

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

DOG HEARING:

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Ed Rainville, Brooks Sturtevant, Andy Godin.

Guests: Dennis Demar, Animal Control; Lester and Lori Thompson; Thomas and Susan Richard; Will Ruprecht, Franklin County Sheriff.

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Peter stated the hearing was regarding the Thompson's dog perpetual barking. He reviewed the rules of the dog hearing and everything is to go through Peter; both parties will have a turn giving them information and ask questions. The board will let both parties go and will deliberate their decision.

Complaint from Sue Richard on Oct 21, 2015 regarding perpetual barking; barks at us all the time when on our property. The dog is located close to the boundary line of their property. Peter read the letter that was sent to Thompson's on March 17, 2016 regarding the issue. On May 18 the board received another complaint of the continued barking.

Sue Richard advised that this started a few years back and they had called Dennis. They heard that there was a sick relative that was coming to live with the Thompson's, to she let the issue go. She has now brought the concern up again as it has not changed and the dog continues to bark. Mr. Sturtevant has visited and heard the barking. Mrs. Richard states she will be laid up for about a year and home and does not want to listen to the dog barking when she sits on the deck. Peter asks if the dog has come onto the property; Sue advised occasionally but does not bother them. The complaint is of the barking. Dennis has advised that he has called the Thompson's and visited.

Mrs. Thompson advises they have had the dog for six years. The dog barks when someone comes in the driveway to let them know someone is there; barks when the kids play outside because he wants to play, he is not vicious. Peter states you can understand the unpleasantness of being outside with the dog barking when on your own property. Mr. Thompson understands it and feels with the dog there, there is protection. He comes in during the night and Mrs. Thompson is home during the day, she babysits. Mr. Thompson feels he barks more when he is there; he is a big baby and wants to play. Mr. Thompson states he could put up a five ft. fence if that would help. Moving him to the other side of the house is not a good option for them; there is not shade for him. He is going to buy an anti-barking collar this week and try that. When the kids are out playing, he barks because he wants to play with them. Mr. Thompson states they did not get the letter that was supposedly mailed. Mr. Thompson states the dog is not vicious but a stranger should not trust him; not sure what he would do if he were grabbed by a stranger.

Sue Richard states she does not want the dog to be harmed by a shock collar, just wants to find a solution. Will Ruprecht, FCSO, has been a dog handler for several years and suggests having a shock/bark collar as they are effective.

Peter thanks the parties for attending and closes the hearing at 7:30 pm. The Board entered into deliberations at 7:30 pm

The board deliberates the issue. Lisa will do a letter to the Thompson's regarding the advisement of the board. Moving the dog to another spot on the property to minimize impact of barking and purchasing an anti-bark collar for the dog by June 7th. Dennis will follow-up with the parties and assist if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
May 24, 2016

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.
These minutes were approved at the June 1, 2016 board meeting.