

**Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee  
Minutes  
May 2, 2016**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Kay Boyce, Chair.

Present: Zoltan Keve, Bill Blackmore, Jeff Hodgson, Carol Bick, Bob Bick, Erica Richard, Traci Wright, Bob Owens, Steve MacNair, Lissy Wolf, David Hall, Peter Regan, Marilene Luxton-Jones, Fred Tiballi, Sara Bloom, Sondra Sammut

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and approved to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2016 meeting.

**Term Limits for Chair**

It was proposed to limit the term of Chair to two years with the Chair providing significant transition assistance to the new Chair during the first year of the new Chair's two year term. Discussion will follow at a future meeting.

**Reforestation Project: Memorial Tree Guidelines**

The Town of Shelburne has established guidelines for the placement and payment of memorial trees. The Dog Park will participate in this program using guidelines for tree selections suggested by Dale Bergdahl (UVM).

**Work Day: Saturday, May 14th (9am to noon)**

Volunteers are asked to bring their own tools, gloves, and a water bottle.

**Landscaping Project**

The landscaping of the area in front of the entrance to the dog park will begin following a site visit from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation with recommendations for appropriate options for this Class II Wetlands area.

**Agility Equipment and Bench (small dog park area)**

The proposal to purchase a stand (\$100) for the agility ring was approved. regular visitors to the small dog area are requesting a bench. Guidelines for memorial benches will be presented to them by Carol Bick for their consideration.

**Annual CBC Report**

The annual CBC Report for the Dog Park due in September consists of 7 questions and the Town Manager and the Selectboard want committee input for each question. The questions will be emailed to each committee member, and their input will be requested one question at a time over the next several months.

**Fundraising Projects: Calendar, Summer Fest**

The Committee will proceed with a Dog Park Calendar for 2017 since the cost of formatting the calendar will only cost \$50. The Summer Fest will be deferred for a year in order to concentrate efforts on the labor intensive calendar, our most profitable annual fundraising activity.

### **Other Business**

The Town will be contacted about liability issues related to hiring an individual, possibly a teen-ager, to mow and trim weeds inside the dog park.

There was extensive discussion about a dog attack that occurred in the Dog Park on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Two dogs viciously attacked another dog inflicting extensive physical damage requiring surgery, traumatizing the dog and his owner, and one of the dogs bit and inflicted puncture wounds on a woman who assisted in breaking up the attack. She was treated at the hospital. A Police report was filed. The Shelburne Police and the Town Health Officer are responsible for addressing infractions inside the Park. At present, there is no Animal Control Officer.

The Committee requested that a No Trespass order be issued to the offending dogs. Considerable discussion followed about developing safe and effective responses to future dog attacks in the park, including items that might be available to assist in interrupting such situations. Committee member Mary West will research what other dog parks have put in place to respond to aggressive and/or attacking dogs. Additionally, several other individuals present at the meeting are following up with research and suggestions on maintaining the park as a safe place for all visitors to the park.

The Chair will work with all concerned parties to implement the suggestions created by a special committee appointed to respond to this recent incident.