

Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club

FEBRUARY 2013

2008-2013

Pet owners push for education component in Ridgewood

Thursday February 14, 2013, BY DARIUS AMOS, STAFF WRITER, The Ridgewood News

Ridgewood residents who own court-declared potentially dangerous dogs will be required to pay a \$700 licensing fee and be subject to monthly inspections by the village's health department and Tyco Animal Control.



MARION BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ridgewood resident Jeffrey Ball, president of the New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs, addresses the Village Council. But council members, who on Wednesday unanimously approved the much-publicized and scrutinized ordinance to establish the fee, said they will take advantage of offers received in recent weeks and push an educational aspect to supplement the new licensing structure.

"We're moving forward with the ordinance with the hope of not having to use it," Mayor Paul Aronsohn said. "Let's put our emphasis and focus on the educational component."

The Ridgewood governing body faced heavy opposition from pet owners and dog enthusiasts when it first introduced the idea of the \$700 fee last month. At the time, officials suggested the fee would be imposed to cover increased administrative costs that the health department incurs when a potentially dangerous dog is brought into the municipality.

Prior to Wednesday's meeting, Ridgewood did not have a local ordinance regulating fees for dangerous dogs, which are determined through the court system and not by identifying a specific canine breed. Current state statute suggests that individual towns charge a minimum licensing fee of \$150 for dangerous dogs. *Continue page 3*

Congratulations
to the following new members

Karin Roseman
124 Deer Valley Lane
Greenville, DE 19807

Janet Watson and Auburn Lyons
3278 State Route 2067
South Gibson, PA 18842

New Member
To be voted on at next meeting

Pamela and Eric Anderson
3 Colonial Way
Madison, New Jersey 07940

NNJGDC
NEWSLETTER

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President

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"Just raising a dangerous dog licensing fee does not correct the problem. It's putting a Band-Aid on a wound that's already open," argued Ridgewood resident Jeffrey Ball, president of the New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs. "Our goal needs to be to educate the public and then prevent these types of problems."

Since the ordinance's introduction in January, Ball has spent the following weeks working with village health officers and community animal groups to formalize an idea to create a new Responsible Pet Ownership Committee. The committee would be comprised of council members, town representatives, residents and other volunteers, all of whom would work toward educating pet owners and prospective owners.

"Ridgewood has always been known as the gold standard of education," Ball said. "We pride ourselves on education. Of all the towns around here, no town has this. Let's establish it, and let's be the gold standard."

"There are so many cases where families don't know where to turn to or how to turn to," he added. "A family might want a Great Dane, but when you take the time to educate them, they might realize ... that [it is] not a good dog for us. Too often, people go on the Internet, buy dogs and put themselves in situations where they don't know how to deal with it and dogs can then become dangerous."

Ball, who already volunteers to teach pet ownership education outside of Ridgewood, proposed to lead the formation and business of the new committee. The group, he said, would provide services at no charge to the village, with the exception of nominal fees in the event a classroom or use of an outdoor venue was required.

The idea has already won the support of many residents, area kennel clubs and business owners, some of whom vocally backed Ball at Wednesday's council meeting.

"I think not just with Ridgewood, but with the other towns, we can do some wonderful things by educating people," said Linda Hartheimer, an Upper Saddle River resident and American Kennel Club (AKC) legislative liaison from the Weimaraner Club of America. Hartheimer indicated that she has worked with Ball closely throughout the state and oversees the Weimaraner club's public education initiative.

"It's a wonderful thing for the community, and as a local person, it's something that is needed. I don't agree with raising the fees - there needs to be education. Education would go a long way in helping people understand and control their pets in a responsible manner," she added.

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Dorice Stancher, a Hawthorne resident and owner of Ridgewood's Canines Can Do, said she already works with village residents, both publicly and privately, on proper dog training. Stancher said on Wednesday that she would be available to work with Ball, offering presentations and "help any way possible."

The same support was given by Kim Luikert, an officer at the nearby Ramapo Kennel Club.

"The club would support the organization ... and we would be willing to volunteer to do anything that the committee asks of us," Luikert said.

Dawn Cetrulo, Ridgewood's health department supervisor, has been working with the community groups and volunteers to help set up the committee, which is still in its development stages. On Wednesday, she clarified several questions raised by council members.

According to Cetrulo, once a New Jersey court determines that a dog is potentially dangerous, the designation stays with the animal until it leaves the state. Currently, New York does not have a statute regulating these animals.

The \$700 licensing fee will be imposed on an annual basis and will cover administrative costs. State statute prohibits municipalities from using the fee to fund the monthly inspections, which include site visitations, property and dog evaluations and brief interviews with neighbors.

Council members encouraged the formation of the pet ownership committee and possibly extending it to include other common household pets such as cats, rabbits and birds, among others. Deputy Mayor Albert Pucciarelli even suggested that court officials attend education seminars.

"My expectation is that Judge [David] Pfund, if he's not already, will also be educated on what is a potentially dangerous dog so he understands that just because a dog bites someone doesn't mean it's a potentially dangerous dog," Pucciarelli said.

"This is going to be great for Ridgewood residents and the people in the whole area," added Aronsohn. "People can learn and benefit from our experience."

