

Andrew MacLean

From: Amanda Belley <equustar88@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Dangerous dog hearing statement

Hi, my name is Amanda Belley. I live on high street in pepperell and I have experience with the Tyler's and their dogs through boarding my horse at their facility in pepperell. I wanted to discuss something that was brought up at the last meeting regarding the care of the animals. Now, the subject of the involvement of the MSPCA and the state department of agriculture was mentioned and said to be irrelevant at the time, but I am writing because I have to disagree with that.

The decision at hand is a not a light one or easy to come by. I understand that as I want to believe there is an alternative to euthanasia. To think of another animals life being taken because of the ignorance or irresponsibility of the owner is extremely sad. That being said, the involvement of the state in relation to the care of the animals on Old Farm Lane speaks to their character and to their ability, or rather inability to adhere to rules and laws and their seemingly unwillingness to tell the truth.

In another situation, perhaps setting a restriction on the dogs would be a solution but I can say from personal experience and I know there are others that can attest to the fact that, the Tyler's /Bourque's can be manipulative and dishonest people who very likely will not follow such restrictions on a long term basis. I can understand why one might want to say that the subject is irrelevant but in this particular case I don't feel it is because, if these dogs return to the care of the Tyler's/Bourque's and there is another incident because the town of Pepperell made the decision to trust them to adhere to the rules set in place and another dog or, god forbid a child is injured, the town is going to have more at hand than a dangerous dog hearing in conference room A. I'm not sure how many warnings or how many attacks it's going to take for the town to take action. This whole thing is so unfortunate and I wish I could say that it is surprising but that is my point today- it's not.

Without video surveillance or additional testifying witnesses it would be difficult, if not impossible to "prove" that it was 100% the Tylers dogs. This makes your job here very difficult and I do believe that the people involved realize this. We do not think it is an easy or light decision. The Tyler/Bourque's have proven themselves to be narcissistic individuals who have an astounding knack for manipulating people around them. I would hate to see the board be fooled by them and having their kindness and empathy being taken advantage of and it resulting in another animal or person being harmed. I was present at the last meeting and will be present at the next meeting and it absolutely blew my mind (but didn't surprise me) how freely she was lying under oath.

With a heavy heart, as a resident of town with a small child, I would vote that the shepherd be placed with an experienced and capable trainer OR euthanized and that the red dog, Brady, be seized and brought to a rescue at hopes of finding a more responsible owner. Having these dogs returned to the Tylers would be incredibly upsetting and will absolutely leave me feeling as if the town does not have the people's safety in their best interest. I realize you won't touch the black dog as she has been stated to be a therapy dog although, I would like to see some documentation showing that she is in fact a registered and certified therapy dog. That dog has gone after other dogs (granted it was on her property, but that is not the nature of a true and trained therapy dog).

Thank you for taking the time to read. I hope you can take my statements into consideration. I am hopeful that the correct decision will be made to keep the people of this town safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to email back or call me at 978.502.5750

-Amanda Belley