

DIFF Board Pares Down, Creates Committees

With the retirement of several DIFF members from the board of directors and the need for more dedicated areas of responsibility, board members at their March 15th meeting reduced their number to three and defined the responsibilities of newly formed committees.

The new board includes Executive Director Patty Domeshek, Secretary Roberta Gunderson, Treasurer Tom Hurley and Member Emeritus Fred Houle. Roberta has served as secretary since DIFF's founding in 2010, and plans to retire as soon as her replacement is found. Dale Martin accepted the full-time executive director position shortly after the board was formed and is now retiring and will serve as committee chair for Hospitality. She is also passing her newsletter and website responsibilities to Connie Brotzman. Tom Hurley continues as treasurer, a position he assumed in 2015. Also retiring from the board is Beverley Porter, who will chair a future fundraiser,.

Pat Ashton, who served as co- executive director with Dale, and Anne Clements, former board member, now head up the Community Cat Tracking committee. This function keeps DIFF advised on where all the cats are located and periodically receives reports on their health from their feeders. Ingrid Schweitzer, who briefly served as executive director prior to Patty, now heads up the committee for Volunteer Feeder Training. She has created instructions and schedules for all DIFF's community cats to insure they are all fed daily.

A future committee that will meet a growing need is that of Foster Care for kittens and, if needed, the mom cats. These are not the result of DIFF cat breeding, but rather, dumping on the island by transient visitors. A review of DIFF's Mission Statement includes ".....provide assistance to feral and free-ranging cats on Dataw Island, SC.... " with the end result of socializing the kittens and finding adoptive homes on the island if possible. If the mom cat is already socialized then we would try to find her a new home also. All cats would be checked by a vet, given vaccinations and spayed or neutered prior to being adopted or released.

For more information on DIFF and to read stories about our DIFF cats go to the Dataw Island Club website and click on Sports & Recreation. Then go to Clubs & Organizations and scroll down to DIFF Feline Foundation.