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Animal Control Advisory Board  
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Lawrence Memorial Hall  
2 Jabish Street, P.O. Box 670  
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007

Date: February 27, 2012

Time: Meeting Convened 6:07 pm

Meeting Adjourned 8:12 pm

Place: Town Hall, Auditorium



Present:

- Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer, Town of Belchertown
- Nicole Miner, Secretary
- Sonya Hawkins, Board Member
- Audrey Safford, Board Member
- Carol Wagner, Board Member
- Glenn & Linda Chartier, 12 Chartier Drive

Not Present:

- Irene Spring, Board Member
- Brian Breveleri, Board Member
- Steve & Sandy Roy, 237 Bay Road

First order of business to hear the complaint of Chartier against Roy for excessive barking by Roy's three Boston Terriers, Cocoa, Molly, and Ginger (C/M/G). This is a re-scheduled hearing because Chartier claims to have not been notified of the first meeting on December 21, 2011 in which the matter was dismissed due to Chartier's failure to appear. Due to circumstances surrounding the resignation of Chair Wellman, Miner agreed to allow for a second hearing.

The original statements of Roy from December 21, 2011 are as follows:

*Second order of business to hear the complaint of Glen and Linda Chartier against Steven and Sandy Roy for excessive barking of Chartier's three Boston terriers. The complainants Glen and Linda Chartier are not present. Fenton indicated that Wellman notified both parties. Steven Roy indicated that he was missing work for this meeting and would not come again. Safford asked the Roys to present their side of the complaint. Mr. Roy stated that when he lets the dogs out he waits by the window waiting for them to come in. Mr. Roy stated that sometimes the dogs will bark, but if they are acknowledged they will stop barking, but that the Chartier's do not acknowledge the dogs. Mr. Roy*

*stated that on one occasion Glen Chartier was blowing his leaves toward the dogs and they started barking. He stated that in 27 years of living on the property he has never received a complaint. Mr. Roy said he would look into collars for the dogs. Mrs. Roy stated that Mr. Chartier does things to make the dogs purposefully bark (i.e. kicking a ball near the fence). Mr. Roy also stated that the Chartiers are building a garage in their back yard and strangers are on the property. Mr. Roy stated that he feels that the dogs are being protective. Miner stated that the Chartier's failure to attend the meeting was grounds for dismissal. Miner told the Roys that their statements would be considered if the Chartier's wanted to reschedule the meeting. Miner dismissed the case.*

Chartier stated that (C/M/G) are left outside to bark for excessive amounts of time. Chartier stated that C/M/G will bark directly at them when they go to their mailbox. Chartier directly disputed that he is not building a garage on his property. Recently dated photos were provided to support this dispute. Chartier denied having kicked a ball or blown leaves in the direction of C/M/G. Chartier stated that in the summer, if their windows are open and the TV is on, C/M/G will bark due to the noise of the TV.

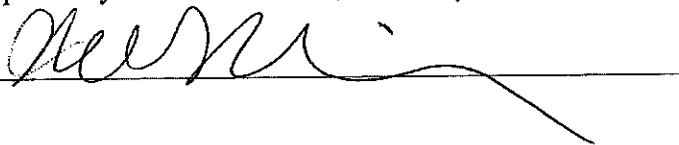
The Board decided that it would require Cocoa, the most vocal of the dogs, to be fitted with an electronic bark collar effective immediately. Miner suggested to Chartier that the names of the dogs be learned and that the dogs be acknowledged as much as possible when they are barking.

Second order of business to review letters of interest for the new ACAB member. One letter was received from Carol Kasabian of 2 Amherst Road. The Board acknowledged that Kasabian had extensive experience in pet ownership and breeding but that the addition of a non-pet owner would be important to creating a well-rounded and diverse Board. The Board agreed to submit Ms. Kasabian's letter of interest back to the Selectman with a recommendation of appointment, but that the posting for a member be extended with emphasis on the need for a non-pet owner.

Third order of business to appoint a new Chair. Safford motioned to appoint Miner. Wagner seconded. Miner appointed new Chair. Miner asked the group if there was interest in her current position of Secretary. The group did not express an interest. Miner indicated that she would accept both positions, but if the workload became too much, she would request another person be appointed to one of the positions.

No subsequent meeting was scheduled. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Prepared by Nicole A. Miner, Secretary & Chair



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**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
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**Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007**



January 5, 2012

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Roy  
237 Bay Road  
Belchertown, MA 01007

Complainant: Glen & Linda Chartier, 12 Chartier Drive, Belchertown, MA 01007  
Animal Owner: Steven & Sandy Roy, 237 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA 01007  
Hearing Date: February 27, 2012  
Subject: Written decision of hearing

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Roy:

Pursuant to the above-identified matter, the Animal Control Advisory Board has made the following decision:

Effective **immediately**, Cocoa must be fitted with an electronic bark collar to prevent her excessive barking and that of your other dogs. Such a collar can be purchased at Tractor Supply, Petco, Dave's, etc.

A recommendation has been made to the Chartier family that they learn the names of your dogs, Cocoa, Ginger, and Molly and that they should acknowledge the dogs as much as possible, but specifically when they are barking.

Anna Fenton will follow-up within in the next two weeks to verify that you are in compliance with this decision.

Pursuant to the by-laws of the Town of Belchertown, sections 15-12, paragraph D, all parties have the right to appeal this decision to the Board of Selectman within ten (10) days of the postmark of this decision. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Nicole Miner, Chair  
Animal Control Advisory Board  
(413) 345-1021

Cc: Glenn & Linda Chartier; Office of the Clerk; Office of the Selectman; Anna Fenton, ACO

