The Windham Select Board adopted a Vicious Dog Ordinance at its regular meeting on January 3, 2017. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the keeping of dogs (and wolf hybrids) and to provide for their leashing, muzzling, restraint, impoundment and destruction and their running at large, so as to protect the public health and safety of the Town and the quiet enjoyment of its residents’ homes and properties. The ordinance establishes what identifies a potentially vicious dog, and the steps the Town will take in the event of an incident involving potentially dangerous dogs.

The ordinance includes the following sections: the Select Board’s authority to adopt ordinances, the purpose of the ordinance, definitions of relevant terms, a statement of collar and leash requirements, enforcement, penalties and costs, impoundment, notice of impoundment, and release from impoundment, investigation of vicious dogs, its relation of this ordinance to other laws and ordinances, severability, and the effective date.

It will take effect on March 3, 2017, unless a petition signed by at least 5% of the voters of Windham is filed with the Town Clerk by February 16, 2017, asking for a vote to disapprove the ordinance. If a petition is received, the Windham Select Board will warn a special meeting and the voters may vote on that question. 24 V.S.A. section1973.

The ordinance is available for viewing by the public at the Windham Town Clerk’s Office, 5976 Windham Hill Road in Windham, 802-874-4211.