

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee  
Monday, May 6, 2019, 6 p.m.  
Room 2, Town Offices

Present: Chair Bob Owens, Kay Boyce, Lisa Williams, Sally Wadhams, Rosalyn Graham

Call to Order:

Due to lack of a quorum, this was a meeting for discussions but no official actions.

Approval of Minutes:

A correction to the minutes of the April SVDP meeting was noted and will be confirmed by Bob in conversation with Betsy Cieplicki: in the financial report, it was not clear when SVDP received \$734, the dog park share of the annual sale of dog licenses.

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes will be rescheduled to June meeting.

May Event:

Although the crowd was small at the May 3 *Woof: What Is Your Dog Saying?* Presentation by Deb Helfrich, the program was well received with lots of questions and good advice from Deb.

Future program possibilities discussed include Therapy Dogs of Vermont, a demonstration of Nose Work for dogs, and a presentation by Laurie Lawless. We will also ask Betsy for the names of dog trainers and other dog-related businesses who have approached Betsy in the past.

Report of meeting with Legislature Agriculture Committee:

With a shared interest in the impact of wetland regulations on farm land, and our dog park, Rep. Jessica Brumsted and Rosalyn Graham met with the Legislature's Agriculture and Forestry Committee on Wednesday, April 24 in Montpelier. The committee, which faces similar challenges to farmers' use of their land as our dog park is facing, was very interested in hearing of the history of our park, and the current situation we face with the Department of Environmental Conservation. The committee members asked very good questions, were supportive of our efforts to find a mutually satisfactory solution, and expressed interest in visiting the park. Jessica has had conversations with members of the committee in the weeks since our meeting and reports that many Legislators are voicing their support. Also attending the Ag Committee meeting, as an interested party, was Hannah Smith, Associate General Counsel to the DEC, who has not been directly involved in the DEC actions related to SVDP, but she did shed some light on some issues of concern to us (including the fact that the 75-cent-a-square-foot fee for a permit would not apply to the entire 3.1 acres of the park, but specifically to areas of impact such as paths), and also expressed interested in visiting the park.

Discussion:

The shed has been moved (thanks to Paul Goodrich and the highway crew) and set up in the dog park parking area near the waste water treatment plant where it will still be accessible for use by dog park volunteers. Bob reports that it will be able to hold the memorial benches and other items being removed from the park. Kay has contacted Fred and the Town will arrange to have the boulders moved from the park entrance to their original location on New Village Farm. The exercise ring and sculpture have also been removed. The mailbox is still in the park and Kay will ask Carol Bick about the origins of the mailbox and we might list it on Front Porch Forum.

Bob will check in with Lee Krohn to confirm when the jobs will be done and when Lee would like to schedule a visit.

**Board Member Recruitment:**

Karen Medsker, who has been invited to succeed Kay on the board, has been scheduled to meet with the Selectboard on May 14, and will have a meeting with Bob before that date.

Kristin Prior and Lissy Wolf will be asked if they are interested in continuing on the board. Mary West has completed her term and will not apply for a second term. We do not have an answer yet from Lee or Betsy about whether board members must be Shelburne residents.

**Other business:**

Upcoming programs: Invite Laurie Lawless to do a series of informal but informative sessions in the park, perhaps once a month in the summer, to address dog behavior. This was well received when she did it before, and would also provide an opportunity to update the community on the future of the park. Bob will check with Betsy on this plan, and Sally will invite Laurie.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:10.

Recorded by Rosalyn Graham