **construction of new outdoor dog runs**, a topic that has been discussed with SOBAS.

Public Relations

Jenny raised the issue of improving the shelter's public relations (PR). She suggested creating more videos of the dogs and doing more to integrate the shelter into the community to showcase its work. Councilwoman Cruz offered the use of town resources to assist Jaclyn's team, including the possibility of bringing animals to the TV34 studio. A PR plan in a shared Google Doc was proposed to allow for joint feedback and collaborative efforts.

Other Notes

Update from Council Liaison Sarah Cruz to follow up on the June 30 dog licensing ordinance and rabies waivers. Cruz says this matter was handled with the individual having issues but there was no change made to an ordinance. Tracy asked for clarification on moving forward with an ordinance change. Cruz claimed to have suggestions for an ordinance change from the Dept of Health. The suggestions were not shared with the committee at this meeting.

An email was read about a possible Animal Cruelty case at 100 Broughton Ave. Tracy read the resident email to the group about a concern that the dog is being left outside for hours, chained up and barking. Tracy inquires about an ordinance against dogs being left outside negligently. Tom Icolari stated that this was a neighbor dispute and that there would possibly be citations issued. Tracy asked what the ordinance is beyond a neighborhood dispute for leaving dogs outside, chained or roped up. The current ordinance was not reviewed in the meeting. Tracy suggested that we look at this ordinance in the future.

Shelter Updates

- The shelter has an upcoming appearance at the Nutley Fall Farmers Market.
- Volunteers are needed to take over the Harvest Fest table.
- A new position has been created: Melissa has been promoted to Animal Control Supervisor.
- A cat adoption event will be held on September 28th at the Civic Center, with CPAW joining the event.

Next Steps/To-Do List

- Research materials for the outdoor dog runs.
- A PR plan in a shared Google Doc was proposed to allow for joint feedback and collaborative efforts by Sept 26