

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 2021

Members present; Sean Sargeant, Dr. Luther Brown, and Carrie Savage. Also present, Attorney Matt Bloomer, ACO Jones, Deputy City Clerk Kapusta, Teresa Sheehan, Daniel Reed and Katie Langlois.

Chair Sargeant called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM and noted that the Board was asked to hear a vicious dog complaint from ACO Jones who investigated the incident with a dog named Juno, owned by Teresa Sheehan (respondent) and handler Daniel Reed (respondent) and Katie Langlois (complainant). Deputy Clerk Kapusta confirmed that notices were sent by Certified Mail with tracking, that both Ms. Sheehan and Mr. Reed received the notices on October 16, 2021. Notice to Katie Langlois was hand delivered on October 12, 2021. Chair Sargeant introduced all members and participants present. Chair Sargeant asked if there were any conflicts or ex-parte communications from the Board. Seeing none, Chair Sargeant asked Deputy Clerk Kapusta to swear in anyone giving testimony or evidence. ACO Jones, Ms. Sheehan, Mr. Reed and Ms. Langlois were sworn in.

ACO Jones read the Vicious Dog Complaint form and brief history of the attack that occurred at 34 Church Street on September 23, 2021. ACO Jones presented evidence including medical report, ticket, and police report. ACO Jones presented his evidence and reviewed the documents prior to submitting them to the Chair. ACO Jones had called All Points Animal Care and found out the Juno had been given a one year rabies vaccination in February 2020 that expired in February 2021. The dog was not given another rabies vaccination until October 7, 2021. Chair Sargeant noted the documents and placed them into evidence.

Ms. Langlois was asked to comment on the incident and gave verbal testimony of the incident. Ms. Langlois was walking to work on the sidewalk listening to her headphones, she did not break stride when Juno, who was on a leash, came out the door with Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed did not have control of Juno, as the dog ran to Ms. Langlois on the sidewalk. Ms. Langlois was injured in the attack as she tried to protect herself from the dog jumping on her. Ms. Langlois' hand was bitten by Juno and bleeding. She went to the emergency room where her wound was cleaned and wrapped in medical tape. Juno was not up to date on her rabies vaccination and as a result Ms. Langlois had to receive a series of rabies shots. Ms. Langlois did not provoke the dog and stated that the day before when she was walking to work, Juno was already outside and ran to her on the sidewalk as she walked and jumped on her dirtying her pants. Ms. Langlois submitted medical bills and were put into evidence.

Mr. Reed and Ms. Sheehan were asked to comment on the incident and gave verbal testimony of the incident. Mr. Reed stated that he was walking Juno and that Ms. Langlois had pet the dog before and that Juno did not bite her but nipped her.

There was brief Q & A with Mr. Reed, Ms. Sheehan, Ms. Langlois and Board.

At this point, Chair Sargeant offered all evidence presented, to Deputy Clerk Kapusta.

With no further questions from the Board, testimony or evidence from either party, the Board concluded the open meeting session at 5:59 PM.

At 6:02 PM the Board moved into deliberative session. At 6:25 PM the Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy L. Kapusta
Rutland City Deputy Clerk
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Animal Control