



Animal Control Advisory Board
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

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

Date: April 14, 2015

Time: Meeting Convened 6:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned 6:42 pm

Place: Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Present:

Nicole Miner, Chairperson & Secretary
Carol Kasabian, Board Member
Audrey Stafford, Board Member
Carol Wagner, Board Member
Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer
Janet Lipscomb, Animal Control Officer
Caroline Hill, 445 East Street

Meeting convenes at 6:00pm.

First order of business to hear the complaint submitted by ACO Fenton against Hill for multiple documented incidents of her Brittany Spaniel, Sophie, running at large (RAL) beginning in February 2015. There are a total of three (3) recorded incidents. \$75.00 in fines have been assessed and nothing has been paid prior to today.

Hill admits that Sophie does run at large into the neighbor's yard because she is attracted by the food that the neighbor leaves out for feral cats. Fenton states that there is a problem in the area of the Swift River with regard to feral cats and over-breeding because people "dump their unwanted kittens" at the boat ramps on the Swift River. A neighbor of Ms. Hill leaves food out for the cats. Hill stated that the cats roam her property and urinate on her belongings. She brought a stroller to the meeting and the Board confirmed that it smelled of urine.

Miner inquired with Fenton if the actions of the neighbor feeding the cats were legal. Fenton indicated that it was and that the neighbor has been helpful in assisting the ACO to capture, spay/neuter, and release the cats. Hill requested that the ACO stop releasing the captured cats back into the area, but Fenton indicated that under the law, wherever the animal is captured from is where it must be released to.

Ms. Hill indicated that she will be purchasing an electric fence to contain Sophie and will install it when the ground thaws. Ms. Hill also indicated that she will pay the fines of \$75.00, which were enforced by the Board.

Second order of business to hear the complaint submitted by ACO Anna Fenton against Alexandra Dick of 95 George Hannum Road, Apt 6, for multiple incidents of her pit bull, Kilo, for running at large (RAL) beginning in June of January 2015. There are a total of 3 recorded incidents and no fines have been assessed.

Dick did not appear to the hearing. Miner contacted her by phone several times at the start of the meeting and was sent into voicemail.

Fenton and Lipscomb have witnessed Kilo on several occasions RAL through Dana Woods. They stated that residents have made several complaints because when Kilo is approached, he growls. Fenton has spoken to Dick once and she indicated that Kilo escapes when the door to the home is opened. Fenton indicated that there is a relative living in the home who is disabled and receives nursing care throughout the day, which creates foot traffic in and out of the home.

The Board has ruled that a restraining order be issued and be hand delivered with the accompaniment of a Blechertown police officer as a witness. Kilo must wear a muzzle anytime he is outside of his home. Kilo must be crated anytime someone is entering or leaving the home. Fenton has offered to neuter Kilo and provide Dick with a crate, all free of charge.

Third order of business. The Board accepts the resignation letter of member Carol Wagner (enclosed).

No subsequent meeting is scheduled. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Prepared by Nicole A. Miner, Secretary & Chair


