Elkland looks at feral cat problem

By Donna Blend

Galeton — Cats are overwhelming the borough here and that topic was a prime concern during the June meeting.

A colony of an estimated 120 cats on River Street led to a lengthy discussion. Laura Clarson of the Tioga County Cat Project, formerly called the Elkland Cat Project, spoke to the council about her work to spay and neuter as many cats in the borough as possible.

Clarson said the group had spayed and neutered 153 cats in the borough since April 2019. No plan was put forth on how to handle the situation.

Former council member and resident, Aaron Smith, said he is concerned about the ongoing tocatology problem. "I really wanted to speak to the council about the feral tocatology problem," he said.

Cats have been known to spread the disease of infected cats, from mother to kitten. The TNR program has slowed the growth in Elkland, Clarson said. After some research, Smith said he has learned that feral cats reportedly caused the extinction of 6 species of songbirds worldwide. Toxoplasmosis is a parasite that can be spread by the feces of infected cats, from mother to kitten, and can cause neurological issues in domestic cats and from eating undercooked contaminated meats.

Regarding a cats on the streets resolution, Councilwoman Mike Weatherby questioned, "Where is this coming from? What was the last meeting about?"

Phyllis Mead, councilwoman for the past five years, said the issue of feral cats has been raised at every council meeting she has attended. "This is not a new issue. It’s been going on for years and we move it to the next meeting," she said.

As in previous meetings, no plan was put forth to deal with the issue. Council members plan to continue discussing the issue.

Galeton mayor Katherine Garrote and Galeton borough council president Sue Voss-Plummer encouraged residents to attend the Oct. 10 meeting, saying, "This is a way to share love, joy and beauty..."

By Donna LeSchander

Mayor Katherine Garrote and borough council president Joe Petrenski unveiled the rose garden on the north side of Main St. as a tribute to Dean. "This is a way to share love and joy with the others," said Greiner.

Deerfield supervisors look at roads

By Donna Blend

The Deerfield Township supervisors discussed road concerns during the June meeting. Chairman Doug Paule and a small group met with Larson Design Group on May 31 concerning the Grubb Road bridge, which was destroyed by flooding event of Troups Creek.

In the near future the bridge will be removed as the structure itself has been removed from the area. Potentially the bridge may not be replaced. Supervisor Doug Paule said the group reviewed topographical maps of Troups Creek and noted that the channel has changed course over the years.

The bridge damage prevents the town from performing winter maintenance on roads in the area.

Residents complained that they have to travel further to get where they want to go and mentioned gas prices. The Cook Hollow Road is also closed due to road damage.

Supervisors discussed a proposed fee increase by $0.044 per gallon of gasoline and diesel.

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