



GRAND VALLEY

The Corporation of the Town of Grand Valley Dangerous Dog Designation Appeal Committee Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 1:00PM

Council Chambers, 5 Main Street North, Grand Valley

Present:

Mayor Steve Soloman
Deputy Mayor Philip Rentsch
Councillor Lorne Dart
Councillor James Jonker
Councillor Paul Latam
CAO/Clerk Meghan Townsend
By-Law and Property Standard Enforcement Officer Brad Haines,
Deputy Clerk/Communications Coordinator Donna Tremblay

Also Present:

Elena Canini, Appellant
Agapki9- attendees

1. Call to Order

The Dangerous Dog Designation Appeal Committee convened at 1:00 p.m. on August 13, 2024.

2. Administrative Business

2.1. Selection of Chair

Committee Members nominated Steve Soloman as Chair for the Committee.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. Appeals to be Considered

4.1. Appeal No. 2024-01 – Dangerous Dog Designation, Appellant: Elena Canini (“Luigi”)

Chair Soloman welcomed those in attendance.

The Town's By-Law Enforcement Officer was requested to present his information.

Brad Haines, Town of Grand Valley By-law Enforcement Officer, provided a summary of the incident details which included the parties, date of incident, location and resulting dangerous dog designation.

Chair Soloman thanked Mr. Haines for his evidence and requested the representatives from AgapaiK9 provided their information.

Patty Slack, CAO and Leight Frederick, Office Coordinator, appeared before the committee. Ms. Slack advised AgapaiK9 is under contract with the Town of Grand Valley to provide Canine Control Officer services in accordance with the Town of Grand Valley's Dog Control By-Law 2014-46.

Ms. Slack provided a summary of the dog bite investigation, including AgapaiK9's protocol with Public Health and OPP regarding dog bites and their issuing of the Notice of Dangerous Dog Designation.

Ms. Slack suggested the Committee consider the addition of a condition to the existing dangerous dog designation that the dog be assessed by a reputable company with the dog owner to seek formal training and following completion of training, the dog could be reassessed with respect to the dangerous dog designation.

The Committee inquired as to whether AgapaiK9 could conduct the assessment. Ms. Slack advised due to a conflict-of-interest they could not perform the assessment.

Chair Soloman thanked the representatives from AgapaiK9 and requested the Appellant present her information.

Elena Canini, Appellant appeared before the Committee and provided her information regarding the appeal of the dangerous dog designation.

Ms. Canini stated the dog (Luigi) is not a family pet, is a working farm dog and protects the barn and livestock.

She stated her appeal of the dangerous dog designation relates to the requirements contained in the Notice as they restrict the dog from carrying out its farm duties to protect the barn and livestock.

She stated the child and father were first time guests at the farm. The child was unfamiliar with farm hazards and hazards were explained to the child's father prior to their arrival at the farm. She stated the father was requested to supervise the child during the visit and left the child unsupervised many times during the visit, resulting in her supervising the child while carrying out her farm duties.

She stated she supervised the child while in the presence of the dog earlier in the day of the incident.

She stated the child entered the barn where the dog was carrying out its guarding duties without any knowledge of herself or the father and it was during this time that the dog bite occurred.

She stated she provided precautions and supervision to ensure the child was safe in the dog's presence. She explained farm hazards to the father, and she supervised the child while in the presence of the dog and in the absence of the father.

She stated this was an unfortunate incident, the bite occurred while the dog was carrying out its duties and the dog had not been aggressive to others in the past.

Chair Soloman thanked Ms. Canini for her information.

The Committee considered and discussed the information presented.

Following the Committees discussions of the information presented, Chair Soloman outlined the Committee's options for consideration which included:

1. The dangerous designation remains as stated in the order; or
2. An addition of an Order requirement that the dog be assessed, trained, reassessed and a report provided indicating the dangerous dog designation could be lifted.

The Committee discussed their options with a recommendation to Council as follows:

That the Dog Designation Committee's decision from its meeting held on August 13, 2024, to consider the appeal filed by Elena Canini for the dog "Luigi" be as follows:

Designate "Luigi" as a dangerous dog with modified conditions as follows: that the designation and conditions can be lifted if the Town receives a report from a reputable dog behaviouralist advising that the designation can be lifted.

5. Adjournment

Moved by: P. Rentsch

Seconded by: L. Dart

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the August 13, 2024 Hearing of the Dangerous Dog Designation Appeal Committee be adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

CARRIED

Steven Soloman, Committee Chair

Meghan Townsend, CAO-Clerk