

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 20, 2015

Watertown Administration Building, Lower Level Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairman, Dr. Barbara Beck, Richard Arnold, Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health, Donna Moultrup, Interim Health Director, Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer, and Karen O'Reilly, Animal Control Officer/Jr. Sanitarian.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Dangerous Dog Hearing

Owner of Dog: Paul Alberico

Complainant: Mark Palmer

The Board received a letter from Mark Palmer of 63 Bourne St., Newton, requesting a hearing alleging that the dog "Remy" owned by Paul Alberico of 29 French St., Watertown, is a dangerous dog. Kristel Bennett acted as the Moderator of the hearing. Deborah Rosati informed the audience that the hearing would be audiotaped for the record, and this record would be available by disk.

All parties who spoke at the hearing were under oath. Mr. Palmer and two witnesses spoke on his behalf, Mr. Alberico and 19 witnesses spoke on his behalf. Additional emails in support of Mr. Alberico and "Remy" were read into the record. Other testimony included emails between Mark Palmer and Animal Control Officer, Karen O'Reilly, the Watertown Police Department Incident Report 15-1970-OF, and 15 photos presented by Mr. Alberico.

Based on the testimony of the witnesses, the evidence presented, the Watertown Police Report, and the information contained in the Animal Control Officer's administrative file in this matter, the Board of Health made the following factual findings:

1. "Remy" is a three year old unneutered male American Staffordshire Terrier dog owned by you, Paul V. Alberico, and kept at 29 French Street in Watertown.
2. On January 31, 2015, Mr. Alberico and "Remy" were at the Howe Park dog park.
3. On January 31, 2015, Mr. Mark Palmer, his two children, his friend Eric Goode, and his 11 month old unneutered male Alaskan Malamute dog went to the Howe Park dog park.
4. A fight ensued between the two dogs.
5. The Board acknowledges that Mr. Palmer was bitten. Any additional photos that he submits will not impact this decision.
6. Mr. Alberico does not think "Remy" bit Mr. Palmer.
7. The Board was unable to determine which dog was the aggressor.
8. The Board was unable to determine which dog bit Mr. Palmer.
9. There were no other incidents of aggression reported against "Remy."

Based on all of the evidence presented and considering the provisions of Mass. General Law, Chapter 140, Section 157 (A) (i-iii) (1-4), the Board voted unanimously (Motion – Dr. Beck, Second – Richard Arnold, 3-0) to dismiss the complaint alleging that “Remy” is a dangerous dog.

Minutes

Richard Arnold offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 meeting as presented. Dr. Beck seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Keeping of Animals Regulation Discussion

Donna Moultrup updated the Board on her most recent research on bee keeping which included attendance at the May 5th meeting of the Watertown Bee Committee, discussion with the MDAR Apiary Inspector, and changes to some of the definitions. She also advised the Board about the City of Cambridge Hives Recommendation. Due to the late hour, the Board was unable to fully discuss all of the proposed changes.

Nomination to East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project

D. Rosati indicated that the EMMCP was requesting to have a representative appointed to the commission. David Henley, the EMMCP Superintendent, recommends that a municipal employee is best suited to this role, to represent the community and act as a liaison to the project. The Board voted to nominate Deborah Rosati as the representative to the EMMCP (Motion – Dr. Beck, Second – Richard Arnold, 3-0).

Next Meeting: Tentative date is Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Deborah M. Rosati, Director of Public Health

Minutes Approved: