

**From:** [DENNIS HYSKO](#)  
**To:** [Bristol Town Administrator](#)  
**Cc:** [Nason, Bruce](#)  
**Subject:** Horse problem with Amanda Dickerson's horses  
**Date:** Saturday, March 9, 2024 4:09:19 PM

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To: Valerie Capels:

As you are probably aware, I attended the Select Board Meeting on Feb 5. The purpose of me being there was to bring the boards attention to the problem I am having with one of our neighbors, Amanda Dickerson's horses. The problem as I mentioned at the meeting was her not keeping her horses fenced in as a result of extremely poor pasture fencing.

To refresh your memory, her horses getting out of her yard has been a constant problem while we have lived here and well before. Our neighbors , the Murphys, Sturtevants, and Booska have dealt with this problem and I believe the Select Board prior us moving here. The problem they have reported was lawn damage caused by the 5 to 6 horse getting out. I know the Vermont State Police also had to deal with her being a problem with her horses running loose on 116 South. I'm sure they have in their records the number of times they were called.

Obviously I'm concerned about my lawn, but have two other more important concerns. The first being her horses were on top of my mound system, which can cause serious damage to my septic system. Although they were on it , our mound system seemed to make out okay, but it could have been the time of year where the soil was not soft. When Amanda came to get her horses, I mentioned to her my concern and the damage her horses might have caused and her reply was "What's A Mound System" The last four times the problem her horses were causing and more serious, was them running along side of my horse pasture fence and exciting my 2 horses. I would hope you can understand how horses once they get excited, can go through a fence with no problem at all. If my horses do get out, immediately I can see two problems that I would be liable for. First being if they trash a neighbors lawn, I'm liable to repair it, and second more seriously which was discussed at the select board I attended, was that if one of my horses gets hit by a car, I not only lose my horse, but I am liable for the damage my horse caused to the car.

As Bristol has had no official animal control officer, Chief Nelson has been the one I call, and I'm sure rounding up horses is not in his job description as chief of police and to complicate the situation more, Chief Nelson informed me there is no ordinances or regulations covering livestock in Bristol that he is able to enforce.

The reason I am sending you this letter and will continue to remind you, is that when I spoke to my lawyer concerning this horse problem I am experiencing, his advise was to stay in contact with you via e-mail and keep a record (which I am) and hopefully nothing happens, but if something does happen because of my neighbor's horses getting out and my horses getting into some trouble, I will be able to show in court that I did everything I could to have the town create an ordinance or some regulation concerning this problem which I made the town aware of and this will prove I am not liable but the town is for not acting on this problem which I have continually brought to the town's attention.

I would hope you will place this problem I am facing on the Select Board's agenda, and the town can take some action to address this continually occurring problem and avoid some serious consequences for both of us.

Dennis Hysko  
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cc: Legal File