

Wallingford Selectboard
Vicious Dog Hearing Minutes
August 17, 2026

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the Vicious Dog Hearing at Town Hall to order at 5:00 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Anne Awad, Rob Barker, Glenn Mayer, and Kathy Luzader. Carolyn Behrendt did not attend.

Others present at the Meeting: Sandi Switzer, Joseph Elwell.

K. Luzader read aloud the Notice for the Vicious Dog Hearing.

K. Luzader read aloud the Animal Control Officer Joseph Elwell's written report.

K. Luzader swore in the witness – Mr. Elwell. Dog owner Nichole Chapman and dog bite victim Trevor Leonard did not attend the hearing.

K. Luzader asked if anyone had questions about the procedures. There were none.

K. Luzader asked if there were any conflicts of interest or ex parte communications. There were none.

Mr. Elwell provided an overview of his report and the August 1, 2026 bite incident along with photographs of the dog, a Jack Russell Terrier, and the bite victim's injury. Mr. Elwell explained municipal tickets totaling \$150 were issued to Ms. Chapman for failure to register her dog and failure to vaccinate the dog. Mr. Elwell said he had spoken to Mr. Leonard about the incident and Mr. Leonard's written description was included the Animal Control Officer report.

G. Mayer asked if Mr. Elwell had met the dog. He responded no.

Mr. Elwell clarified the dog's last rabies vaccination was early 2026 but had expired.

With no other questions or comments, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to close proceedings at 5:19 p.m. Motion carried, (4-0). Carolyn Behrendt was not in attendance.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to enter deliberative session for this matter. Motion carried (4-0).

R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to exit deliberative session at 5:29 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

By consensus, the Board agreed to order the following: the Jack Russell terrier should be restrained on a leash anytime it is outside of the 6129 Route 140E, East Wallingford home on or off the premises; the dog should be fitted with a muzzle anytime it is outside the 6129 Route 140E, East Wallingford home on or off the premises, a Beware of Dog sign should be prominently displayed in front of the 6129 Route 140E, East Wallingford home. The Board further ordered dog owner Nichole Chapman had seven (7) days from the date of the order to comply with the leash and muzzle requirements and fourteen (14) days to comply with the signage requirement.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 8th Day of September in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Anne Awad _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____

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