

Barking dogs in Brownfield

Good morning and thank you for being here. I'm very sorry I could not attend today's hearing.

Also a big thanks to Senator Bennett and his team. We have lived at 37 Blueberry Lane. since December 2008, at time there were no barking dogs to deal with, peaceful and quite.

Blueberry Lane has 9 houses on it and is a very nice neighborhood in which to live except for the barking dogs. My girlfriend Lori and I have been dealing with this issue for going on to 3 years now. We have worked with the town's select board about this and have gotten very little satisfaction. It seems as if we are the bad people for wanting to resolve this problem. I was asked by a member of the Select board what I wanted out of this, I said just peace and quiet that's all, is that too much to ask? Lori and I are both retired so we hear the barking a lot of the time when others don't.

The issue here is the dogs are bear hounds and beagles, which are quite vocal to whatever they hear or smell, but yet they are locked in kennels and the only way they protect is by barking which affects a lot of other people around the area. I believe the state laws say certain types of agricultural and livestock herding dogs are exempt from local ordinances. These dogs do not fall into this category.

We both feel the local Animal Control Officer (ACO) is friends with the person who has the dogs and cannot be unbiased. We have been to multiple agencies and no one wants to deal with this issue. Why? Shouldn't the neighborhood have some right to peace and quiet in which to enjoy the property?

The house next door has had 3 different people own it and all have moved to other places because of one various reasons related to the place with the dogs. We are 600 to 800 ft. from the dogs. He has them spread out over the place where they live.

As far as I know he has 2 young calves for animals. At one Select Board meeting he said he had 14 dogs. These are hunting dogs. Does this sound reasonable to protect 2 calves? These dogs are kept in kennels so the only protection they provide is barking. I don't know about you but it does not seem reasonable to have 14 barking dogs barking day or night, claiming they are "protecting" the animals.

The ACO says he runs a farm, which produces nothing to sell. According to state law to be considered a farm a person must file with the state, and produce an income from either livestock or vegetation. None of which he does.

I hope you can feel our frustration from having to deal with this for going on to 3 years.

I have had Select board members come to our house and say the solution is to sell our house and move. Who here thinks that's a way to solve a problem? Sell your house and move! I hope you can

feel the runaround we have been dealing with. Two other people that lived in the house across from us sold their house & moved. The third party to own this house across the street is selling the home and moving this spring.