

Animal Control Board

Minutes of June 28, 2018 Meeting

The Watertown Animal Control Board meet on June 28, 2018 at the Watertown Zoo Offices. The meeting Rieb, Beth Mantey, and Krisma DeWitt. Also attending were Councilman Glen Villhauer, City Attorney Matt Roby, Nancy Turbak, Sheamus Culhane, and Liam Culhane.

Minutes of the May 10, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion by Mark Rieb and a second by Beth Mantey.

The major item of discussion was a continuation of previous discussion of revisions to existing Watertown Ordinance 3.0103 Vicious Dogs. Members continued to review an article discussing Virginia State codes concerning Vicious versus Dangerous Dog designations. Matt Roby shared information with the board from a review of SD State Ordinances and Rapid City Ordinances. Discussion ensued concerning the applicability of information for Watertown.

There were a few items that the Board felt needed to be included in the ordinance: insurance for owners of dogs declared dangerous, procedures for after appeal to Animal Control Board, time frames for appeals, follow-up procedures on dangerous dog designations.

Attendees to the meeting brought forward concerns on a number of cases of dog bites involving dogs with multiple biting incidences. The dogs have not gotten the vicious dog designations and they were concerned as to why. The Board had not been made aware of any of these cases. Concern was expressed by the Board about sharing of information and was going to pursue improving notification procedures.

The Turbak Law Firm indicated a willingness to work with the Animal Control Board on improving the existing dog ordinance.

Matt Roby will prepare a draft of proposed changes to the ordinance for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm with the next meeting to be on July 26 July, 2:00 pm at the Watertown Police Department Community Room.

Next meeting will be June 21, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the Watertown Police Department Community Room. Chris Christenson will reserve the space. Dan Miller will ensure public notice of the meeting occurs.

Meeting was Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Krisma DeWitt