**Minutes of Vicious Dog Hearing of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**July 6, 2016**

These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted)

at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.

The Whitingham Selectboard held a vicious dog hearing on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 7:15pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; Members, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer; Lacey Colmore, resident/bite victim; June Tool, owner/keeper of dog; John Kelly, Town of Readsboro Health Officer; and Ray White.

**Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.**

Chair, Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**Vicious Dog Hearing**

Pursuant to Title 20, Section 3546 of Vermont law the Selectboard held a vicious dog hearing. Chair, Keith Bronson opening the hearing at 7:15pm by reading the warning/notice of hearing.

Keith Bronson read Lacey Colmore’s complaint.

Lacey Colemore, bite victim, swore the following oath:

*I hereby solemnly swear that the evidence I give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*

Lacey Colmore then testified that she feels Autumn is a very dangerous dog. She is adamant that Autumn should never be unleashed in the Town of Whitingham.

Keith Bronson read June Tool’s response to complaint. June Tool verbally confirmed all that was read.

Gig Zboray confirmed that Dr. Tobits report indicates a dog bite was cleansed and stitched.

**Allan Twitchell made a motion to send a letter to Deerfield Valley News that all dogs must be leashed in the Town of Whitingham, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

June Tool confirmed that she kept Autumn confined to her property for a period of ten days at Whitingham Health Officer’s recommendation.

The Selectboard found that Autumn was not on a leash at the time of the incident nor was she under the owner’s control.

The Selectboard found that Autumn was “running at large” which is a violation of the Whitingham Animal Control Ordinance (Section 4-2) which is defined as “not on the premises of the owner or the property of another with that person’s permission and not restrained or under the direct verbal or non-verbal control of the owner; not hunting with the owner; or in a vehicle” (Section 3-7 Whitingham Domestic Pet/Animal Control Ordinance). The fine for first offense running at large is $50. **A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to order Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer, to issue the ticket to June Tool, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

The Selectboard ordered that the domestic pet named Autumn, owned by June Tool is to be kept under the owners control on a leash at all times while within the Town of Whitingham. Failure to comply fully with the conditions set forth in this order shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Title 20 Section 3550. If Autumn is found unleashed at Lake Whitingham again TransCanada is willing to issue a no trespass order against June Tool.

**Adjourn**

The hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray