

**Shelburne Dog Park Committee  
Minutes  
November 9, 2020 6:30 pm  
Zoom Public Meeting**

Call to Order

Present: Bob Owens, Cheryl Gibson, Marissa Parisi, Rosalyn Graham  
Guest: Deb Gaynor of Monkton Dog Park Committee

Approve October Minutes  
Approval of minutes moved by Cheryl, seconded by Marissa

**Public Comments**

Deb Gaynor brought good news about the progress of the Monkton Dog Park, a project she has consulted our committee about at several meetings in the past year. She said they have raised enough money to do 2 to 5 years of operation including putting posts in the ground, poured cement to support gates of the entry paddock, with wide enough gates to admit dogs and the mower. She said that a team of archeologists came to visit their proposed park as it is an archeologically sensitive area. They got \$2000 from the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services for the study which was required to qualify for permission. This is because the area around Cedar Lake was the site of early native activity. The archeological assessment has located sites with a dense amount of artifacts such as tools, plus colonial era pottery shards, but not at the dog park site. They are planning a phased project with small dog and large dog areas. They will have a soft opening when they finish work and a grand opening in the spring. Deb suggested that we consider developing beneficial and supportive relationships among Vermont dog parks and also with local governments.

**Board Update**

Bob reported that Board Member Kristin Prior's seat expired April 1 and that seat is now available.  
Roz will contact Gloria Frederici who had expressed interest.. With the uncertainty of negotiations with the state now past we can move forward on recruiting. If we haven't heard from Gloria we will move forward at December meeting

**Financial Update**

Bob reported that there weren't any changes in financial status, with no word from Betsy Cieplicki. We haven't received an invoice from John Farrell for the fence work yet.

**Halloween Event Update**

Finances: Marissa reported spending \$38 on banner, some on dog cookies, hand sanitizer, for a total of perhaps \$100. She will get receipts from her spending and Lisa's to Bob for reimbursement.  
Marissa described the Halloween Party for Dogs as low key, inexpensive, easy, and blessed by lovely weather. Cheryl said the event was really successful. It started slowly but people began

arriving about 11:15 and then there was a steady stream. There were some new people, and this prompted a discussion of a plan for whether to ask for donations and how. Bob said that according to the bylaws we used to have members, at \$25 a year, but decided not to have memberships because there was no benefit that was exclusively for members, so we stopped. Now have friends of the park and donations can be made, recorded in our finances by Betsy. Marisa will get that information out to the community, as we don't want to let people think we are financially distressed. We need to be open about our financial situation. We do have operational expenses: we pay for water and garbage service, and we could establish a capital fund for bigger projects, perhaps requesting bigger permits from the state. Betsy has informed the state that we've met fence requirement. Ideally, we might want a board walk all around the park and that would require materials and permits. John Curley's boardwalk project could be a model for such capital projects

#### Boardwalk Update

John is waiting for state approval. The great weather conditions could come to a crashing halt. Don't know if there is a time limit. Hope he can continue with the project

#### DEC Permit Implementation

Related to moving the fence:

Thanks to Tom Graham for helping the project to happen and finding John Farrell. A great job.

#### Other Business

Marisa reported that Lisa is wondering if we could reactivate the small dog park, to accommodate small dogs and meet all needs of dog-owning community. Currently it is unusable, so overgrown. Historically we were mowing and weed whacking. Perhaps if we began using it, beginning in early spring and trampling the vegetation growth so it would be useable, or we could remove the fence and relocate the small dog park.

#### Signage

Cheryl asked Betsy if we could move the sign or add a sign near the street? Betsy said we would need a permit from zoning (cost \$50) Cheryl got the paperwork to follow up on this request. Betsy suggested a way finding sign on Route 7, maybe including Ti Haul Trail. Cheryl was authorized to pursue a permit. Bob suggested perhaps could also seek a State permit for signage on Route 7. Cheryl will check.

#### Statewide organization of dog parks

We might have more influence and also could be sharing solutions to problems such as controlling difficult dogs, etc.

Adjourned at 7:25

Minutes by Rosalyn Graham

**Next Meeting December 14, 2020**