

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee
Board Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2021
6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Call to order

Present: Bob Owen, Karen Medsker, Lisa Williams, Rosalyn Graham, Jordan Townsend
Absent: Marissa Parisi, Cheryl Gibson

Guest: Bob introduced Laura Parks, a regular user, with her German Shepherd/Lab dog, of the park, who responded to a note in Front Porch Forum seeking board members. Bob explained our history, our negotiations with the state and their current guidelines, and also the steps involved in being approved as a member of a town committee. Bob will make arrangements for Laura to be interviewed by the Select Board at their June meeting.

President's report: Bob reported that conditions at the dog park are not too bad in spite of recent rain and the mud is starting to dry out. He said the raised board walk is a great success and expressed appreciation to Boy Scout John Curley who did the work as part of his Eagle Scout qualification. Three board members spent time at the park recently taking down buckthorn and pulling poison parsnip, both measures approved by the state. Concern was expressed about the buckthorn and trees growing through the fence, and causing damage to the fence. Bob will talk to Tree Warden David Hall about possibility of a plan to remove those trees and also to create a buffer on the outside of the fence to prevent further damage. Bob will also speak to Town Manager Lee Krohn about this. Among possible measures to help with the buckthorn control were turpentine (question whether it can be used in a wetland), or Buckthorn Blaster.

Lisa reported on measures to close the path between parking and the gate to the park. She said putting a sawhorse across the path had helped keep people from using the path, and suggested tape and a big sign might help. Also suggested dumping soil on the gravel. Question of whether the town would be willing to do the work or might committee have to hire labor.

Lisa also reported on the steps to control the poison parsnip along the front path. This needs to be cut down before it seeds, and it does continue to grow.

Small Dog Park: Bob has received questions about re-opening of the small dog park. Currently it is a mess with standing water, but he hopes it will get dry enough that we could just tramp down the greenery to keep it clear. The gates are not working and the north gate is wired shut.

Financial up-date: We paid \$246 to the Shelburne News for an ad for the Smooch Your Pooch event, and \$350 to the Agency of Transportation. Upcoming expenses are the signage on Shelburne Road and the signage on Harbor Road for SVDP and the Ti Haul trail.

Having the water turned on: Bob has been talking to Betsy about that, and he said in addition to water for drinking there will be the wash station for muddy feet.

Fund raising appeal; Roz had suggested we might put out donation boxes in key locations, such as vet's offices, to raise money for dog park. The consensus was that since we have lots of funds (\$6,000 in the bank), it is not necessary. It was suggested that we might consider appealing for financial support when we undertake projects like lengthening the board walk or applying for more permits from the state.

New business: Lisa asked if Representative Jessica Brumsted is still working with committees of the House to ease restrictions on use of wetlands. She said she feels we should get a better rate for our permits as we're good stewards of the land, we're far from the lake and we pick up the poop, all good arguments to be made for easing restrictions. Bob will contact Jessica.

Also a question of how to dispose of the buckthorn we removed. We will need another work session, as battling buckthorn is an ongoing project. Bob will check with Lee.

Suggested an expression of appreciation for those who do the weekly poop patrol. Bob will check with Lee to see if there is any precedent? Perhaps a gift card or gift from The Scoop? Lisa will contact Dan King who coordinates the volunteers and ask how many there are. Bob will keep in touch.

Approval of minutes of April meeting: Moved by Karen, seconded by Lisa. All in favor.

Next meeting: Monday, June 21

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by Rosalyn Graham