

Shelburne Village Dog Park
Monday, April 2, 2018 6 p.m.
Shelburne Town Offices, Room 2

Present: Bob Owens, Sally Wadhams, Lisa Williams, Sharon McNair, Rosalyn Graham

Chairman Bob called the meeting to order. The February minutes were approved (without a quorum) and Bob gave the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$12,838, with income in the past month of \$1,148.56.

Special Events Report:

Great attendance and a great presentation at the March 30 event with Therapy Dogs of Vermont, a well-illustrated and clearly presented explanation of the requirements for certification of both the dog and human parts of a TDV team. Deb Helfrick, Emily Reed and Jason Reed were the presenters and they had their three dogs with them, all very well behaved.

Publicity via Front Porch forum, posters, the Shelburne News and Park & Rec webpage as well as word of mouth was credited with bringing the good crowd, and the committee did a good job of capturing contact info from those present to ensure that we are also remembering our goal of increasing membership and attracting new active members of the SVDP.

Plans were discussed for the April 13 program with Dr. Liam Bisson. The same model for publicity will be used plus sending info to March 30 audience members. The possibility of needing both the Town Office meeting rooms was discussed and will be checked with Betsy Cieplicki of Parks and Rec.

For the May program, a special addition to the WOOF talk by Deb Helfrick, will be the presence of artist Misoo Filan, a Shelburne resident, who will do a painting of a dog (from a photo, not live), and a lucky audience members from the first three programs will win a special prize: Misoo doing a drawing of their dog. Her work is very attractive.

Many thanks to Archie's and Pet Food Warehouse for their donated door prizes for the programs.

Site Selection Committee

Lisa Williams reported that she had met with the SCS students who did the survey asking for public input into the possible sites for a new dog park. Their findings made it obvious that the community concerns focus on parking, accessibility and noise bothering neighbors.

She also reported that she has had meetings with Town Manager Joe Colangelo and he had sent her a map of the town with town-owned open land marked. The committee reviewed the map, somewhat hampered by the small scale of the map which made it difficult to tell if a spot would be big enough to qualify. Among the points of discussion:

- perhaps more than one small dog park in town would be better than one large one, especially since some dog owners have commented that it is easier to keep track of your dog in a smaller area.
- we should ask Gail Albert, chair of Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, for her expertise on conserved land in town.
- we should let the town vet the spaces first and then we would get specific with those that were actually feasible from the point of wetlands and access and closeness to neighbors.

In a related discussion, Michaela Ryan of New Village Farm had asked if we would meet with her to discuss her current negotiations with the state about part of her property being a wetland.

Lisa Williams and Bob Owens will talk to Joe, Dean Pierce (as the discussion of the dog park site moved to his office). If and how to provide any advice or support to Michaela could be a topic for a future meeting.

Adjourned at 7:15.

Recorded by Rosalyn Graham