

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee

Minutes

Feb. 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Present:

Bob Owen, Jordan Townsend, Cheryl Gibson, Marissa Larisi, Karen Medsker, Rosalyn Graham and guest Deb Gaynor

Deb Gaynor, a member of the committee that has organized a new dog park in Moncton. She reports that things going well with the new park. She did ask for advice on best policy for handling dog fights, with injuries resulting. Bob explained that Shelburne Town officials have said that we have no police powers to say who can come and who can't come. We have proposed having signs saying if you have trouble, call the police in cases of injury or bad behavior, and if you have a dog that is badly behaved, perhaps shouldn't bring it to the dog park. Former Shelburne Police Chief Jim Warden, who was an experienced trainer, told people they shouldn't bring their dog to park, but before we could ban someone we would have to go to town as we don't have authority.

Deb said their situation is slightly different, as they built their park on land owned by town and it is therefore under the oversight of town. In their current situation, they were lucky that both parties were extremely civil, the dog owner is cooperative, the person who was bitten went to hospital, the dog is being responsible.

Deb asked if we are on her newsletter mailing list. She'll check and will send current issue with a link to their archives.

Board update:

Roz reported she had attempted to contact Gloria Frederici but has not had any response. Board members could take note of frequent park users who might be interested.

Bob will check with Betsy to see what number of board members is correct. Currently we have eight. Perhaps we should post a note in FPF as we had good results the last time we did that.

Financial:

Bob reported that we currently have \$6853.46 in bank. Our only regular expense is trash pickup. We might need to spend some of our funds to buy more permits from state, and there will be the expense of the board walk.

Cheryl noted that there will be expense of new signage at road for park and Ti-haul trail. We will share that cost with the town. She is also working on a plan for getting a permit for the small dog park and that will use some of our money. We will also need to improve the gates which will need some work in the spring.

Cheryl is also investigating having a State-permitted sign on Route 7 for the park. That will be more of a financial challenge. She hasn't got a price from state yet.

Smooch Your Pooch event

Marissa reported on the work so far in preparation for the Smooch Your Pooch event scheduled for Valentine's Day Weekend. After the success of the Doggie Halloween event, we moved to

the idea of a kissing bench like a photo booth, an event to raise awareness of the park and encourage the community to visit.

It has been a great joint effort with Lisa Williams decorating a shower curtain with a huge red heart design, Karen Medsker creating the words Smooch Your Pooch and sewing them on the curtain, Roz and Tom Graham preparing the site for hanging the curtain as a backdrop for the “kissing bench” where people can take selfies with their pooch, Roz prepping an ad in the Shelburne News, Karen and Roz distributing posters, Marissa posting on Front Porch Forum, and Karen and her husband Larry putting up the banner on Friday evening and Marissa got a logo to put on bench so it will have SVDP identity in the photos.

Review Bylaws:

Bob talked to Betsy and Lee who said the bylaws were written by the original dog park committee. The town has no parameters for committee bylaws. He also talked to Marilena Luxton-Jones, who now lives in the Netherlands, but was one of the original members of the committee. Bob explained to her that we have removed membership. She said initially the committee was looking for membership support to build the park. They used bylaws written by a dog park committee in Iowa to serve as a model for their bylaws. Our situation has changed considerably since those minutes were written in 2011, especially that now we have lots of funds without relying on membership. We could edit as we see fit, remove membership, maintain friend of dog park, and continue the donation box. Bob will circulate the bylaws and everyone should read and share opinions of any changes. Cheryl commented that there is much to be removed, just preserving the parts that pertain to SVDP. Cheryl volunteered to work on a few paragraphs that would be our charter. Will bring to our next meeting.

Other business:

Cheryl asked if we can update info about Shelburne Village Dog Park in Town website. Bob will check with Betsy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

Next meeting: Monday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Rosalyn Graham