

Andrew MacLean

From: julie palmer <jm_palmer@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 7:52 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Dangerous Dog Hearing-Tyler Family

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Meghan and Ryan Tyler have been brought in front of a board regarding a dangerous dog hearing. It is an awful event that occurred with the Ford family's dog, which no one wants to experience. I am a dog owner myself, this is a nightmare for all parties involved. While I feel for the family and mostly for their dog, I believe the accusations that Brady and Simba are responsible are untrue. I would like to offer my experiences with Meghan and Ryan (as well as Brady, Simba, and Sadie), as I have been a client at A Touch Of Majic Equestrian Center (ATOMECE) for close to two years. There are multiple factors regarding this hearing that I would like to point out as it appears to be incredibly one sided.

I was first referred to Meghan by a friend; a local vet tech in Groton. Her attestation to the type of farm run by Meghan and Ryan was just what I was looking for; a positive, safe, and drama/bullying free zone. I met with Meghan one afternoon after she'd finished teaching some of her younger students, where I was also greeted by Sadie. Sadie politely gave me some kisses and rubs while Meghan and I talked horses. Sadie is a therapy dog-soon to be retired, whose only crime I've witnessed is snacking on horse poop when she thinks were not looking.

Next is Brady, a smaller hound mix with a sweet, semi timid personality. I have witnessed Brady on many occasions interacting with both adults and children, as well as around the horses and other dogs without a question of aggressive behavior. Brady is always leashed or contained to keep him safe due to his timid nature.

Simba is a White Shepard with a sad backstory, whose luck changed when he was rescued by Meghan and Ryan. Simba is large, and while he can most definitely appear intimidating to anyone who does not know him, he is quite the cuddle bug. Simba is protective of his family-he barks- that is his voice- we all have a right to use our voice. Simba has taught many lessons down in the arena with kids and adult of all ages. Simba is also leashed or contained at all times to ensure his safety.

Having been a part of ATOMECE for just under two years; as a student, working at, and boarding my own horse, I spend a portion of nearly every day at the farm with the animals in question. The dogs have a large kennel outside of the upper barn (which is Meg and Ryan's personal barn), next to the house. This is a private area, not to be entered without permission. During transition from the house to the outside kennel, the dogs are *always* leashed until contained in the kennel with one another. During my time spent at the farm I have never seen or heard of the dogs escaping the kennel, or running loose for any reason.

It is my understanding that the Ford family's dog was injured by another animal. The accusation from John Ford is that he had to 'pull brady off' of their dog. It was also stated that both Simba and Brady were wearing 'coats'-coats which neither of them have. Besides neither dog having the described coats, this would not occur as the dogs are never off leash. Suggesting the dogs had jackets on would suggest they were going somewhere which they would be leashed- unless the dogs perhaps put the jackets on themselves? Further; upon inspection by the dog officer, there were no signs on either Simba or Brady of any foul play. Due to the nature of the wounds on the Ford's dog, there would have been blood or hair found on either dog.

In addition to the high improbability of the accusations being true, the other parties who have become involved in support of the Ford family's case have a history of harassing the Tyler family. Following the incident with the Ford's dog, Brandon McCabe (another neighbor) took it upon himself to post descriptions of the Tyler's dogs as well as their home address on social media warning others. Days later a vehicle was noticed stalking the Tyler household until Meghan felt it unsafe and called the police- I would be naïve to think this was not related. Mr. McCabe has had multiple incidents harassing the Tyler family, which I will not get into as they are unrelated to this specific case. Lastly is Justin Rollins, a teenager who has been harassing the Tyler family since before I knew them was present at the hearing alongside a few of his friends. Justin was asked to leave ATOMEK due to the no drama/bullying policy after spreading untrue rumors around the equine community. Justin has since contacted potential clients, boarders, and students after stalking social media profiles to steer business away from Meghan and Ryan, as well as making false statements claiming the MSPCA has an ongoing investigation against ATOMEK. This is a teenager...a teenager is aiding in a dangerous dog hearing to which he has no connection? Seems a bit desperate and quite one sided.

In conclusion, I believe the hearing the Tyler's are being forced to attend is based largely on harassment. There is no evidence of foul play by the dogs in question, both of which I have had many, many encounters with- all positive and in no way threatening. The accusations by the Ford family, along with the McCabe family have multiple discrepancies that do not add up, with no proof that any of their assumptions are true. I will add that again, what happened to the Ford's dog is horrific and I feel for them in seeking answers-but I can assure this is not it. We live in a wooded area with high animal traffic. We hear coyotes, Fischer cats, even bears in close proximity on a daily basis. It would not be a stretch to think this could be what happened to the Ford's dog. I hope that this letter can help to shed light on the characters of my friends and fur friends at ATOMEK.

Thank you for your time,
Julie Palmer
978-302-7195

Sent from my iPhone