

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECT BOARD
September 25, 2020
Special Select Board Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas; Leigh Dakin; Julie Hance; Jeff Holden; Amie O'Brien

VISITORS: SapaTV; Rick Cloud; Venessa Burns; Jon Clark; Jasmine Currier; Patty Nader; Gregg Nader; Greg Adamovich; Betsy Adamovich; Michelle Fisk; Teresa Demore; Andrew Nader; Melanie Mcguirk; Caroline Colmer; Nicole Kollman; Cynthia Farnsworth; Rebecca White; Martha Stretton

Meeting was held via Zoom and at the Town Hall.

1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPEAL OF ACT 250 DECISION; FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to authorize Julie Hance to appeal the Act 250 decision. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

2. RECONVENE RECESSED VICIOUS DOG HEARING

Jon Clark was sworn in and stated he lives at 361 Grafton Road, which is located close to the Nader's and Adamovich's properties. Edgar got out of the Adamovich's yard a couple months ago. Jon Clark then found him in his yard. He stated Edgar scares him some and he prefers the dog not be in his yard. The situation was cleared up after he spoke with Betsy Adamovich. He likes his neighbors a lot and hopes this gets resolved. Melanie Mcguirk was sworn in and spoke about Beau being a very nice dog. Even though she was not there when the attack happened, she believes it was horrifying due to Beau's condition 24 hours after.

Betsy Adamovich would like the board to focus on the facts presented to them, not feelings. The grounds for the complaint was that her dog bit a person, which was not the case. She thinks Barre Pinske's dog attacking a person set a precedent after nothing happened to his dog following the attack. Arne Jonynas pointed out that situation cannot be brought up regarding the matter of Beau and Edgar.

Jeff Holden pointed out a dog biting a person and a dog biting another dog are not treated the same. A dog that has bitten a person is considered a "vicious" dog and one that has bitten another dog is considered "potentially vicious".

Teresa Demore, a certified K-9 trainer, was sworn in and spoke about dog behavior. Dogs need mental, physical, and communication stimulation so incidents like this do not happen. Dogs that lack stimulation will have behavioral issues such as barking and digging. They do this trying to occupy their brains. She feels Edgar does not receive enough stimulation and suggests the owners re-train him or have him euthanized.

Greg Adamovich acknowledged after this incident Edgar has been given more stimulation. He and Betsy Adamovich have worked with him on leash. Betsy Adamovich takes Edgar to work with her during the day. They will continue to train him to be more obedient and are taking steps to make Edgar a better dog. He asked the board to take all of this into consideration and stated there is no need to euthanize Edgar.

Jeff Holden pointed out there is an ordinance and state laws that will be followed while making the decision in this matter. Arne Jonynas stated the decision will be in writing as soon as possible and closed the proceedings.

3. DELIBERATIVE SESSION TO RENDER DECISION RE: VICIOUS DOG HEARING

The Select Board entered Deliberative Session.

4. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Amie O'Brien
Secretary of the Select Board

Lee Gustafson
Clerk of the Select Board