

**Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee
Minutes
November 7, 2016**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Kay Boyce, Chair. Present: Zoltan Keve, Bill Blackmore, Lissy Wolf, Erica Eulau, Dan Garofalo, Laurie Lawless.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were accepted as read.

Financial Report

The invoice for printing the calendar was \$1388.05. Calendar sales to date total \$510. Approximately 1/4 of the calendars were sold in the first two weeks that they were placed out in local businesses. Approximately 25 calendars will be gifted to volunteers, Selectboard Members, calendar photo winners, and businesses who purchased ads in the calendar.

Open Meeting Law

Members were reminded that whenever there is a quorum of members present outside of scheduled meetings dog park business cannot be conducted, even electronically.

Park Maintenance

Trees that are dead and/or dangerous have been tagged by the Town Tree Warden for removal by the Town. A waste receptacle has been placed in the small dog area.

Tree Reforestation Project

The pro bono report prepared by Dale Bergdahl will provide the groundwork for the Tree Reforestation Project which will proceed in stages over the next several years. David Hall, Town Tree Warden, and Jeff Haddock, Gardenside Nursery will provide consultation regarding the tree species, placement, and number of trees to be planted yearly with the first of 5 trees planned for this coming Spring. If drought conditions persist, a plan to water the newly planted trees at least 3 times a week will be put in place.

Park Safety Report

Signs with emergency numbers, non-emergency Police numbers, and information regarding reporting incidents in the dog park will be posted in several spots inside the dog park. The forms for Incident Reports will be placed in the brown mailbox adjacent to the shed.

Discussion continued regarding approaches to minimize aggressive canine behavior in the park. Strong support was indicated for the initial installation of a fence (Phase 1) extending from approximately the north end of the small dog area across to the east side of the park adjacent to the Ti-Haul Trail. A single gate for entrance into the larger park would be installed. This would create an area where entering dogs and their owners could approach the main part of the park so that all dog owners would have time to control their dogs. This would stop the long mad rush to the front gate that serves to “work” some of the dogs up into an unhealthy frenzy. The effectiveness of this fence would be monitored in order to ascertain whether an additional entrance/exit at the far north end of the park (Phase 2) is also necessary.

Also discussed were the possibility of using the current side maintenance gate as a second egress and placement of low visual barriers such as plastic strips interlaced along the fence on the east side of the small dog area to minimize the racing back and forth of the large and small dogs along that fence line.

Other Business

Bob Bick has resigned from the Dog Park Committee after many years of service. He was one of the founding fathers of the dog park, and plans to celebrate his service were discussed. Lissy Wolf and Erica Eulau will appear before the Selectboard tomorrow evening requesting to join the committee as members. Boston Neary of the Shelburne News will place an article in the newspaper announcing the placement of the dog park calendars in local businesses. Discussion will continue regarding extending the monthly meetings an additional 15 minutes and arranging for room availability. Bill Blackmore and his wife have asked permission to paint and place a mural on the back side of the main entrance sign to the park. The committee was very supportive of this request.