

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing
March 20, 2008**

Present: Supervisor Thomas Dias Councilman Robert Podris
 Councilman Gerald Roberts Councilman John MacArthur
 Town Clerk Monica Cleveland Attorney Jason Shaw

Others: Linda Dias, Keith Bendis, Gene Morey, Bill Morey, George Wittlinger, Anna Rothvoss, Hank Rothvoss, Eric Wiener, Lorraine Weiner, Dorthey Houle, Elizabeth Hamilton, Susan Fireman, Nancy Bryant, Charlene Peck, Donald Peck, Carol Bryant, Joan Roberts, Casey Miller, Betsy Boyles, Perry Miller, Bill Grossi, Linda Chamberlain, Bob Chamberlain, Annie Walyns-Jones, Murdock Morrison, Jim Stickle, Perry Miller, Terry Boyles, Mike Barton, Bob Mayhew

Supervisor Thomas Dias called the public hearing concerning proposed Local Law #2 of 2008, Leash Law, to order at 6:35 PM.

Town Clerk Monica Cleveland read the public notice.

Mr. Dias asked for comments from the floor.

Mr. Hank Rothvoss stated that he is in agreement with the law. He has a neighbor with an aggressive dog and there is nothing that the dog warden can do because there is no leash law.

Mrs. Nancy Bryant stated that she is in favor of the law. She favors the part that deals with the barking dogs. Mrs. Carol Bryant asked how a person is to control a dog from barking.

Ms. Susan Fireman stated that she trains service dogs and that while training one of her animals a 150lb Great Dane charged her. The owner of the dog laughed at her protests and claimed that there was no leash law and she could do nothing. She feels that the law is important.

Mr. Eric Weiner stated that he has been chased by dogs at the Ancram Mill and in Ancramdale. He feels that the owners need to be responsible as well. Mr. Dias assured the room that the board is not against dogs but would like to make the owners more accountable.

Mr. Dias asked for comments from the board. Councilman Podris stated that he sees the concerns but would hate to see an animal tied up. He feels that the law is written to tough.

Councilman Podris stated that he agrees with Mr. Podris. He feels that this may be an Ancramdale problem.

Mrs. Hunt stated that she lives on Poole Hill Road and that she has a problem with dogs digging holes in her lawn and chewing holes in her homes siding. She stated that the bark to excess at the mill and growl at her in her home.

Ms. Dotty Houghle stated that her granddaughter was bitten by a dog in Ancram.

Mrs. Carol Bryant suggested that people get invisible fencing. Mrs. Nancy Bryant stated that many people cannot afford this and it makes your dog defenseless.

Mr. Dias stated that this law was drawn up because many people were complaining that when they were biking and running they were being chased by dogs. He stated that this is not against all dog owners, just the irresponsible ones. There have been problems in the court and judgment is ineffective due to no law.

Mr. Bill Morey asked what would happen if someone gets bit? Mr. Dias stated that Section 4 of the law stated that it can be enforced by the dog warden or police.

Councilman Podris stated that he would like to do something with the hamlets because of the congested area but would not like to restrict the entire town. Mr. Rothvoss stated that this would not protect him.

With no further comment a motion was made by Councilman Podris and seconded by Councilman Roberts to close the public hearing. Motion carried.