

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee
Board Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022
6:30 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Bob Owens, Committee Chair, at 6:40 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Owens, Cheryl Gibson, Roz Graham, Karen Medsker

Guests Present: Bob Hyames of Habitat Restoration Solutions and Tina Heath (State of Vermont)

Public Comments: None

Minutes of the January, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Invasive Species:

The topic of tonight's meeting was the removal of non-native, invasive plant species from the park, specifically from the area within, just inside, and just outside the fence.

Tina gave guidelines for submitting a Minor Amendment to our existing permit for the dog park. If approved, the amended permit will supersede the existing permit and will allow us to remove the non-native, invasive species from the fence area. In our application, we should be as specific as possible and include: the square footage of the area, the species to be removed, the reasons for removal, the means of removal, the frequency of treatment, and a long-term plan for management of the area. There is a \$120 administrative fee and a 14-day public notice period. Tina should have a response back to us within 1-2 months.

Bob H. stated that a strip about 3 feet wide both inside and outside the fence would need to be cleared to make access to the fence possible. Tina thought that was reasonable. Bob H. also raised the issue of brush removal, which is required on wetlands. The committee plans to ask the highway department if they can assist with brush removal.

The committee identified three species to be removed: poison parsnip, honeysuckle, and buckthorn. They also discussed the proposed pesticide to be used, which is like Roundup but without the toxic ingredient. July is the best month for the removal, and that gives enough time to get the permit in place.

Replacing the removed plants with native plants was raised. This would inhibit the regrowth of invasives. Bob H. has sources for native plants and can guide us if we decide to do that. Potential areas for replanting are inside the fence near the northwest corner, where non-native growth is thick, and in front of the park near Harbor Road. The latter will not be proposed now, but perhaps later.

With help from Bob H., Cheryl will fill out the application, after Bob O. sends her the application form and the map supplied by the state.

Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Recorded by Karen Medsker