

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD POTENTIALLY VICIOUS DOG HEARING
October 2, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Christopher Warren, Carol Fachini and Michael Denault.

Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Joshua Little, Dog Owner
Daniel J. Potvin, Complainant
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.
David R. Tatro, Visitor.

Nancy Bushika, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance. The complaint was read and the oath was administered to Dan Potvin, Joshua Little and Luke McKay.

Dan Potvin said he has to deal with dogs a lot as a runner, but he's never had a situation where the owner was outside and didn't try to call the dog back or restrain the dog. He questioned Mike Denault as a former police officer, if the owner could be viewed as using the dog as a weapon against him since he made no effort to stop the dog. Mike Denault did not feel he could answer the question since he has never been an officer in Vermont.

Luke McKay stated that he received notice from the North Adams emergency room in May 2019 that the dog had bit a family member. When he followed up with Mr. Little, he was told that the dog was a puppy and the incident occurred when playing with the dog and it was not vicious. Nancy Bushika recalled that Mr. Little was very cooperative and the dog was vaccinated and licensed with the town right away.

Mr. Little did not dispute the incident. He said his dog has not been out unrestrained since he received a copy of the complaint and the hearing notice.

Carol Fachini doesn't want to see any dog bite a child. She said when her dog get loose she calls him back and makes him mind. She has had trouble in the past with dogs that bark when she is riding her horse and the owners don't step in and try to control their dog.

Mr. Little said the dog is still young and is interested in bicycles and runners. He ran right through an invisible fence. He has a training collar which has worked well but he could not get to the button fast enough when this incident occurred. He installed a couple of runs now for when the dog is outside.

Nancy Bushika said it sounds like Mr. Little is really trying to cooperate and hopes this will be the only time. The board did not feel they needed to enter deliberative session. To summarize, Mr. Little will utilize the runner or otherwise ensure that his dog remains on his property and use a leash when walking the dog off the property. Dan Potvin was agreeable with this outcome.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk