

**5emorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833Meeting Minutes from the
Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
04/25/2022
7:00PM-General Meeting
Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9**

Selectmen Present: *D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, D. Twiss and A. Smith.*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz participating on Zoom.*

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

*Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance*

PUBLIC HEARING: *Dog Hearing from an incident reported of a dog fight that took place on December 23, 2021 in the Town of Georgetown.*

PRESENT FOR THE DOG HEARING: *Christine Comiskey, George Comiskey, Raymond Denis, Attorney Jeremy Cohen, Denise DiMento, Linda Metcalf, Animal Control, Officer Derek Jones, Lt. Scott Hatch, Diana Denis, Joseph Pelczarski,,*

Dog Officer Derek Jones gave his full lengthy report to the Board on the incident on December 23, 2021 and meeting notes with all parties.

D. Dawes sworn Ms. Christine Comiskey & Mr. Raymond Denis prior to their testimony.

Complainant Christine Comiskey, 45 Old Jacobs Road, Georgetown, Mass read aloud the letter that she had previously sent to the Board of Selectman and spoke about the incident that took place on December 23, 2021 with her dog Rio and another neighbor's dog named Captain Jack.

WITNESSES IN ATTENDANCE:

D. Dawes sworn in Denise DiMento, 8 Gloria Road, Georgetown, Mass. Ms. DiMento who had previously submitted a letter to the Board which she read aloud. Ms. DiMento did not see the attack but spoke on what she could hear, spoke on Rio's disposition, Ms. DiMento did comment that she saw Mr. Denis laying in the street. Ms. DiMento wanted to speak on items she felt were not included in the Dog Officers Report.

Ms. Comiskey asked the Board if they received the 911 recording -D. Dawes replied they had received it.

Dr. Jan Dunbar's Dog Bite scale was brought up from Ms. Comiskey

Ms. Comiskey stated this was a horrible mutilation on her dog not an attack.

Mr. George Comiskey spoke on the phycological affects his wife has suffered since this attack and asked that his testimony be taken into consideration of the Board when deciding on this matter.

D. Dawes asked if any testing had been taken of the dogs.

Ms. Comiskey mentioned she would like her medical bills to be paid for.

D. Dawes asked if she had been treated for Post Traumatic Syndrome and has a diagnosis of this. Ms. Comiskey stated she has not been treated and or diagnosed at this time.

D. Twiss asked Ms. Comiskey what was the preference on what she would like to happen with Captain Jack since giving up the dog and euthanasia were both mentioned by her. Ms. Comiskey wants this dog to be given to someone professionally that can handle this dog, also mentioned euthanasia but mention she is dog lover and mention and does not believe the dog should stay not with Raymond Denis.

D. Twiss read aloud a letter submitted by Kathleen Sachs, 11 Gloria Road, Georgetown, Mass to Dog Officer Derek Jones.

A. Smith inquired about the flesh of Rio and asked if it was removed by the attack, Ms. Comiskey replied it fur that was found but no flesh near the area.

D. Twiss read aloud a letter submitted from Kathy Sachs, 11 Gloria Road, Georgetown, Mass.

D. Twiss read aloud a letter submitted to the Board from Karen Decoster, 11 Lake Avenue, Georgetown, Mass.

Ms. Comiskey showed pictures of her eight (8) year old dog Rio after the incident.

Ray Denis, 8 Lake Avenue, Owner of Captain Jet -and his Attorney Jeremy Cohen / Boston Dog Lawyers, spoke on the incident from December 23, 2021. Attorney Cohen gave some observations to the Board-spoke on dangerous dog hearings -two years nothing has been heard or documented from residents and or neighbors regarding Captain Jet-spoke on Dunbar's dog bite scale which there is no measurement of this dog's tooth regarding the bite, spoke on legislatives -measurement of the dog's tooth, this is how the Dunbar Scale is used, teeth depend on certain bites can't say what type of bite this is.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD:

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator suggested that Ms. Comiskey be given the same packet of information that was given to the Board by Mr. Denis be given to her.

D. Dawes stated he had spoken with Muddy Creek Care Center whom cared for Rio and the terminology high pray drive was mentioned, D. Dawes asked Dog Officer Derek Jones to explain this terminology.

