

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Nuisance Dog Hearing
MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday February 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Richard Arnold, Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj and Kim Netter

Staff: Abbey Myers, Director of Health, Samantha Gatchell, Animal Control, Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance: Flavia Werneck Figueiredo, Eileen Hanson, Tom Johnson, Constable Siltan

CALL TO ORDER: Abbey Myers called the meeting to order 7:06 pm

Rules of the Hearing

Ms. Myers set the rules for participants and the BOH to follow throughout the hearing.

ACO Presentation

Ms. Gatchell sworn to tell the truth. She gave a Power Point presentation regarding the complaints from residents and tickets issued and order letters sent by the Health Department to 870 Belmont Street residence. Ms. Gatchell described her observations of the unleashed dog's behavior.

Ms. Gatchell recommended two-options to secure the dog on the property:

1. When the dog is outside, he must be leashed at all times.
2. The owner must put up a six-foot fence with no access for the dog to leave the property unleashed.

Ms. Netter inquired if the dog is unleashed on a public way, interacting with traffic and harassing neighbors and delivery personnel, what is the recourse and appeals process?

Health Department would need to resolve issue through the courts.

Dr. Amirtharaj asked about the dog's license status. Therefore, BOH and the Health Department is not aware of this dog's vaccine status.

Mr. Arnold stated Mr. Miller, the owner of the dog is not present at this hearing to inquire about the vaccination status.

A resident made comments supporting Ms. Gatchell's observations. The resident was not sworn in as official testimony.

Ms. Myers stated the licensing issue can be addressed later. Presently, we need to consider if this dog is a nuisance.

Ms. Gatchell stated there is no evidence this dog has been mistreated.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to deem the dog at 870 Belmont Street a nuisance.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

All in favor.

Roll Call

Adjourn:

(Arnold, Netter) (3,0)

All in favor.

Roll Call

Adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM