

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Tuesday, July 1, 2025

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

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 Clerk Kapusta to swear in anyone giving testimony or evidence. Dana and Donald St. John were sworn in. Danielle Intagliato attended by phone and was also sworn in.

ACO Sweeney explained he was assigned an animal problem on May 27, 2025, for an incident that occurred on May 24, 2025, and was initially investigated by Officer Razanouski who spoke with both parties and gathered the contact information. ACO Sweeney explained that he contacted Dana St. John who is the owner of Bella, a 6-year-old, 90-pound spayed labrador retriever mix. Bella is up to date with vaccinations and is registered with the City of Rutland. Mrs. St. John advised that her husband Donald was walking Bella outside when a dog off leash came up to Bella and sniffed her and then bit Bella on her face resulting in an injury. Mr. St. John advised that the dog showed no signs of aggression or gave any warning before biting Bella. Bella received medical attention at Eastwood Animal Clinic.

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 Dana St. John and Donald St. John to explain what happened.

Mrs. St. John stated that her husband was the one who was walking Bella when the attack occurred. Mr. St. John stated that he was walking Bella on a leash when an unknown black dog who was off leash and alone, came up to Bella and sniffed her. Mr. St. John stated that the dog showed no signs of aggression nor gave any warning before the bite. Mr. St. John separated both dogs and was able to secure the off-leash dog in their kennel until Officer Razanouski arrived. Bella was then taken to Eastwood Animal Clinic for medical attention for the injury she sustained.

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

Chair Brougham then asked Danielle Intagliato what happened. Ms. Intagliato stated that she had opened the door to her apartment and Bailey an 8-year-old 75-pound spayed labrador retriever mix, who is up to date on vaccinations, escaped and started running down the street. Ms. Intagliato tried to chase after Bailey but was too far behind. Ms. Intagliato did not witness the attack.

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

With no further questions from the Board this open hearing concluded at 6:01 PM.

Chair Brougham then noted that the Board was asked to hear another Concerning Canine Complaint 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 Clerk Kapusta to swear in

anyone giving testimony or evidence. Parties to this case, Ronald Lamb and Nicholas Jones were not in attendance.

On May 13, 2025, ACO Sweeney was assigned a case from Officer St. John who responded to a complaint of a dog attack. When Officer St. John arrived Ronald Lamb was in the driveway on top of the dog that attacked him. Mr. Lamb was instructed to get off the dog and when he did the dog lunged at him in an aggressive manner which resulted in Officer St. John spraying the dog with OC spray. After that the dog ran back to his house. ACO Sweeney was advised by Officer St. John that Ronald Lamb was bitten by Nicholas Jone's dog, Chance who had jumped a fenced area and ran across the street and attacked Mr. Lamb's dog Frankie. Chance is a 50-pound lab mix, and Frankie is a 14-pound Pomeranian mix. Chance is not up to date on vaccinations and is not registered with the City of Rutland.

ACO Sweeney spoke with Ronald Lamb over the phone, who advised that Nicholas Jone's dog, Chance, jumped out of a fenced area and ran across the street to Mr. Lamb's porch where Frankie was. Chance put his head through the porch railings and grabbed Frankie with its mouth. When Mr. Lamb tried to separate the dogs, he was bitten by Chance on his forearm. Mr. Lamb did not seek medical treatment. Frankie was bitten on his right leg and sustained an injury with his hip being pulled out of its socket with bite marks. Frankie was brought to Clarendon Animal Clinic where he received medical attention, but his hip could not be put back into place.

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

At 6:11 PM the Board entered deliberative session.

At 6:28 PM a motion was made and seconded to come out of deliberative session and to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Clerk of the Board of Animal Control