D. Dawes asked Mr. Denis his thoughts on why this incident happened and why would his dog attack.

A. Smith asked what the disability was of Mr. Denis that his dog could be of assistance for him.

A. Smith spoke of four prior incidents with chicken, rabbits that were not reported

D. Dawes, has seen results from testing and asked what was the weight of the dogs.

G. Fowler asked for clarification of the definition of dangerous & nuisance referring to this dog hearing situation.

G. Fowler asked about cross examination, questioned the retainment area, no roof on the retainment area, questioned if the dog is out there all day,

P. Kershaw stated the incident was traumatic for both sides, commending Mr. Denis on his efforts and asked him if he was fully committed to the financial commitment of this case.

D. Dawes informed the dog owner he had the right to appeal the Boards decision and he would need to take that up in District Court.

D. Dawes informed the Board there is a decision to be made on Mr. Denis dog Captain Jack-the Board would need to decide the dog as a nuisance and or a dangerous dog. The Board voted on the following as to what they should what type of dog Captain Jack would be deemed as and for what charges should be and to what degree the outcome should be. Each Board member stated their choice

- D. Twiss- Dangerous-will not vote to euthanize this dog -dog is dangerous.*
- A. Smith-Dangerous-do to the seriousness of this attack.*
- P. Kershaw-Dangerous-by definition/ support of non-euthanizing this dog-the trauma*
- D. Dawes-Dangerous egregious attack on another animal -180-degree difference in the dog not sure what triggered the dog and questioned rehabilitation.*
- G. Fowler- Nuisance -dose not want this to happen again -after listening to the evidence the Board might have more control as a nuisance.*

The Board decided four (4) dangerous and one (1) nuisance for Captain Jack.

D. Twiss read aloud from Chapter 140 Section 157 of the Mass General Laws.

D. Dawes asked if the dog has been neutered.

Ms. Comiskey would like that Mr. Ray's insurance company be informed that his dog has been deemed to be a dangerous dog. The Board would not support that request felt it was not their role to do that.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve the amended meeting minutes from March 14, 2022, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve a request from Jill Benas & Linda Metcalf spoke on their request for a summer series concert to take place at the American Legion Park with an approval of a one-day liquor request for a limit of two drinks per persons, ID bracelet to be worn, and a police detail to be held on the and an approval of a one-day liquor license for all of these concerts starting on July 10, 2022 through August 28, 2022 on Saturdays from 5-7PM, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll Call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve a request from the Assessor's office for approval surplus properties/ file cabinets, seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Twiss motion the Board to consent to allow National Avenue to be able to apply for permits contingent upon the purchase and sales agreement, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor. D. Dawes thanked O. Pacheco, Town Administrator and Select Board member P. Kershaw on their work on National Avenue.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to extend the meeting pass the time of 10:30PM, seconded by A. Smith

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board received an update for the FY22 Pay and Classification Study from Sandy Stapczynski, Human Resources Services, Inc. This update is the preliminary draft -all positions included that are not under a union contract, steps for employees, step system, classification summary, Department of Revenue is where some of the information is coming from for a comparison, (14) fourteen ratings, Market Data with surrounding communities, compare to state standards and peer communities, red circling.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the following:*

Town wide yard sale to be held on June 11, 2022 with a rain date June 12, 2022.

MBTA Community Information Form-The Towns first obligation due on May 2, 2022 which will be to submit the community information form.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve and authorize O. Pacheco, Town Administrator with consultation from the Town Planner & Planning Board to submit Community Information Form on behalf of the Board of Selectman seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant - scope of work -final stages and preparing to submit application -Project Description was discussed, series of grants to address various environmental issues in Town.

The Town has posted a position opening for a Production Technician for the Georgetown Cable TV studio.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

D. Dawes asked G. fowler for an update on the Traffic Study Committee regarding parking at the American Legion Park.

G. Fowler gave an update to the Board on the parking at American Legion Park including parking stickers for next year, possible parking Kiosk. G. Fowler spoke on a park and recreation meeting this week trying to move these items forward. O. Pacheco, Town Administrator suggested maybe using ARPA money for two kiosks.

D. Dawes spoke on the Memorial Day event for this year of 2022 and asked the community for some volunteers at the cemeteries. The Town will be doing a citation for the 2022 Memorial Day event.

ADJOURNMENT:

G. Fowler moved to adjourn with P. Kershaw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM. Meeting Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant

All Board of Selectman Meetings can be viewed on our Town Website at

<https://www.georgetownma.gov> Under the Community TV tab on the left side.

Documents used in Meeting:

Classification & Grade Proposed from Human Resource Services, Inc.

Proposed FY22 Pay Plan from Human Resource Services, Inc.

Georgetown FY22 Market Data Report.

Pictures of injury of Rio.

Dog Officer report.