

MINUTES OF A DOG HEARING
John Mandigo
July 27, 2015

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OF CHARLEMONT

Page 1 of 2

Chairman Beth Bandy called the hearing to order at 6:32 P.M. Also attending the hearing was David Cunningham and Sarah Reynolds. Ms Bandy explained that anyone wishing to testify at this hearing would need to swear an oath. Ms Bandy asked everyone who would be speaking at the hearing to raise their right hand and swear to tell the truth.

Phase I – Testimony from the complainant/witnesses

Ed Grinnell – Charlemont Animal Control Officer – complainant. Mr. Grinnell reported that he has received a barrage of complaints during the month of June, 2015 relating to the 6 dogs owned by John Mandigo. The complaints are regarding dogs barking, running at large and tethered on chains. Mr. Grinnell stated that the dogs are kept at 2 different locations in Town. There has not been any reports of the dogs being vicious and all the dogs seem to be well cared for. Mr. Grinnell reported that most of the dogs are not licensed with the Town. Mr. Grinnell recommended the Board deem the 6 dogs, excluding any puppies, a nuisance and to order a fence be built around the 511 Tea Street property to deter the dogs running at large, the dogs to be vaccinated and licensed, and the tethering of dogs be remedied within a time certain.

Paul Fantucchio – 559 Tea Street – complainant. Mr. Fantucchio stated that the dogs in question do not seem vicious but the dogs, 2 in particular, are constantly loose and coming onto his campsite property, bothering his clientele. Some of his tenants are afraid of the dogs. Mr. Fantucchio stated that it is only a matter of time before someone is hurt. Mr. Fantucchio has contacted Mr. Mandigo multiple times to ask him to come retrieve his dogs, keep them contained and to try to reduce the barking.

John Mandigo – 511 Tea Street – owner of the dogs. Mr. Mandigo stated one of his dogs has entered the 511 Tea Street property as a lady at that address use to give the dog food/treats. His dogs are not at the 511 Tea Street address all the time and that the dogs bark when people come around. The dogs are usually with Mr. Mandigo and are rarely alone. Mr. Mandigo stated that his dogs are not vicious.

The Board unanimously voted, Ms Bandy – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Ms S. Reynolds – yes, to enter into deliberations at 6:52 P.M.

Phase 2 – Selectmen’s Deliberations

The Board discussed making an immediate decision or waiting until the next Selectmen’s meeting. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Bandy – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Ms S Reynolds – yes, to render a decision and to deem your dogs a nuisance and that within 2 weeks a fence is to be installed around your property located at 511 Tea Street. Said fence will meet the satisfaction of the Charlemont Animal Control Officer. The Board also ordered that within 2 weeks all your dogs over 6 months of age will receive the required vaccinations and be licensed through the Town. The issue of tethered dogs will be remedied within 2 weeks, the remedy to meet the satisfaction of the Charlemont Animal Control

Officer. The Board also ordered to continue a follow up hearing on August 10, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. at the Goodnow Town Hall with this statement as a verbal notice to Mr. Mandigo.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:
Charlemont Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

Documents reviewed by the Board

Complaint letter from the Animal Control Officer
Complaint letter from P. Fantucchio
Hearing notification letter #07132015
Hearing notification letter deliver receipt