

Animal Services Appeal Committee Minutes
March 20, 2019 – 3:00 PM
Committee Room One
Whitby Town Hall

Present: C. Blissett, Chair
J. Herzog-Evans, Member
K. Langille, Member
W. Nunn, Member
M. Weatherbie, Member

Also Present: J. Pain-Andrejin
R. Pain-Andrejin
J. Scott
J. Speyer

S. Gibb, Animal Services Officer
A. Gratton, Staff Liaison, Supervisor of By-law and Animal Services
S. Ure, Senior Municipal Law Enforcement Officer
H. Oerlemans, Council & Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: C. Lyons, Animal Services Officer

1. Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 3:21 p.m.

There were members of the public present.

2. Appointment of Chair

2.1 The Committee was advised that the appointment for the Chair of the Animal Services Appeal Committee would take place at this time.

Andre Gratton called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Animal Services Appeal Committee.

Jasmine Herzog-Evans nominated Carleen Blissett for the position of Chair.

Carleen Blissett accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By Jasmine Herzog-Evans

That Carleen Blissett be appointed Chair of the Animal Services Appeal Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.

Carried

Carleen Blissett assumed the Chair.

3. Disclosures of Interest

3.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

4. Appeal Hearing

4.1 Appeal of Order to Restrain a Dog
7 Ward Street
Appeal # ASA 19-01

A. Gratton, Supervisor of By-law and Animal Services, introduced the Committee and outlined the authority of the Animal Services Appeal Committee. He explained that the Committee has the ability to confirm Orders to Restrain, modify or rescind them. A. Gratton advised the appellant that the issuing Officer was not present. He further advised that he would read the injured party's statement to the Committee. He provided a brief overview of the Order and the Town's position on the Order. A. Gratton asked the appellant to address the Committee.

J. Scott, the appellant, appeared before the Committee and provided a history of her family's ownership of the dog stating that the dog had one previous incident when as a puppy it was startled awake. She provided details of the incident noted in the Order. She advised that the dog had been restrained by a leash and a muzzle was used when walking in public. She requested that the Order either be rescinded or modified and advised that she would continue to use the muzzle in high traffic public spaces. She noted that she preferred not to use the muzzle when walking the dog on conservation land.

A question and answer period ensued between J. Scott and the Committee regarding details of the incident including whether the dog had been quarantined and the injuries sustained by a member of the

public.

The Committee excused the appellant, S. Gibb, A. Gratton and S. Ure from the room at 3:46 p.m. and reviewed the matter. The appellant, S. Gibb, A. Gratton and S. Ure returned to the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Committee Decision

That the Order to Restrain for the dog residing at 7 Ward Street be modified to remove Item #2 from the Order and that the appellant comply with Section 6.1 of the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law #7294-17 to leash the dog on a leash not exceeding 2 metres in length. Further, the appellant was advised to attend additional training classes with the dog.

4.2 Appeal of Orders to Restrain a Dog 400 Conlin Road Appeal # ASA 19-02

A. Gratton, Supervisor of By-law and Animal Services introduced the Committee and outlined the authority of the Animal Services Appeal Committee. He explained that the Committee has the ability to confirm Orders to Restrain, modify or rescind them.

S. Gibb, Animal Services Officer, appeared before the Committee and provided an overview of the circumstances that led him to issue the Orders. He provided testimony that serious injuries sustained by a member of the public led to the Orders to Restrain the dogs as well as the dogs being quarantined.

J. Pain-Andrejin, the appellant, appeared before the Committee to request that her dogs not be required to wear a muzzle. She acknowledged that her dogs were involved in an altercation and believed that it was an isolated incident.

R. Pain-Andrejin provided testimony regarding the details leading up to the incident.

J. Speyer, a professional behaviour consultant, provided a statement regarding her assessment of the dogs which included exposing the dogs to stressors. She stated that the dogs were unreactive and showed no signs of aggression or stress.

A question and answer period ensued between J. Pain-Andrejin and the Committee regarding details of the injuries sustained by a member of the public, the dogs involved in the incident and any past incidences of

threatening or aggressive behaviour.

The Committee excused the appellants and S. Gibb, A. Gratton and S. Ure from the room at 4:42 p.m. and reviewed the matter. The appellants and S. Gibb, A. Gratton and S. Ure returned to the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Committee Decision

That the Orders to Restrain for the dogs residing at 400 Conlin Road be confirmed as written.

5. Adjournment

5.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Melissa Weatherbie

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

H. Oerlemans, Council/Committee
Coordinator