



Animal Control Advisory Board
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

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

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 2018
Room 104, Lawrence Memorial Hall

Present: Board Members: Nicole Miner, Brian Breveleri, Audrey Safford, Carol Kasabian, and Chrystal Greenleaf
Non Board Members: Anna Fenton

- 1) Call to Order:** Chairman Miner called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.
- 2) First Order of Business:** Review of the complaint of resident Amy Sullivan, who owns a horse farm at 26 South Street, regarding 3 canines (pit bulls) belonging to Joshua Patraw, residing at 21 South Liberty Street.

Complaints against Patraw:

May 8, 2017; Running at Large; Fine of \$20.00

May 9, 2017; Running at Large; Fine of \$20.00

January 22, 2018; Running at Large x 2; Worrying of livestock x 2; Failure to license x 3; and Untagged x 3; Fine of \$255.00

Mr. Patraw, nor Ms. Sullivan were present. Anna Fenton spoke to Mr. Patraw on the telephone prior to the meeting commencing to see if he would be attending. He said he would not be there because he just got the Notice of Hearing letter that day. In response to not having his canines licensed, he said that he "just didn't have the time".

ACAB reviewed all documents supplied by Anna Fenton, including the formal complaint by Amy Sullivan dated 2Feb18, a personal statement from Anna Fenton of the events that occurred on 2Feb18, and the three fines as indicated above.

Fenton stated that Patraw has a court hearing for the fines on Friday March 16th.

ACAB made a unanimous decision to give Patraw seven (7) days to have all fines paid in full and licensure of all dogs belonging to him brought current. ACAB decided that failure to satisfy these requirements would hopefully be addressed at the court hearing, but that if any of Patraw's canines were caught RAL again, the Board would pursue the actions in the Belchertown Bylaws Chapter 15, §14(F), specifically, impoundment. If after seven (7) days of impoundment, fines and licensure are not current, the Board would reserve the right to follow out the consequences of adoption, transfer to shelter or euthanization.

- 3) Second Order of Business:** Motion by Miner to recommend the Board of Selectmen dismiss Angela Gaj as a member of ACAB due to failure to participate.

Miner noted that Gaj was appointed by the Selectman in 2015 and has never attended a meeting. Miner reached out to Gaj by telephone back in 2015 to welcome her and advised her that all communications would be held via email so as to maintain a complete paper trail. Miner indicated that Ms. Gaj provided her an email of barkingbubbles52@gmail.com. Ms. Gaj was included in all ACAB member communications as her email was part of a distribution group with all ACAB members included. Miner noted that when she sent an email to all members of today's hearing, and one of the agenda items being the motion to dismiss Gaj, Ms. Gaj immediately contacted Miner complaining that she never received any communications.


Miner asked Fenton who notified Gaj of the motion if emails were not being received, and Fenton responded that the Clerk had done so and that was why Ms. Gaj was not present at this evening's meeting. Miner responded that earlier that day, the Clerk emailed her to confirm that Ms. Gaj came to Town Hall to be sworn in (3 years late) and that she was not up to date on her 2018 ethics requirements, but that she would be attending this evening's meeting.

Fenton indicated to Miner that there were other members on the Board who were also sworn in late that same day. Miner responded that she was aware that Brian Breveleri was sworn in late, but that his commitment to the Board and near perfect attendance record was of most importance.

All members indicated their agreement that Gaj should be removed as a member because there was an overwhelming need for additional members who participate.

Miner officially motioned to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman to dismiss Angela Gaj. Motion seconded by Breveleri, Safford and Greenleaf.

4) Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Minutes submitted by Nicole A. Miner, Chair 

Board approved/endorsed: _____

Endorsed by:

Jim Luippold, Secretary

Brian Breveleri

Audrey Safford

Carol Kasabian

Chrystal Greenleaf