

Town of Greenville

SPECIAL MEETING

Re: Dog Law Workshop

May 30th, 2023 6:00pm

A special meeting was held on May 30th, 2023 by the Town Board of the Town of Greenville at Pioneer Hall to hold a workshop for the local dog law. This meeting was advertised in the Catskill Daily Mail on May 20, 2023 and posted on the signboard outside of Pioneer Hall. Supervisor Macko called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01pm.

Four Board members were present, Councilman Richards was absent. Planning Board Member Will Bardel was present as well as Dog Control Office Justin Case and resident Greg Stewart. Attorney Tal Rappleyea was present via teleconference.

Supervisor Macko explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the current local dog law and to adjust it to be more enforceable for the Town Justices. At this time Supervisor Macko invited Mr. Bardel to discuss his concerns before moving on to the dog law.

Mass Gathering Law – On behalf of the Planning Board Will Bardel raised some questions about the mass gathering law. With the second year of the Over Yondr festival being held in town Mr. Bardel wanted to bring it to the attention of the Town Board that for events under 500 people it is necessary to go through the Planning Board and apply for a Special Use Permit but for events over 500 people it is only necessary to apply for a Mass Gathering Permit through the Code Enforcement Officer. Meaning more attendees equals less oversight and less attendees have a more rigorous process to get approval. Attorney Tal Rappleyea confirmed that while this is not ideal that is how the law is currently written. Mr. Bardel shared that the Planning Board suggests tightening this up for future events. The Board thanked Mr. Bardel for coming in and bringing this to their attention.

Dog Law Workshop Discussion Points:

Ag & Markets Laws – automatically apply to Town's. There is no need to adopt these laws but having a Local Law makes it easier to enforce.

Local Law #4 of 2018 – After prior review Attorney Rappleyea reported that the most recent local dog law was a good start and would only require minor modifications. The dangerous dog information from the Ag & Markets dog law needs to be added to LL #4 of 2018. Attorney Rappleyea will draft those changes. There was also discussion regarding the applicable fines—no changes were suggested at this time but may be addressed during the public hearing process if/when they start.

Excessive Barking – Mr. Greg Stewart informed the Board that he has a neighbor with a dog that barks excessively and was wondering how that would be handled with any changes to the law. Excessive barking is covered in the current local law but unfortunately has not been enforced in Town Court.

Town Court – Supervisor Macko and Attorney Tal Rappleyea will present the dog law to the judges with a letter on behalf of the Board requesting that it is enforced and that dog related infractions are not pushed aside.

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There being no further new business this meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm

Jessica K. Lewis, Town Clerk-Collector

Supervisor Macko

Councilman VonAtzingen

Councilman Bensen

Councilman Bear

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