**AWAR Town Hall Meeting**

 **October 4th, 2022**

 **Annex Building- Rutherfordton**

Meeting called to order: 6pm per Paola Hayes with AWAR board in attendance

Numerous visitors were attending along with District Attorney Ted Bell

Agenda:

I. Introduction of AWAR Board members

II. Hanser Case update - new court date of 20 Oct. Mr. Bell gave us some info on seizures and the difference between the following:

1. Search warrant (therefore still the individual's property)
2. Civil seizure where the individual can post a bond or surrender the animals (as was done in this case).

III. Animal Control Investigator- Discussion regarding lack of an official animal control investigator

 with a badge and Paola highly recommended Debbie McLawhorn due to her experience as a

police officer making her the perfect candidate.

IV. Community flyer discussion- draft shared with group and plans to have it prepared and available

 for October 22nd PAWS event.

V. NC H1116, the Fiona Mae Wigglebottom's Act Discussion-

Suggestion per Paola to start an email/call/letter writing campaign to our next Representative, Jake Johnson, about the bill and urging him to get smart on the bill and when it comes into the House again, to vote for it (next session is early next year).

1. Paola will upload the bill to this page, as a file. We provided all present with Jake Johnson's contact information. It was recommended we come up with a suggested letter body to make it easy for people to copy.
2. Representative Jake Johnson, Republican - District 113
Legislative Office:
300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 306B1
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
919-715-4466

Mailing Address:
300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 306B1
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Main Phone:
919-715-4466

Email:
Jake.Johnson@ncleg.gov
3. Mr. Bell pointed out that the Act does not have a definition of "sustenance". So, I recommend we write to Rep Dahle's office (who submitted the bill and plans to do so again next session) and point this out to them. Maybe provide an appropriate suggested definition.

VI. Upcoming events for AWAR.

1. 22 Oct PAWS Event at Lake Lure- 10am-2pm

2. 4-6 Nov Animal Law Conference in Portland

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 8pm per Paola Hayes with further discussion and the purchase of 2 shirts and

 later received a donation.