



Animal Control Advisory Board
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

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

Date: September 16, 2015
Time: Meeting Convened 7:07 pm
Meeting Adjourned 8:14 pm
Place: Town Hall, Auditorium

Present:

Brian Breveleri, Board Member
Chrystal Greenleaf, Board Member
Carol Kasabian, Board Member
Jim Luippold, Board Member
Nicole Miner, Chairperson & Secretary
Audrey Safford, Board Member
Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer
Janet Lipscomb, Animal Control Officer
Amy Martin, Dog owner

Meeting convenes at 7:07 pm with an official quorum.

First order of business to hear the complaint submitted by Belchertown Animal Control against Amy Martin of 15 South Street for running at large of Martin's German Shepard, Toby.

Miner reads through all documentation provided by Animal Control, including:

04/15/15: Citation for \$10 for 1st offense of RAL and \$30 for failure to license.
07/23/15: Citation for \$115 for 2nd offense of RAL, pickup, impoundment, and failure to tag.
08/25/15: Citation for \$30 for 3rd offense of RAL.

Miner asks Fenton if all fines have been paid and Fenton confirms that they have been paid and no balance is due.

Miner states that she inquired and confirmed with the Clerk's office on September 2, 2015 that Toby was licensed and up to date on rabies vaccination.

Martin is present and states that she is not the owner of Toby. Martin states that the owner is Allen McLaughlin, the father of her children, and that Toby resides in her home at 15 South Street when the children are home.

Miner asks Martin if she refutes any of the filed reports that indicate Toby running at large on multiple occasions between April 15 – August 25, 2015. Martin states she was not home on any of the occasions in which Toby was found RAL. Martin states that when her children leave the yard, Toby follows. Martin states that the children order Toby to go back home and he generally obeys. Martin states that Toby can be difficult to control even when in the house, providing an example that he “tore through three screens this summer to get out of the house”.

Fenton states that on the second offense, Toby was found on Michael Sears Road, more than two miles from his home. Fenton states that Toby is not “savvy” to traffic and she is concerned he will be hit. Martin states that on the day of the second offense, Fenton, came “speeding” up her driveway, and “pounded” on her front door, and “rudely and unprofessionally” stated that Toby was at the pound. Fenton stated that she was very upset during this encounter because she Toby “could have been killed”. Breveleri stated that Fenton is extremely professional and that her response to the situation was warranted.

Fenton states that she has reports that Toby growls at passers-by on the property.

Miner asks Martin if she open to installing an electric fence for Toby. Martin states she is open to this idea. Breveleri states that even if a fence were installed on half the property, it would be sufficient.

Miner asks Martin to leave the room while the Board discusses a resolution.

The Board reaches a consensus that Ms. Martin must install a perimeter fence that can be purchased at Tractor Supply or a cable run no later than September 23, 2015. Or if Ms. Martin wants to have a fence (structure or electronic) installed, it must be completed by October 16, 2015. The Board states that failure to comply with the offered resolutions will result in further impoundment at the cost of Martin until a fence is installed.

Second order of business brought by Fenton regarding owner Christian Airoidi of 33 Mill Valley Road, for multiple occasions of running at large of his two pitbulls. Fenton stated that on one occasion one of the dogs tore through a screen on the second floor of the home and fell out the window sustaining injuries. Airoidi told Fenton that the dog was treated at Mill Valley Vet, but calls to their office indicate that there was no treatment. Miner calls for a hearing for September 29th and will get back to the board with details.

Third order of business brought by Miner requesting that another member of the Board assist with meeting minutes. Luippold offers to do meeting minutes going forward.

Prepared by Nicole A. Miner, Secretary & Chair 09/20/2015