

Shelburne Village Dog Park
Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, 6 p.m.
Municipal Offices, Meeting Room #2

Present: Bob Owen, Kay Boyce, Sally Wadhams, Lee Krohn, Lisa Williams, Kristin Prior, Rosalyn Graham

Approval of minutes of December meeting

Kay moved approval of minutes as read. Seconded by Lisa Williams. All in favor.

Sally recommended for future minutes, that we use surnames in first references.

Review of communications with Department of Environmental Conservation

Bob reviewed the history of communications following our meeting in early December. SVDP received an email from DEC. Lee responded. Bob reminded the committee of the position set forward in the original letter, which is that there are no good alternatives to our current site, we have done several things to comply to wetland rules, we would like to invite Tina Heath for discussion in spring.

It was suggested that perhaps the holiday was the reason Lee had not received an answer to his December letter to DEC.

Current status

Looking into steps for returning to original state and it was noted that already trees are sprouting. Seeking photographs of the early days of the park (late 2011 and early 2012) that will tell us what it was like. We can also get proof of that original state by observing the foliage along fence and along the Ti Haul trail.

Roz reported that she and Jessica had met and Jessica is planning to meet with the members of the legislature Conservation and Natural Resources Committee to discuss the language of the regulations for permitted uses of wetlands, and the possibility of including dog parks in the permitted uses. The pertinent section (6.9) language is rather open-ended, with "similar uses" at the end of the list – which the dog park might qualify as.

It was agreed that we want to continue to approach this situation from a position of asking to find a mutually agreeable solution.

Next steps:

Lee will contact DEC to keep lines of communication open. He will also contact Tina Heath regarding a visit to the park in the spring.

The shed could be moved before that meeting. Kay has talked to Ed Hamilton of the Boy Scouts and he has said he will consult with the other scout leader and the Eagle Scout who built the shed to arrange the move which would involve removing the roof and disassembling the shed, and perhaps storing it behind the scout barn. Doing this in the winter while the ground is frozen would be a good idea.

Moving the benches could also happen soon, unless they are frozen to the ground. We will investigate possibility of moving the benches to the Parade Ground where they will provide valuable additional seating at the Farmers Market. It was suggested that the dog sculpture donated by Fred Tiballi could also be placed near the benches.

Moving the waste receptacles to hang on the fence posts will be discussed with Tina.

Other business

A huge pine tree that fell across the fence on the Ti Haul side of the park in the May 4 windstorm, is a hazard and Lee will bring it to the attention of the Tree Warden.

Discussion of aggressive dogs in park

Two people with three very aggressive dogs are regularly at the park with resulting fights and people choosing to not use the park. Park rules specify that dogs must be under the control of their handlers, but complaints have not stopped the behavior.

Lisa volunteered to document the situation, Sally will visit the park to document the license numbers of the dog owners' vehicles, Bob will contact Shelburne Police Chief Aaron Noble to talk about a plan that could include reporting incidents to the police, and visits to the park by police and a police social worker.

Sally also suggested board members carrying “yellow cards” to give to people who are not abiding by the rules.

Adjourned at 7:18 on a motion by Kay Boyce, seconded by Kristin Prior.

Recorded by Rosalyn Graham