

Special Select Board Meeting (dog issue)
April 21, 2022
Isle La Motte School
5:00 pm

Present : Rusty Spaulding, Paul Zera, Sarah Noble, Debbie Spaulding, Pat Saylor, Tom Saylor, Mary LaBrecque
By phone: Mary Catherine Graziano
By Zoom : Shannon English, Joel English, Michele Murray

1. Special Select Board Meeting called to order by Select Board Chair R. Spaulding at 5:02 pm.
2. The Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids (adopted 06 Oct 2021) was reviewed. The Chair read the first two items under Section 4. Nuisances of the policy, which are Lack of current license and/or rabies tag and Running at Large. He also read parts of Section 8 Grounds for Impoundment, which are : Been determined by an Enforcement Officer to be a "potentially vicious dog" which presents an imminent danger to people or others animals, has reportedly bitten a person off the premises of its owner, is in violation of State licensing law, has an unknown rabies vaccination history or is suspected of being exposed to rabies, Is running at large, is found without a collar or harness and license. In addition he read parts of Section 9 Investigation of Vicious Dogs which describe the grounds for filing a written complaint with the Select Board along with the information required in the complaint, and the obligation/rights of the Select Board to enforce a Protective Order for persons. (for details see attached ordinance) R. Spaulding stated that the Select Board met with the Animal Control officer (J. Benson) who felt it would be extreme to euthanize the dogs at this point. He also indicated that there was a previous incident with these dogs in August of 2021, however the bite(s) to a bicyclist did not break the skin. This incident required medical attention. At that time the dog owners expressed their remorse and provided assurances that there would be no more problems. He also emphasized that Isle La Motte has had a leash law for many years which requires dog owners to have their animals under their control at all times. A decision will be made in conjunction with the Animal Control Officer and the owners will be fined. A decision will be sent by mail. He also apologized to Pat Saylor (individual who was bitten). P. Saylor indicated that the fact that there were 3 dogs made the encounter quite scary, and shared that she had been contacted by the liability insurance company of the dog owners. Shannon English (dog owner) expressed remorse and her responsibility for the incident. She outlined the remedial steps they have taken which included contacting their homeowners policy, making veterinary appointments for rabies shots and fencing in their backyard. Chair Spaulding reminded S. English that there have been previous incidents with these dogs and another one may result in their loss. P. Saylor inquired whether it would be safe to walk by the English house, and Shannon replied that the dogs would be leashed on their way to the fence in area, and would pay attention to possible digging under the fence. She (P. Saylor) also inquired if some kind of messaging could be put out to remind dog owners of their responsibilities. T. Saylor indicated that he and his wife until recently were dog owners and would hate for anything to happen to them. Chair Spaulding replied that his family no longer walks by this house, but that his customers will be walking and biking by there. Select Board member M. Graziano made a comment (could not hear on tape). P. Saylor commented on the Animal Control Officer (J. Benson) and his responsiveness and professionalism.
3. P. Zera made a motion to adjourn at 5:16 pm, R. Spaulding seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary LaBrecque
Select board Clerk
Town of Isle La Motte

Rustam Spaulding

Paul Zera

Mary Catherine Graziano