

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Thursday, May 23, 2024

Members present: Pat Brougham, Peg Flory, Alis Headlam, and Henry Heck. Also present, Interim Animal Control Officer Sergeant Williams, Attorney LaChance, and Clerk Kapusta.

Also in attendance: Margaret Burnor.

Absent: Carrie Savage.

Chair Brougham called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM and noted that the Board was asked to hear a Concerning Canine complaint from Sergeant Williams, Interim Animal Control Officer, who investigated an incident that occurred on April 13, 2024, with a dog named Milley owned by Matthew Trombley (respondent) and Margaret Burnor (complainant). Chair Brougham introduced all members and participants present. Chair Brougham asked if there were any conflicts or ex-parte communications from the Board. Seeing none, Chair Brougham asked Clerk Kapusta to swear in anyone giving testimony or evidence. Margaret Burnor and Sergeant Williams were all sworn in.

Sergeant Williams read the Concerning Canine Complaint form and explained that Ms. Burnor was attacked and bitten unprovoked by Milley and required emergency medical attention. Sargent Williams presented evidence including sworn statements, medical records, and police reports.

Ms. Burnor was asked to comment on the incident and gave verbal testimony of the incident. Ms. Burnor is a visiting nurse and stated that part of her job is to read the patients' chart before going to patients' houses. In the record there was mention of a dog. When Ms. Burnor was headed out to the patient's home she called first to let the patient know that she was on her way. When she arrived, she called again this time from her car informing the patient that she was there and to lock the dog up. Ms. Burnor watched as a man brought the dog outside to hook it up on a run. Ms. Burnor then got out of her vehicle and called out to the man that she just had to get some supplies from the trunk of her car and would be right with him. As Ms. Burnor was getting supplies from her trunk, Milley ran over and bit her in two (2) places. The man came running over and tried to grab Milley, but she started running at other neighbors and lunging at other dogs. Ms. Burnor immediately got back in her car and called her supervisor to explain what had just happened. Ms. Burnor left to seek emergency care. The patient was not aware of what had happened and called Ms. Burnor and said that the dog was a friend's and not up to date on shots. Ms. Burnor was bitten on the buttocks and thigh. In addition to wound care. Ms. Burnor had to complete a series of rabies vaccination shots.

There was a brief Q & A with Ms. Burnor and the Board.

With no further questions from the Board, the Board concluded the open meeting session at 6:41 PM. At 6:47 PM the Board went into deliberations. The Board adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Clerk of the Board of Animal Control