

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2024

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

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 Animal Control Officer (ACO) Noah Sweeney, who investigated an incident that occurred on July 27, 2024, with a dog named Archer owned by Ryker Congdon (complainant) and a dog named Alaska owned by David Howard and Demetra Rivera (respondent). 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. ACO Sweeney, Ryker Congdon, Erin Santwire, David Howard, Demetra Rivera, David Silverman, and Anna Perez were sworn in.

ACO Sweeney explained that on July 30, 2024, he was assigned a dog bite call that occurred on July 27, 2024, at the intersection of Jackson Avenue and Avenue D. Ryker Congdon was walking his dog Archer, an eighteen-month-old Boxer/Labrador Retriever mix. While walking Mr. Congdon heard a noise behind him and there was two (2) German Shepherds tied up together with a dog run cable running towards Archer. One of the younger German Shepherds (Alaska) latched onto Archer's haunch with its mouth causing a puncture wound. The other adult German Shepherd (Daisy) went for Archer's head but was stopped when Mr. Congdon began kicking it. The two (2) German Shepherds ended up getting tangled up in a mailbox which allowed Mr. Congdon to pull Archer away. A couple of people who were outside at 62 Jackson Avenue came running over to get the two (2) German Shepherds. Mr. Congdon went home to assess the wound to Archer and on the next day took her to the vet. Mr. Congdon submitted pictures of the wound that Archer received from Alaska along with the medical record from Eastwood Animal Clinic. On August 2, 2024, ACO Sweeney spoke with Demetra Rivera one of the owners of Alaska. Alaska is an eight-month-old German Shepherd Husky mix. Ms. Rivera was not present but stated that her fiancé David Howard was. Mr. Howard stated that he was at 62 Jackson Avenue but did not witness the bite. Mr. Howard was outside with friends and the dogs were attached to a metal wire that was bolted between two (2) trees. The dogs started to run towards the road causing the bolts holding the metal wire to get stripped from the trees. All three of the dogs involved in the incident were up to date on vaccinations. At the time of the incident the three (3) dogs were not registered with the City. Archer was registered on August 1st. Alaska and Daisy were registered on August 2nd. No tickets have been issued.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions for ACO Sweeney, seeing none, Chair Brougham then asked Mr. Congdon to explain what happened.

Mr. Congdon explained that he was out for a walk with Erin Santwire and their dog Archer was on a leash. As they were walking they heard something behind them, and it was two (2) German Shepherd dogs that bolted from across the street and the younger dog bit Archer in her haunch. Mr. Congdon was able to kick one of the dogs away from going for Archer's head. The two (2) dogs then became tangled in a mailbox. A couple of people from across the street came running over and were able to get the two dogs back to their owner's house. Suddenly Fireworks started going off and Mr. Congdon and Ms. Santwire took Archer home and assessed her wound there. Archer did have a puncture wound and she was taken to the Vet the next day.

There was a brief Q & A with Mr. Congdon and the Board.

Chair Brougham then asked Demetra Rivera what happened. Ms. Rivera explained that she was not at home when the incident took place. David Howard was home, but he did not see what happened. Two people that were visiting Mr. Howard, Anna Perez and David Silverman stated that the dogs were on a lead that was between two trees. The dogs started running towards the road and the lead snapped. Ms. Perez and Mr. Silberman ran after the dogs. Ms. Perez was able to grab Daisy and Mr. Howard appeared and helped get the dogs back to their residence.

There was a brief Q & A with Mr. Howard, Ms. Perez, and Mr. Silverman and the Board.

With no further questions from the Board, the Board concluded the open meeting session at 5:56 PM.

At 5:59 PM the Board enter deliberative session.

At 6:09 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