



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2024 Vicious Dog Hearing

These Minutes are considered a DRAFT until 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, May 15, 2024, at 6:00pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; Greg Brown, Craig Hammer, and Travis Wheeler.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrator; Kristine Sweeter, Librarian; Sherry Adams; Doug & Laurie Dix; Jim and Ashley Boyce; Seth Boyd.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. 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. Scott M. Reed opened the hearing at 6:01pm by requesting permission to dispense with reading the warning/notice of hearing.

Scott M. Reed asked for permission to dispense with reading aloud all the written complaints.

Jim and Ashley Boyce complained that two vicious dogs owned by Bradley Boyd and Brianna O'Hearn attacked and killed their pet goat while it was on the Boyce's private property in a goat pen. The dog owners offered no apology nor compensation for their loss.

One dog was immediately put down by Mr. Boyd. The other dog is still on their property. The dog owners don't follow any of the other dog rules such as licensing, preventing running at large, inoculations, etc. The board feels they could not trust the dog owners to follow any safety orders that might come out of this hearing.

Mr. Dix noted that his horse is laid up for 9-12 months due to injuries received while being chased by one of the dogs.

The neighbors feel terrorized, they feel unsafe outdoors, many have children/grandchildren that they are worried about.

The board questioned if we can we get a court order that the owner's cannot own a dog in the Town of Whitingham. Gig will check with the town attorney.

On another topic, Mr. Dix questioned the legitimacy of a "farm dog" on a quarter acre of land.

Ms. Adams questioned restitution for the lost goat, that is a civil issue.

A motion was made by James Weber to end the public hearing and to enter public deliberative session, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to order the dog to be humanely euthanized as soon as possible but not later than 10 days following the issuance of the Protective Order. Euthanization can be done by owner/keeper or a veterinarian (dog owner/keeper pays the bill), the Town of Whitingham Animal Control Officer must verify, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

A motion was made by Greg Brown to investigate banning the two defenders from dog ownership within the Town of Whitingham, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

The board would like further information about "farm dog" and how strong our ordinance can be.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by James Weber, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor.

Deliberative session concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray