

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2024

Members present: Police Commissioner Pat Brougham, Alis Headlam, Peg Flory, and Alderwoman Carrie Savage. Also present, ACO Noah Sweeney, Sergeant Williams, and Clerk Kapusta. Absent Attorney LaChance.

Chair Brougham called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and noted that the Board was asked to hear a Concerning Canine Complaint from Sergeant Williams, who investigated an incident that occurred on October 5, 2024, with Samuel Brochu and Kelsey Bullock (complainant) and their dog named Teddy and a dog named Maddy owned by Scott Pinkham (respondent). 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. Scott Pinkham was sworn in.

Sergeant Williams explained that on October 8, 2024, he received notification of a physical altercation which had occurred between two dogs in the area of 111 Oak Street. Sergeant Williams contacted Samuel Brochu, owner of Teddy, regarding the altercation. Mr. Brochu explained that he was walking Teddy on Oak Street's sidewalk and saw a man playing with a dog (Maddy) in a back yard. Maddy noticed Mr. Brochu and Teddy walking and darted towards them causing an altercation. Mr. Brochu was able to pick up Teddy and hold him, but Maddy continued to attempt to attack Teddy until the owner of Maddy was able to control and stop Maddy. Mr. Brochu left the scene and returned home. While at home Mr. Brochu noticed that Teddy had a laceration in his leg. Teddy was brought to Eastwood Animal Clinic, the day after the incident, where the injury to Teddy was described as "right lateral stifle". The clinic treated the injury and prescribed antibiotics for the wound. Based on Sergeant Williams' investigation the incident appears to be an unprovoked attack by a dog, Maddy, upon another animal named Teddy. The incident is reported to have occurred on a public sidewalk and resulted in an injury to Teddy which required medical attention as a result of the injury.

On October 10th, CRS Fitzgibbons and Officer Cohen met with Scott Pinkham at his residence, 111 Oak Street. Mr. Pinkham explained that Maddy is a 9-month-old female German Shepard. Mr. Pinkham stated that he had taken Maddy out to go to the bathroom and she was on a leash but escaped his grasp when she heard another dog in the front of the house. Mr. Pinkham said that by the time he reached the front of the house and grabbed Maddy, Mr. Brochu walked away without speaking to him. Maddy did not receive any injuries and Mr. Pinkham was not even aware that a physical altercation occurred. Mr. Pinkham has made changes since the incident and showed the Officer that Maddy has a new leash attached to something sturdy so that Maddy could not leave the backyard when using the bathroom. Mr. Pinkham also stated that he has hired a trainer to work with Maddy to help her protectiveness against other dogs.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions for Sergeant Williams. There were a couple questions from the Board.

Chais Brougham then asked Mr. Pinkham to explain what took place. Mr. Pinkham explained that what Sergeant Williams stated was all accurate. Mr. Pinkham did mention that Maddy was in her first heat cycle and her trainer felt that could have been a contributing factor to the incident as it can lead to unusual behaviors.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions for Mr. Pinkham. There were a couple questions from the Board.

Clerk Kapusta explained that she spoke with Samuel Brochu after he received the Certified Mailing for the hearing, and he explained that he did not want to attend the hearing and felt that the incident was closed.

With no further questions from the Board, the Board concluded the open meeting session at 5:48 PM.

At 5:48 PM the Board enters deliberative session.

At 5:58 PM a motion was made to come out of deliberative session and to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Clerk of the Board of Animal Control