

Animal Control Board

Minutes of July 25, 2019 Meeting

The Watertown Animal Control Board met on July 25, 2019 at the Watertown Police Department Conference Room. The meeting was call to order by Mark Rieb at 1:30 pm. Members present included Beth Mantey, Dan Miller, Mark Rieb, and Krisma DeWitt. Also attending was the Animal Control Officer Chris Christenson, Officer Ellis, Christina Steinberg, Debby Abers, and Brady Fairchild. Representatives from the Humane Society, Carolina Resende and Valerie Fuersteneu joined the meeting following the Appeal Hearing.

Mark Rieb called to order the Appeal Hearing concerning the Vicious Dog declaration of a dog belonging to Brady Fairchild. Evidence was presented in the form of a police report with pictures and letters submitted by witnesses to the event. Additional input was provided by Christina Steinberg, Debby Abers, and Brady Fairchild. The cited dog was also present. Following the hearing of evidence and discussion by members of the board, Dan Miller moved to set aside the vicious dog declaration with a second by Beth Mantey. The motion carried and the declaration was set aside. Mark Rieb abstained from voting due to the fact that he is the Veterinarian for the dog.

At the completion of the hearing, the Animal Control Board went with other scheduled business. The Agenda was approved with a motion by Beth Mantey and second by Mark Rieb. The minutes for July 9, 2019 were approved with a motion by Beth Mantey and second by Mark Rieb. The board went over and revised the presentation for the Safety and Public Works Board to be presented at the August 5 meeting.

Representatives of the Humane Society made the board aware of several concerns. There are a large number of cats currently in the facility which is causing resource issues. Options were discussed with no recommendations made by the board. Citizens have been calling the Humane Society to pick up animals that have been hit by cars and are at the sides of roads and to remove bats from homes. The board suggested that two situations were not under the purview of the Humane Society and suggested such calls be referred to Animal Control.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6 at 1:00 pm in the Watertown Police Department Community Room. This will be an Appeal Hearing for a vicious dog declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Krisma DeWitt