

SELECTBOARD VICIOUS DOG HEARING
November 29, 2018

Present:	Allison Hope Julia Andrews	Grant Thomas Nanette Rogers
Guests:	Eric Jacobsen David Potvin Carl Koch Dalton Maskill	Dave Tilton Greg Barrows Annette Koch

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

This meeting is in response to a complaint filed on November 9, 2018 by Eric Jacobsen against a dog, Buddy, owned by David Potvin regarding an incident that occurred November 9, 2018.

Mr. Jacobsen's complaint alleged that on November 9, 2018 at approximately 10:45 a.m. he was walking his leashed dog on Huntley Road. A golden retriever weighing approximately 70 lbs and wearing a purplish collar with tags bit Mr. Jacobsen, unprovoked, in the left thigh. Mr. Jacobsen recognized this dog as the same dog that attacked his dog, Dolly, in the past. Mr. Jacobsen did not seek medical attention but did use over the counter remedies to clean the wound. Mr. Jacobsen filed a written complaint with a photo of the bite to the Town Clerk.

Mr. Jacobsen stated that on November 28, 2018, he was walking on Huntley Road when Mr. Potvin called out to him. Mr. Potvin asked Mr. Jacobsen if he was the person who filed a complaint against Buddy. Mr. Jacobsen stated he was the person Buddy bit on a public road. Mr. Potvin denied that Buddy bit Mr. Jacobsen and invited Mr. Jacobsen to meet Buddy. Mr. Jacobsen accepted the invitation. When Buddy was let out of a car, the dog growled and circled Mr. Jacobsen and his leashed dog. Mr. Jacobsen requested Mr. Potvin restrain his dog and then vacated the property. Mr. Jacobsen recognized Buddy to be the same dog that bit him on November 9, 2018.

Mr. Jacobsen was clear that he does not want Buddy destroyed. He simply wants Mr. Potvin to acknowledge that Buddy bit Mr. Jacobsen and to restrain Buddy to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Jacobsen is especially concerned for kids in the area.

Dave Tilton, Dog Warden, stated that he visited Mr. Potvin's house on November 10, 2018 after the complaint was lodged. Mr. Tilton requested to meet Buddy, Mr. Potvin declined. While there, Mr. Tilton heard a dog, presumably Buddy, barking the entire time of his visit. Mr. Tilton did not see an outside kennel or other evidence that would suggest that Buddy is confined to Mr. Potvin's property.

Mr. Potvin, Mr. Maskill and Mr. and Mrs. Koch arrived around 7:25 p.m. Mr. Jacobsen left shortly after their arrival.

Mr. Potvin stated that he is sure the dog who bit Mr. Jacobsen was not Buddy. He stated that Buddy is a happy go lucky, friendly dog. He explained that Buddy is not allowed near the road, is border trained, and with Mr. Potvin 24/7. He feels strongly that Mr. Jacobsen is mistaken.

Annette Koch stated that she does not like dogs however she is not afraid of Buddy. She feels that Buddy did not bite Mr. Jacobsen. Mr. Maskill concurred.

Allison Hope advised Mr. Potvin of Mr. Jacobsen's November 28, 2018 encounter with Buddy and relayed that Mr. Jacobsen was able to confirm that the dog who bit him was Buddy. Mr. Potvin again denied that it was his dog and reiterated that Buddy would never do that.

The hearing closed at 7:38 p.m. The Board entered Deliberative Session.

Based on the evidence, the Selectboard put the following order of protection in effect:

1. Buddy shall be restrained (e.g., on a proper line/run, in an enclosed pen or on a leash) when outside of the dwelling.
2. The Selectboard strongly suggests that Mr. Potvin have Buddy examined by a veterinarian to determine if there is a medical issue that is contributing to the behavior exhibited by Buddy.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Hope, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator