

Town of Benson Selectboard

May 15, 2023

This proceeding involves a potentially vicious dog complaint submitted by Dylan Welch and Marissa Lamoureaux. They attended a selectboard hearing to voice their concern on April 17, 2023. They expressed frustration and had tried to solve the situation privately. It was explained to put their concerns in writing to proceed with a dog hearing as outlined in the dog ordinance of Benson. The letter from the complainant was received by the selectboard on April 24, 2023.

Registered letters were sent to all parties and a public notice was posted stating that a hearing would be held on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:30 in the Town offices. and the following were present for the hearing:

Respondents	Complainants
Nichole Lussier, dog owner	Dylan Welch
Jessica Lussier, dog owner	Marissa Lamoureaux
Nick Lussier, property owner	Marc Lamoureaux, property owner

Present at the hearing were the following members of the selectboard:

Linda Peltier, chair
Brad Barrett
Tom Bartholomew
Guy Charleton
Jerod Glover

The meeting began at 6:30 on May 15, 2023 and a general outline of the procedure was given. A written letter received by the selectboard on April 24, 2023 was read as evidence of the situation. Both parties were given time to express their concerns and opportunities to respond to the complaints.

Relevant Oral Testimony

Nick Lussier apologized for the situation that has been occurring. He stated that the dogs are now fully registered and vaccinated. Both Nick Lussier and Jessica Lussier admitted to the dogs being on the Lamoureaux property. Jessica Lussier explained that she has purchased a wireless fence and a collar for her dog and one for Nichole's dogs. She apologized to the couple and said she had used the collars on her dog that day and they appear to be working. She will train the two dogs to stay on their own property. Nichole Lussier apologized and assured everyone that the dog will remain on her property.

Dylan Welch and Marissa Lamoureaux stated that they are appreciative of the effort put forth to contain the dogs. It was also mentioned that the dogs have torn up the garbage and urinated on the Lamoureaux property numerous times.

Findings of Fact

The Lussier dogs have been on the Lamoureux property and have been identified as potentially vicious dogs. Dylan Welch explained his fear of the dogs in reference to their baby's safety. The Lussiers understood their concerns and fears. The Lussiers have purchased equipment to control their dogs.

Conclusions

It was the decision of the selectboard that the Lussiers will control their dogs by keeping them off of the Lamoureux property at all times. If there is another issue with the dogs being on the Lamoureux property, the selectboard will take further actions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Peltier