

Annual Meeting 2009: Almost Home

The membership of the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society gathered on Sunday, May 17th, to hold the Annual Meeting for 2009. This year's meeting had special significance for those who gathered on that rainy afternoon: this was the first Annual Meeting to be held in the new Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society Shelter at 6722 Sutton Road in Gloucester.

At the Annual Meeting of the GMHS, members reviewed the highlights and progress of the year passed, discussed plans for the year ahead, and elected new members to the Board of Directors. This year's meeting focused on the construction progress of the new shelter facility, with tours provided for meeting attendees by members of the Building Committee and other volunteers. Ralph Jackson, Building Committee Chair and retiring Director, gave an overview of the status of the new shelter and recognized construction superintendent Jerry Lapham of David Nice Builders for his extraordinary dedication to the construction of our shelter.

Director Cheryl Dame spoke about the time capsule, donated by David Bristow and Hogg Funeral Home, that will be buried at the new shelter site and invited the community to bring photos and other items to be included.

Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign, Peggy Bowditch and Cam Williams, made a presentation to the membership about the current status of our fundraising for the construction of the new shelter. It's critical to raise the remaining funds required to allow us to move into the new shelter mortgage-free, so that future funding can be directed towards animal care, rehabilitation and education. Inscribed bricks in our Walk of Honor at the new facility are still available, and are a wonderful way to honor a beloved person or pet in your life while helping to complete our commitment.

The GMHS anticipates that we will be moving into our new home close to July 1. We have come so far in recent years to bring new hope and new beginnings to the homeless pets of our community, and we look forward to celebrating the wonderful gift of a new shelter very soon with the many people and organizations that are making it possible.