



OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK

Selectboard Special Meeting - Unofficial Minutes Dog Incident Hearing 9/21/2023

Selectboard Members Present: Bill Mathis, Thomasina Magoon

Selectboard Members Absent: Tammy Walsh

Public Present: Janice Gould, Shawn Martin, Dave Sabatini, Bob West, Ken Brown, Ariel Martin, Michael Mahoney

Mathis opens the meeting. Janice Gould reports that on August 27, 2023 the dog bite incident occurred between Nathan Clark and Shawn Martin's dog, Roxie, at the property of Jerry Fielder where the dog was being kept while Martin was away. Clark was approached by the dog in an aggressive manner and was told to calmly speak to it by Fielder, which Clark did. When Clark turned to return to his truck he was bitten by the dog, unprovoked, on the back of his leg. Clark went to the hospital on August 28, 2023 for treatment of an infection from the dog bite wound. Gould states that Martin had purchased an electric dog collar with an area of reach perimeter to restrain the dog at his property after a previous dog bite and that it was working well. However, due to the lack of clarification from Fielder, it is unclear whether the collar was being used or employed correctly during the Clark incident. Martin states that when he returned to retrieve his dog from Fielder the electric collar was found on the vibrate setting rather than on the intended shock setting. Additionally, Martin reports that he spoke with Fielder and that the area of reach had been expanded as well by Fielder. Discussion ensued.

Gould requests from Martin what else can be done to prevent this from happening again. Martin states that his dog is being fixed next month. Magoon requests a different measure to secure the dog so that a third incident cannot occur, such as a fenced in area. Michael Mahoney states that they have a fenced area that they could use. Discussion ensues between Martin and Sabatini regarding the viability of an electric collar preventing future dog bites. Mahoney states that they are amenable to modifying the fenced area, made of wire mesh and buried, that they own to make it safe for the dog if that is what is asked of them by the town.

Mahoney states that he will begin working on repairing the caged area this week. Sabatini recommends using a muzzle while the dog is being walked on leash. Mahoney states that he will purchase a harness and muzzle for the dog.

Magoon makes the motion that the fenced in area at the Martin's residence must be completed within two weeks, 10/5/23 deadline, and that during these two weeks Martin's dog, Roxie, is to be kept inside and when outside is to be on leash with a harness and a muzzle. After completion of the fenced in area the dog is no longer required to wear the muzzle but is to be kept on leash while outside or kept within the fenced in area.

Mathis seconds, and the motion passes. The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Martin Fjeld
Town Clerk of Goshen