



Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>

Fwd: concerned opinion regarding the coyotes

2 messages

Bill Chenard, <chenard@natickma.org>
To: Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>

Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 1:34 PM

William D. Chenard
Acting Town Administrator
[508-647-6404](tel:508-647-6404)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kathleen Hunt** <khunt76@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 1:27 PM
Subject: concerned opinion regarding the coyotes
To: chenard@natickma.org

Dear Mr. Chenard,

I was very disheartened when I read the Wicked Local article by Norman Miller about the town consulting specialists regarding coyotes in Natick. Please don't do this. Why is the first human response always to kill? How does killing the coyotes solve anything? There are coyotes all over the state. New ones will likely move into this territory. Are you just going to keep killing any coyote that steps into Natick?

We have forced coyotes into closer contact with us, and now our response to conflict is fear and killing? I am an animal lover, and I'm very sorry for the people that lost their dogs. It is a horrible way to lose a pet, and I genuinely feel for them. But if it had been my dog, I wouldn't want to kill a wild animal following its natural survival instincts. I would be asking myself how I could have prevented that and what I can do differently to protect my other pets. We have two cats that we keep indoors because we know there are potential predators in our area. We also have a large dog, unlikely to be considered prey for a coyote. But if she was small, I wouldn't put her outside alone, knowing there are coyotes around. Or I would consider putting up a fence, at least in a portion of the yard. Even with size on her side, I still wouldn't leave our dog outside alone if we didn't have a physical fence. I have seen so many small dogs outside, unattended in yards with invisible fences. But now you are going to make the coyotes pay the price for people taking that chance. The coyotes do not know that these small dogs and cats are beloved pets. To them they are a lifesaving meal.

Instead of calling in the hunters, why not hold a meeting to educate people instead. Bring in a wildlife expert who can explain that coyotes are not generally considered to be a threat to humans. Teach them about coyote behavior, the important role they play, and how they can keep their pets safe and avoid putting them in harms way.

One of the things I love most about living in south Natick is the wildlife I have the pleasure of seeing and hearing in my own backyard. I am incredibly upset and concerned about this action. I will not be proud to live in a town that reacts this way, and lights the way for other towns to follow suit. I will be truly sad if you silence the beautiful howl of the coyotes in Natick and the balance they bring to our ecosystem.

Katie Hunt
resident of South Natick

Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>
To: khunt76@gmail.com
Cc: "Bill Chenard," <chenard@natickma.org>

Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 1:43 PM

Ms. Hunt, thanks so much for writing in to express your concerns. This matter will be a topic of discussion at this evening's Selectmen's Meeting. I will put your email on the Selectmen's agenda for their review. They will certainly take all opinions into consideration.

[Quoted text hidden]