

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Thursday, July 24, 2025

Members present: Police Commissioner Pat Brougham, Peg Flory, Alis Headlam, Michael Talbott, and Carrie Savage. Also present, ACO Noah Sweeney and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

Chair Brougham called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and noted that the Board was asked to hear a Concerning Canine Complaints from ACO Sweeney, who investigated the incident. Chair Brougham asked if there were any conflicts or ex-parte communications from the Board. Seeing none, Chair Brougham asked Deputy City Clerk Clark to swear in anyone giving testimony or evidence. Emily St. Peter, Janaya Fitzgerald, Charles Whitehair, and Tiana Moyer were sworn in. Tessa McLaughlin was not in attendance.

ACO Sweeney explained he was assigned an animal problem on June 6, 2025, located in the area of 208 Adams Street. ACO Sweeney spoke with two witnesses Michael McLaughlin and Susan Brodowski. Mr. McLaughlin advised that a male and his dog who live on Church Street were attacked by a Husky. The Husky was picked up by someone in a red truck. Ms. Brodowski, who lives at 210 Adams Street saw the attack happen. The Husky had a lead attached to it but no owner. Ms. Brodowski sprayed the Husky with pepper spray to stop it from attacking the male and dog. Ms. Brodowski advised that the owners of the Husky live on Mayfield Avenue. Both witnesses witnessed the attack of Libby, who is owned by Charles Whitehair. Libby is an 8-year-old spayed English Settler that weighs 57 pounds and is registered with the City of Rutland. Pudding, who is owned by Emily St. Peter, is a 3-year-old spayed husky mix that weighs 67 pounds and is registered with the City of Rutland, but the rabies vaccination had expired. Pudding was issued a rabies vaccination on June 27, 2025. Libby required medical attention from the unprovoked attack. Ms. St. Peter was issued a Municipal Violation ticket for Nuisance Animal, Attacks another Animal.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions about ACO Sweeney's testimony. There were no questions from the Board.

Chair Brougham then asked Charles Whitehair to explain what happened.

Charles Whitehair advised that he was walking Libby down Adams Street when a loose Husky ran up and bit Libby on the back of the head and the ear. While attempting to separate the two, Mr. Whitehair fell on the pavement and injured his forearm. Mr. Whitehair did not seek medical attention but brought Libby to All Point Animal Care.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions about Mr. Whitehair's testimony. There were a couple of questions from the Board.

Chair Brougham then asked Emily St. Peter to explain what happened.

Emily St. Peter advised that her dog Pudding, who was on a leash, had escaped her control when she fell and lost control of Pudding. Ms. St. Peter stated that she did not witness the attack.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions about Ms. St. Peter's testimony. There were a couple of questions from the Board.

With no further questions from the Board the first open hearing concluded at 5:55 PM.

Chair Brougham then noted that the Board was asked to hear another Concerning Canine Complaint from ACO Sweeney, who investigated an incident that occurred on June 20, 2025. Chair Brougham asked if there were any conflicts or ex-parte communications from the Board. Seeing none, Chair Brougham asked ACO Sweeney for his report.

On June 20, 2025, ACO Sweeney was assigned an Animal Problem at the intersection of Franklin Street and Brown Street for a dog attack. While on scene ACO Sweeney met with Nicole Campise, who is the Aunt of the victim, Tessa McLaughlin. Ms. Campise advised that she did not witness the attack, but that Ms. McLaughlin had left to bring Oscar to Center Rutland Animal Hospital for treatment. Oscar is owned by Ms. McLaughlin and is a 5-month-old Wheaton Terrier, who is up to date on rabies but is not old enough to be registered with the City. Ms. McLaughlin later went to Clear Choice MD for treatment of her open wound on her right hand from the attack. ACO Sweeney then met with Tiana Moyer the owner of Mikey, who is a 5-year-old neutered pit-bull mix that is not up to date on rabies and is not registered with the City. While on-site ACO Sweeney also met with the Landlord who was able to provide a video of the attack that collaborated the statements made by Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Moyer.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions about ACO Sweeney's testimony. There were a few questions from the Board.

Chair Brougham then asked Tiana Moyer to explain what happened.

Tiana Moyer advised that she brought Mikey outside and had him on a leash with a prong collar to use the bathroom. Ms. Moyer saw Ms. McLaughlin walking Oscar on the sidewalk and Mikey pulled on the leash and broke his prong collar letting him free. Mikey charged at Oscar and bit him on the back of the neck, front, and back legs. Ms. Moyer moved Mikey out of Rutland City to her father's home in Shrewsbury.

Chair Brougham then asked the Board if they had any questions about Ms. Moyer's testimony. There were a couple of questions from the Board.

At 6:05 PM the Board entered the deliberative session.

At 6:17 PM a motion was made and seconded to come out of deliberative session and to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Clark
Deputy City Clerk of the Board of Animal Control