



THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA

GEORGINA

Appeals Committee (Aggressive/Dangerous Dogs) Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM

Members of

Committee Present: Charlene Biggerstaff
Dan Fellini
Lee Dale

Staff Present:

Lisa Hnatiw
Mike Hutchinson

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Moved By: Councillor Fellini

Seconded By: Councillor Biggerstaff

Councillor Dale be appointed as Chair for tonight's meeting.

Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

4. EXPLANATION OF MEETING PROCEDURE

Councillor Dale provided an explanation of the meeting procedures and proper speaker etiquette.

5. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)

No addendum items.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By: Councillor Biggerstaff

Seconded By: Councillor Fellini

Carried.

7. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL OR WITHDRAWAL

None.

8. AGGRESSIVE/DANGEROUS DOG APPEALS

1. Aggressive/Dangerous Dog Appeal 24-4320

Owner - Nathan Combaluzier, located at 904 Lake Drive East, Jackson's Point.

Requesting appeal for Dangerous Dog Order issued for "Hank".

Mr. Nathan Combaluzier, owner of the dog Hank, provided a statement regarding Hank's behavior. He commented on the hospital records, photographs, and statements included in the agenda, offering a summary of the event from his perspective. Additionally, Mr. Combaluzier discussed previous incidents involving the declarant Deanna Combaluzier. He emphasized that Hank is not a dangerous dog.

Councillor Dale requested Mr. Combaluzier to elaborate on the incident from his perspective. Mr. Combaluzier provided further details on his location and the events that transpired.

Councillor Biggerstaff inquired about the whereabouts of those involved during the incident and the events that followed. Mr. Combaluzier clarified that Deanna and the parents had taken Finley to the hospital after the incident.

The declarant was not present for the meeting.

During the public portion of the meeting, Ms. Natasha Vujovic commented on Hank's behavior. She noted discrepancies in some of the statements and clarified that she was the only person who witnessed the incident. Ms. Vujovic also provided insights into the family dynamic surrounding the event.

Councillor Fellini asked bylaw staff if other officers were involved in evaluating the dog. Mike Hutchinson, Municipal Law Enforcement Manager confirmed that it is not a requirement for officers to see the dog before making a decision. He briefly outlined the process for declaring a dog dangerous/aggressive.

Councillor Dale inquired about the time frame for making a decision regarding the declaration of a dangerous dog. Mr. Hutchinson clarified that there is no specific time frame outlined in the bylaw, and the process can take time due to the need for witness statements and the collection of all relevant information.

Councillor Dale also asked Mr. Combaluzier if Hank is placed in a crate to prevent unsafe actions. Mr. Combaluzier confirmed that Hank is crate-trained and always has access to an open crate. He further stated that he has never encountered any aggressive behavior with his animals.

Councillor Dale asked Mr. Combaluzier to clarify who was present during the incident. Mr. Combaluzier confirmed that Ms. Vujovic was the only person in the room at the time of the incident.

Councillor Biggerstaff made additional comments regarding the statements provided and inquired whether bylaw staff follows up on a dog's vaccination status. Mr. Hutchinson responded that bylaw staff is not involved in that process, and York Region Public Health handles such matters.

Councillor Dale requested a motion to allow Mr. Combaluzier and Ms. Vujovic to ask and answer questions together.

Moved by: Councillor Fellini

Seconded by: Councillor Biggerstaff

Carried.

Natasha Vujovic commented on the conversation they had with the Animal Services Officer.

Councillor Dale asks for a motion to have a five minute recess to allow all participants time to gather their thoughts.

Moved By: Councillor Fellini

Seconded by: Councillor Biggerstaff

Carried.

The committee recessed at 7:53 p.m. and resumed at 8:03 p.m.

The committee engaged in a thorough discussion to reach a decision. The committee sought clarification from Mr. Hutchinson on the difference between a "dangerous" and "aggressive" dog and how the order for Hank came about.

Decision:

Moved by: Councillor Fellini

Seconded by: Councillor Biggerstaff

Carried.

The order for the Aggressive/Dangerous dog appeal for Hank #24-4320 be rescinded in its entirety.

9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By: Councillor Biggerstaff

Seconded By: Councillor Fellini

That the minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 28, and November 28, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on April 10th, 2024 at 7:00pm.

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved By: Councillor Fellini

Seconded By: Councillor Biggerstaff

The meeting adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Carried.