Email: amos@northjersey.com

Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club
Minutes from the January 16, 2013
Membership Meeting
Lombardi's Bar and Restaurant
94 Fairfield Road
Fairfield, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm By Jeffrey D. Ball.

Members in attendance (10):): Jeffrey Ball, Betsy Ball, David Litke, Kira Wright, Cathy Dlugosz, Diane Bocian, Mary Fran Cini, Ken Bocian, Carol Farro, Jack Keenan

I. Minutes- The meeting Minutes for November were approved on a motion by David and Second by Mary Fran. The Meeting minutes for December were approved by Mary Fran and Seconded by Cathy.

II. President- Jeffrey will send out info for anyone who may be interested in the events that are happening in and around Westminster in New York. The events are fundraisers for the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Angel on a Leash, and AKC Humane Fund.

III. Corresponding Secretary- No new report.

IV. Recording Secretary- No new Report

V. Treasurer- The books are with Diane and Cathy being reviewed. Sussex CART Check for Hurricane Sandy was returned to us due to an incorrect address. Jeffrey took the check to give to Sussex CART directly.

A copy of the missing American Red Cross check was found and handed over to Cathy.

VI. Committee Reports-

Memberships- There are three new memberships to vote on. Karin Roseman, Janet Watson, and Auburn Lyons. Membership voted on the applications and all votes were unanimous.

Match Show- No new report. Jeffrey reached out to Newton about a supported entry, waiting to hear back from them.

Rescue- There is an update on the fraud with the treasure from Mid Atlantic. The IRS was notified and a report has been filled with the IRS. The member found guilty of fraud has paid back a small out of the stolen money. It will take years before the case is closed.

There is a 1 ½ year old female Dane in a kennel who is in need of a home. She needs a foster with no dogs or a very strong understanding of dogs. She is deaf and very sweet.

There was a break for dinner at 8:05pm. The Meeting was resumed at 8:28pm.

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Website- The \$67 renewal fee for the website is up. A Motion to pay the bill was made, Mary Fran approved the notion and David seconded the notion. The vote was unanimous.

Therapy- Morris View Facility will be looked at next month due to a flu break out. Kessler in Saddle Brook is looking for more dogs to visit and enjoy having likes Great Danes. Lincoln Renaissance is also looking for dogs.

Fund Raising- I-give is at \$900 mark. We are almost at the \$1000 mark.

VII. Unfinished Business:

*National Specialty-

There was a new proposal for the national. They will have a VIP seating for ring side at the national. The price will be \$500 dollars for the VIP section. You will get a custom made chair that will be stocked everyday with soft drinks and VIP seating at the dinners. Info will be on the National Website for anyone who may be interested.

The National has called for another meeting on March 16th at 9am for updates on all events with national.

*There will be a Ballot in the next newsletter for the Judges of the 2014 Great Dane National. The Ballot is due March 1st. The 2014 National will be in Ohio.

*2013 Show calendars for the Federation are available for \$5.00 anyone who is interested please see Jeffrey.

VIII. New Business:

-Diane H has resigned from the board. The Board will review the info and choose a new board member next month.

- All Membership fees are now due.

- All donators to the Sandy fund were sent a letter of thank you and received a letter on what happen to the money and where it went. The Club did a great job on raising funds, thank you all.

There being no further business, Kira moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Carol and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kira A Wright

Kira A Wright

Recording Secretary

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB

PAST DUE!

Dear NNJGDC Member,

Dues for the coming year, 2013, are now due and payable by **December 31, 2012**.
Please make checks payable to the **Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club** and *mailed to:*
Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club

Diane Bocian
NNJGDC Treasurer
50 Mabie Street
Franklin, New Jersey 07416

_____ Junior Membership - \$10.00 (10-18 years old)

_____ Family Membership - \$40.00

_____ Regular Membership - \$25.00

*Please help us update our records. If there are any corrections or additions to your current listing in the roster, please make the changes below. **Please print:***

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____ Kennel Name: _____
Website: _____

Please return this entire form with your payment, thank you.

The **Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust** supports Great Dane welfare and rescue efforts, educational programs, Scholarship Programs for junior handlers, initiatives to create great awareness of breed-specific health problems and medical research efforts to improve the quality of life of the Great Dane.

For many of us, Great Danes are a significant source of love and comfort throughout our lives. We depend on them for their loyalty and companionship and they in turn, depend on us.

Through your support, the GDCA Trust will have the necessary resources to respond to calls for help in the most critical areas of concern...the health and welfare of the breed.

Whenever the call goes out that Great Danes are in need - the GDCA Charitable Trust intends to be there. **Please consider a donation to this Trust by checking below and adding that amount to your check**

_____ GDCA Charitable Trust Fund Amount \$ _____

DATES to REMEMBER

Membership meeting – Please note location!

February 20th, 2013

7:30 p.m.

The Fairfield Tavern is still under construction, so our meeting will be held down the road.
Same location as last month.

Lombardi's Bar and Restaurant

94 Fairfield Road

Fairfield NJ

<http://www.lombardisnj.com/>

**NNJGDC
11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

FIRST CLASS MAIL