

Town of Huntington — Selectboard Emergency Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2014—7:30 pm
 Huntington Town Office—downstairs
 APPROVED MINUTES

RECEIVED 
 DATE May 5, 2014

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| Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Dog Bite Incident from Sunday, April 13, 2014 from the Huntington Animal Control Officer (ACO) |
| Selectboard members present: | Jim Christiansen (Chair), Dori Barton (Vice-Chair), Roman Livak, Nancy Stoddard |
| Selectboard members absent: | Doug Graver |
| Staff/Officials present | Pam Alexander (Animal Control Officer), Barbara Elliott (Town Administrator), Stefan Jacobs (Town Health Officer) |
| Others present | Aaron Worthley |
| Call to order | Jim Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:40pm |
| Animal Control Officer (ACO) Update | <p>ACO Pam Alexander read an update into the record regarding a dog bite incident from Sunday April 13, 2014 that occurred at 2879 Main Road. Below is a summary of her written report dated Monday, April 14 at 9:46pm and her update on the current status of the parties involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3 year old boy from Craftsbury, VT was attacked by his uncle's dog while all of them were visiting family members who live on Main Road. The uncle and dog are residents of Cambridge, VT. The boy suffered severe puncture wounds and lacerations to his chest, back and left leg. He was treated and released from the hospital and is scheduled for a follow up visit with a plastic surgeon. The boy's 11 year old sister suffered puncture wounds to her arm and hand and abrasions to her left hip and right shoulder while trying to defend her younger brother from the attack. This dog had been involved in a previous bite incident of a 5-year old child during the Christmas holidays at the same home on Main Road. ACO Alexander had responded to that incident as well. It was verified at that time that the dog was current on all vaccinations. Based on this previous incident, at Alexander's request, the dog owner contacted a dog behaviorist. Only one session with the behaviorist was attended. On Sunday, April 13 following the bite incident, ACO Alexander talked with the owner about the attacks and indicated that the animal could not be trusted in public because it cannot interact safely with children. She suggested to the owner that the dog be euthanized. Alexander, the children's parents and the dog's veterinarian in Hinesburg had no concerns about the potential of rabies given the status of the dog's vaccinations. ACO Alexander notified Town Administrator Barbara Elliott of the incident on Monday afternoon, April 14 and filed a written report the same night. The dog owner brought the dog to Hinesburg Veterinary on Wednesday afternoon. The Veterinary clinic has confirmed that the dog was euthanized. Alexander confirmed that the State Health Officer responsible for rabies investigation did not require quarantine or testing of the dog. |

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| Town Administrator Update | <p>On Monday April 14, Town Administrator Barbara Elliott contacted the Selectboard Chair, requested the Selectboard call an emergency meeting to meet with the ACO so that they, and the Town Health Officer, could be apprised of the situation, and forwarded the ACO Officer's report to the Selectboard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott notified the dog owner and the dog owner's mother (resident of 2879 Main Road) about the time and location of the Selectboard meeting. • Both the Hinesburg veterinarian and the dog owner's mother contacted Elliott at approximately 6:00pm on Wednesday April 16 with notification that the dog had been euthanized. • At the emergency meeting, Elliott reported that no action was required by the Selectboard since the dog had been euthanized by the time the Selectboard met. (Note: had the dog not been euthanized, State Statute would have required further action by the Selectboard.) • Elliott and the full Selectboard commended Alexander for her handling of this difficult situation – and while the outcome was not happy for anyone involved, the best resolution possible had been facilitated by Alexander's sensitive and professional handling of the incident. • Going forward, Alexander will contact the Selectboard, Town Administrator and Town Health Officer via email as soon as possible following any dog bite incident so that all parties are informed in the event that further action is required. |
| Adjournment – MOTION | Livak moved and Barton seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm. Passed unanimously with 4 members present and voting. |
| | <p>04/16/14 – Meeting date 04/17/14 – Preliminary draft minutes to Selectboard / Clerk, Treasurer & Auditors 04/28/14 – Final minutes approved by Selectboard 05/02/14 – Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk</p> |