

Shelburne Village Dog Park  
Monday, May 7, 2018  
Town Office

Present: Bob Owens, Kay Boyce, Sally Wadhams, Lisa Williams, Steve Metz, Linda Riell, Ned McMannon, Judy Poulin, Lissy Wolf, Amy Gilman, Rosalyn Graham

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:07.

Public comments:

Dr. Steve Metz, long-time owner of Shelburne Veterinary Hospital, now retired, shared his thoughts on the future dog park. Dog parks are a relatively recent development, resulting from stiffer leash laws which left dog owners looking for a place to legally exercise their dogs. He offered his assistance to the committee in choosing a site, recognizing the parameters that exist. He also advocated for naming the new park in honor of Chief Jim Warden in recognition of his years of involvement with the dog-owning community. Bob explained that there is no process in place for naming the park but that we appreciate Dr. Metz' assistance. Linda Riell also spoke in support of the idea of naming the park for Chief Warden. Kay said that Betsy Cieplicki had said that the Dog Park Committee could make recommendations for a name for the park, and that naming for Fred Tiballi had been suggested earlier, but the final decision would be up to the Selectboard.

Site Selection :

Lisa said that there had not been much movement on the site selection process for a new park during the time of transition from Town Manager Joe Colangelo to Interim Town Manager Lee Krohn. One site that is being reviewed by the state is the area between the walking trail and the fishing access on Bay Road. The access to the Bay was seen as a positive attribute. The LaPlatte Park is also on the list for consideration, though it is recognized that there would be concerns about nearby neighbors, parking, and the sledding hill. Dr. Metz suggested that a sandy site is a good choice as it is easy to keep clean. Bob will continue to try to reach Gail Albert, chair of the Conservation and Natural Resources Committee to see if they have thoughts on a good site. Bob suggested that easy cleaning and no state oversight would be two criteria to consider.

Approval of Minutes of April 9:

The phrase "with income in the past month of \$1,148.56" deleted from the Treasurer's Report.  
Approved as amended on a motion of Kay, seconded by Lissy. All in favor.

Financial Report:

Bob reported no change in status since the April meeting.

Special Events:

Sally reported the success of the first two programs, the Therapy Dogs of Vermont and Dr. Bisson's talk about Ticks, Lyme Disease and Leptospirosis, with good crowds of about 20 people, most Shelburne residents and almost all dog owners. Publicity for the events, both in Shelburne News and on Front Porch Forum plus posters had been effective.

She hopes that the programs will accomplish their purpose of bringing dog owners to become active in the committee.

Sally also suggested that we might try to organize a Pet Parade some time during the summer. Judy Poulin reminded the meeting that the PTO used to sponsor an annual Pet Parade where kids brought may pets, from dogs and cat to fish and bunnies.

**Membership to Supporter Model:**

The Friends of the Park forms don't seem to have prompted a big response. Lisa volunteered to make Ask Me buttons with the dog park logo on them, to engage the community in asking SVDP committee members about the organization at the park and at Shelburne Day.

Moved by Lissy, seconded by Kay, to rescind the membership model and replace it with a supporter model. All in favor. Sally will make these changes on the webpage and at the Park. Donations will be tax deductible.

**New Business:**

**Fund Raising event:**

Kay will host the annual Dog Park Fund Raiser on Sept. 15 at her home. Invitations will be sent by email and posted at the Park. These fund raisers have raised \$500 and \$800 for the dog park. Details to be discussed at the June SVDP meeting.

**Storm damage at the park:**

The wind storm on Friday, May 4, felled three trees, two in the park and one on the fence.

The mail box at the Park will be taken down by Bob. It has not served its intended purpose so should be removed.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 4

Reported by Rosalyn Graham