

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee

Minutes

Mar. 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Present:

Bob Owen, Cheryl Gibson, Marissa Parisi, Karen Medsker, Lisa Williams, Rosalyn Graham

General Discussion:

Lisa asked if it would be wise to have sand on the path at entry to the park, or on walking paths around the park. This might be counter to the regulations imposed by the state and Bob will ask Jessica Brumsted to see what is happening in Montpelier related to wetland regs. Maybe we could go to a committee meeting in Montpelier. The meetings are all via zoom according to Marissa.

Board update:

Bob reported that Town Manager Lee Krohn asked if the board membership has changed. Bob told him two board members are not active. Cheryl suggested that we check with the two inactive members before moving to replace them. If we are seeking replacements, Lisa suggested putting up a poster at the park, as park-goers might be interested. Also we have had good luck with Front Porch Forum. Marissa asked if we might recruit someone who is on Parks & Rec committee as they could be valuable resources, especially if we wanted to get permission to cut trees. Rosalyn reported that she had not had any response from Gloria Frederici, a park-user who had expressed interest. It was confirmed that committee members should be Shelburne residents.

Financial update:

Bob reported on financial information received from Betsy Cieplicki. Our current bank account is \$6769.00. Our next income will be from dog licenses, approximately \$700 that comes in June. Marissa suggested we should reach out to the people who register their dogs to encourage use of the park.

As we have available funds, it was suggested we might produce a flyer or postcards to raise awareness of the park. Perhaps we could do a mailing accompanying the town mailing in the fall reminding people of time to register. Cheryl will check with Diana Vachon. Lisa said we should also have paragraph in the info Betsy sends out about rec programs.

Review of the bylaws:

Cheryl has reviewed the prior bylaws thoroughly and has come up with a proposed Charter that simplifies the language to more appropriately match current workings of the dog park Board. Marissa recommended that we call it a charter rather than bylaws. A question was raised about whether SVDP bylaws were registered with some state authority. Bob explained that is not necessary as we are a sub-committee of the Parks & Rec committee. Marissa checked on-line to confirm the history of the dog park committee and reported that the committee was originally registered with the Secretary of State as a domestic non-profit, but this entity was dissolved. Cheryl suggested an introductory paragraph that describes the committee as a group of community volunteers whose goal is to be responsible for the maintenance of the dog park and encouraging the use of the dog park. A major change proposed is that all membership references

are gone. Additionally, all language about indemnification of Board members be removed except that the Town of Shelburne be listed as the responsible party for any indemnification issues. It was agreed that we should have a minimum of five and maximum of nine members of the committee, and that officers may serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Committee members may be asked to resign if they miss four or more consecutive meetings. Sub-committees shall be created as necessary, with members chosen by the board. Currently there is only one sub-committee, Parks & Grounds. The proposed Charter was amended on a motion by Marissa that the size of the board is a minimum of five members and maximum of nine, with officers serving no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Seconded by Lisa. All in favor.

Bob also recommended a procedural document be drafted after the proposed Charter is approved by the town and to include reference to volunteers, as volunteers are very important to the operation of the park.

Projects:

Projects in the works and planned include the board walk, a path around the park, and a small dog park section. Bob will inform Lee of those projects, and work on some detailed plans. Financing would be a factor and to raise funds. Consider reaching out for more park participation and donations on Shelburne Day and Town Meeting Day.

Bob said that to be approved, these projects will have to be in the buffer zone rather than in wetland. Lisa asked if the state accepts the delineation by the consultant. Bob says state says yes and also Betsy informed state of the moving of the fence and got approval. Might want volunteers for parks and rec committee to help with planning. First steps: ask the environmental engineer – and confirm through Jessica that we can talk to the committee about specifics. Bob will find the map and send to Board members.

Special events:

Karen is making a St. Patrick's shower curtain – Dogs Forever – with shamrocks, to hang from March 13 through March 20. We will post info about this new photo op on Front Porch forum. –

Further business:

Bob announced that Lisa has been added as an authorized person to post on Facebook. If you would also like to post, you should “like” the park and Bob will make you an official.

Cheryl reported about signs on Route 7. She has talked to the State. We are eligible as dog park and could have signs for traffic from the north and the south. These will cost \$175 each plus \$100 a year to maintain them. The southbound one will be near Ark and the northbound one will be near Folinis Pizza. It was agreed that this will be great for people from out of town. Moved by Karen to empower Cheryl to pursue dream and spend the money. Seconded by Bob. All in favor.

Cheryl asked if we can do something to tell people that it is important that they pick up after their dogs, as we don't have staff. Perhaps signs asking people to “Please pick up.” Bob said we will have a clean-up day in April, as it is important to do it before things start growing. There is a question of whether we can put up a sign, maybe on the gate. Cheryl will investigate.

Approved the minutes of the February meeting with a correction: Marissa noted Cheryl did the FPF updates.

Next meeting: Monday, April 12 – 6:30.

Adjourned

Recorded by Rosalyn Graham