



Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>

coyote encounter

4 messages

Renee Man <benay410@hotmail.com>

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 8:02 PM

To: "Selectmen@natickma.org" <Selectmen@natickma.org>

Hello,

I recently had an encounter with a coyote. I will not be able to attend Monday night's meeting but I was told that if I sent an email to this address that my story could be entered into the record. I am sending this email as my testimony to my experience last Monday night, February 5th, at approximately 6:30pm. I was walking my dog through the Wethersfield neighborhood. My dog is a 65 pound pitbull and I walk her on a 6 foot leash. As we were walking on Westlake heading towards Route 27 a coyote came out from behind a house right about where Leighton meets Westlake on our right hand side. The coyote looked at us and came directly at us. It was looking particularly at my dog. I put my dog behind me to protect her. The coyote tried to circle around us to get behind me. I kept turning us so that I would not lose eye contact with the coyote. I yelled and waved my arms. The coyote would flinch and then approach again. It came within 8-10 feet of us. I yelled louder and louder and I waved my one free arm as wildly as I could manage. Finally, the coyote gave up and ran up Leighton. In the moment I was much too physically engaged in protecting my dog and much too frightened to make a phone call so I walked quickly back home. The coyote never touched us and my only injury was a sprained wrist from wrangling my dog to keep her behind me and away from the coyote. She is not usually timid but she was very apprehensive about this coyote.

I am now terrified every single night while walking my dog. I do have a whistle now but I worry it wouldn't be enough, particularly if there were more than one coyote approaching at a time. I have walked my dogs for years and have seen coyotes and even had them walk right by me but in those cases they barely even gave me a second look. They were minding their business and I was minding mine. This coyote was different. This one was not afraid of me and it was not afraid of my large dog. I am happy to coexist with coyotes who are afraid of humans but I am hoping something can be done about the ones who are this brazen and who seem to lack a fear of humans.

Thank you so much for reading my story and for your attention to this matter.

Renee Man
Natick, MA

Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>

Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 10:58 AM

To: Renee Man <benay410@hotmail.com>

Cc: "Selectmen@natickma.org" <Selectmen@natickma.org>

Ms. Man, thank you for writing in about your experience. This topic is on the Board of Selectmen's agenda for discussion this evening and they will be taking your concerns into consideration.

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