



Town of Essex

Selectboard

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Special Meeting
Potentially Vicious Dog Hearing **Agenda**

Monday, September 18, 2023 – 5:30 PM
81 Main St., Essex Junction, VT 05452

This meeting will be in person and online. Available options to watch or join the meeting:

• **JOIN ONLINE:** Zoom Meeting ID: 987 8569 1140; Passcode: 032060 or

<https://zoom.us/j/98785691140?pwd=WENqeFhITGVDS0Q5bIROdkhuS3RkZz09>

• **JOIN CALLING:** (toll free audio only): (888) 788-0099 | Meeting ID: 987 8569 1140; Passcode: 032060

1. CALL POTENTIALLY VICIOUS DOG HEARING TO ORDER

5:30 PM

- a. Hearing evidence presented by Lt. Robert Kissinger

2. DELIBERATIVE SESSION

- a. Deliberations

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Certification: _____  _____ 09/15/2023

**TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
POTENTIALLY VICIOUS DOG HEARING
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 18, 2023**

SELECTBOARD: Andrew Watts, Chair; Tracey Delphia, Vice Chair; Kendall Chamberlin, Clerk; Dawn Hill-Fleury; Ethan Lawrence.

ADMINISTRATION: Greg Duggan, Town Manager; Lt. Rob Kissinger, Police; Marguerite Ladd, Deputy Manager; JoAnn Nichols, Animal Control Officer.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Collins.

1. CALL POTENTIAL VIOUS DOG HEARING TO ORDER

Chair Watts called the Potentially Vicious Dog Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

a. Hearing evidence presented by Lt. Robert Kissinger

Lt. Kissinger said that, after the first potentially vicious dog hearing on August 7, 2023, the dogs had still not been registered. The owners have been accumulating lots of finds, and have not complied with any of the conditions set by the Selectboard at the first vicious dog hearing. He recommended that the Selectboard issue a new order barring the dogs from residing in Essex.

Ms. Hill-Fleury asked if the police had made any contact with the owners. Lt. Kissinger detailed the efforts the Police and Animal Control Officer had made to contact dog owners Haile Dragon and Heather Dragon, including visits to the home and sending certified mail.

Mr. Chamberlin asked how the police would enforce the new order. Lt. Kissinger said the Town would seek a legal opinion.

Ms. Hill-Fleury asked where the dogs would reside if they could not be in Essex. Lt. Kissinger said it could be up to the owners to move the dogs, or the Town may need to seize and impound the animals and get them to a humane society.

2. DELIBERATIONS

a. Deliberations

DAWN HILL-FLEURY made a motion, seconded by ANDY WATTS, to bar the dogs from residing in the Town of Essex.

Mr. Chamberlin asked if the dogs had left the property since the first potentially vicious dog hearing. Lt. Kissinger said he was not aware of the dogs having left the property. Mr. Chamberlin asked if there were any other extenuating circumstances with the situation. Lt. Kissinger said the dogs had been defecating in the house and were probably not cared for.

Mr. Watts said the dog owners had lied about registering the animals. Ms. Delphia said the owners probably also lied about having the shock collars and electric fence. Lt. Kissinger said that if the

SELECTBOARD

September 18, 2023

dogs don't leave the property, at which point the Police could seize the dogs, fines can continue to be issued to the owners.

Ms. Delphia asked about the health conditions of the dogs. Ms. Nichols said it was hard to tell only from seeing the dogs when she observed them inside the house, but other than the feces on the floor the dogs seemed to be okay.

Mr. Watts asked if the Police would handle other unregistered dogs in a similar manner of asking the owners to register the dogs, and then issuing fines if they were not registered. Lt. Kissinger confirmed that the process would be the same.

The Selectboard and Lt. Kissinger discussed how often fines should be issued. They agreed on weekly fines.

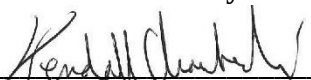
Motion passed 5-0.

DAWN HILL-FLEURY made a motion, seconded by ANDY WATTS, that the owners must relocate the dogs by the end of the month. Motion passed 5-0.

TRACEY DELPHIA made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0 at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Duggan,
Town Manager

Approved this 2nd day of October, 2023
(see minutes of this day for corrections, if any)


Kendall Chamberlin, Selectboard Clerk