



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2022
POTENTIALLY VICIOUS DOG HEARING**

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 potentially vicious dog hearing on Wednesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:00pm in the Whitingham Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Scott M. Reed; Vice Chair, James Weber; and members, Greg Brown, and Chris Walling.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Senecal, Genevieve Senecal, Tiffany and Ian Sausville; Tyler Lederer DV News.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Scott M. Reed called the hearing 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 potentially vicious dog hearing. Chair, Scott M. Reed opened the hearing at 6:01pm by reading the warning/notice of hearing.

Jennifer Senecal and Tiffany Sausville took the oath.

Ms. Senecal testified that a dog owned by the Sausville's, named Joe, ran onto their property and attacked their dog. Daughter Genevieve received a bloody finger while trying to break up the fight. Their dog's tail was nearly bit off. Genevieve washed and bandaged the injury. Their dog was not brought to the vet.

Ms. Sausville testified that they had already offered to cover any vet or doctor bills. She admits to a history between the two dogs, and they take full accountability, but the incident did not start on the Senecal's property. Ms. Sausville was walking with her son and realized Joe had gotten loose. The Senecals were out in the road, Joe was in his own driveway and saw the Senecals coming towards them, ran and attacked in the road. Neither dog was on a leash.

Mr. Hollister confirmed that the original story told to him was that the incident began in the road and concluded in the Senecal's yard.

Dan Hollister noted that Joe is not current with his rabies vaccination, nor is he registered with the town. The Sausvilles adopted the dog 3 years ago. Joe did have a rabies vaccine, but it expired in 2020 then the pandemic hit and they had a baby. Mr. Hollister immediately ordered Joe to be quarantined for 10 days.

The Sausvilles and Mr. Hollister already discussed possible remedies when the incident was reported to him.

A motion was made into to go into Deliberative Session by Greg Brown, seconded by James Weber, to include Dan Hollister and Gig Zboray, all in favor.

After deliberation the Selectboard exited Deliberative Session, the Sausvilles were invited back into the room; the Senecals had left the premises.

Based on the foregoing facts and circumstances, and pursuant to 20 V.S.A. §3546(c), the Selectboard orders that the domestic pet named Joe and owned by Tiffany and Ian Sausville is to be kept on a leash, muzzled and under the owner/keeper's control at all times when off their property within the borders of the Town of Whitingham. That when Joe is out on a line on his owner's property that he use a harness to prevent him from pulling out of a collar. That Joe remain in quarantine until the end of the 10-day rabies control period, as ordered by the Animal Control Officer. That Joe be vaccinated against rabies on April 1st as Tiffany Sausville testified that she has an appointment on that date. That Joe be registered with the Town on April 2nd, 2022.

It was noted that although the two neighbors have had other incidents with the two dogs fighting, this incident is a first offense with the Selectboard, and the board has chosen to wave fines. If there is a second offense those fines will be instituted.

The Selectboard recommended that Mr. and Mrs. Sausville complete a responsible dog owner class for their own benefit.

Failure to comply fully with the conditions set forth in this order shall subject the owner/keeper to the penalties provided for in Title 20 Section 3550 of the Vermont Statutes.

The Senecals will also be sent a letter of warning about their dog running at large.

Failure to comply fully with the conditions set forth above shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Title 20 Section 3550 and could result in an order to destroy the animal.

Adjourn

The hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray