

**Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee
Minutes
August 1, 2016**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Kay Boyce, Chair. Present: Zoltan Keve, Laurie Lawless, Bill Blackmore, Bob Owens, Peter Regan.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as read.

Financial Report

The Committee received \$765 for dog license fees.

Calendar Fundraiser

Brooke Cote has prepared flyers announcing the details for photo submissions for the 2017 calendar. These flyers will be posted around town and smaller versions will be in the brown mail box at the dog park. Additionally, the announcement will be emailed to everyone on our mailing list and the Shelburne News is being asked to run the announcement. Calendars will be mailed to persons requesting them who live out of town.

Shelburne Day on the Green

A sign up sheet was circulated at the meeting in order to have committee members sign up for two hour time slots for Shelburne Day, August 20th. An additional volunteer is needed for both the 8:30 to 10:30 and the 10:30 to 12:30 time slots.

Best Practices for Dog Park Safety

Laurie Lawless, Certified Dog Trainer, reported on the two presentations that she gave at the dog park addressing dog behaviors that signal potential aggressive actions. Her presentation included photos of dogs engaged in such pre-aggressive behavior, and she also answered numerous questions about preventing and responding to such actions. Feedback from individuals present at the presentations was extremely positive. She has assembled a kit for sale that includes an air horn and a citronella-like spray repellent to aid in interrupting aggressive behaviors. Individuals purchasing such kits, however, need to be informed about the appropriate use of such deterrents in order to minimize negative effects. Contact will be made with Chief Jim Warden, Chief of Police, in

order to explore the possibility of a presentation by Laurie to the larger Shelburne community in a public setting outside of the dog park. Committee members approved the design of two recycled aluminum signs to be placed at the entrance to the park to caution visitors to secure the gates after their dogs enter and exit the park.

Fifth Annual Fall Fundraiser

The Fall Fundraiser will be held at Kay's house again this year on Saturday September 17th from 5pm to 7pm. Invitations will be mailed electronically, placed on FaceBook, and posted at the park. Committee members are requested to bring an appetizer.

Park Maintenance

All present at the meeting agreed that the park is being extremely well maintained, and visitors frequently report on their pleasure at visiting the dog park. Two volunteers in particular, Bill Blackmore and Steve MacNair, with the assistance of a paid volunteer are responsible for keeping the park a safe, clean place for park visitors. Work will soon begin on clearing away a 6 foot perimeter around the park since the encroaching vegetation is compromising the integrity of the fence. David Hall, the Town Tree Warden, is working on finding wood chips for the inside of the park to minimize the standing, muddy water in sections of the park. Zoltan Keve will explore pricing for private tree companies to deliver and spread chips. The Shelburne Craft School continues to provide sawdust that is placed down the entrance path to minimize a muddy, slippery entrance into the park.

Other Business

Betsy will be contacting the State about the possibility of setting up a second entrance at the north end of the park in order to minimize the congestion and potential aggressive behaviors associated with a crowded entrance/exit from the park. The drinking fountain at the junction of the path leading into the dog park and the Ti-Haul Trail will be installed this summer. The next meeting is September 12, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.