

Shelburne Village Dog Park  
Monday, Sept. 9, 2019  
6 p.m. in Peach Room  
Shelburne Town Offices

Present: President Bob Owens, Lisa Williams, Sally Wadhams, Karen Medsker, Rosalyn Graham, prospective board member Marissa Alisi, and guest Carol Geske. Town Manager Lee Krohn joined the meeting late.

Marissa, who had seen the invitation for interested Shelburne folks to consider joining the SVDP board in Front Porch Forum, was welcomed and encouraged to contact Town Manager Lee Krohn for application forms and next steps.

#### Public Comments:

Carol Geske, a frequent user of the dog park, had come to share her concerns for the dog park based on the conflict between the state DEC requirement to let grass and brush grow uncontrolled and the potential for increasing amounts of dog feces being difficult or impossible to find for the park's traditional "keep it clean" protocol. As she pointed out, during periods of heavy rain and run-off this could send large amounts of feces into the stream and cause pollution of the Bay, an ecological disaster. She also suggested that an occasional period of grazing in the park (a permitted use in a Class 2 Wetland) could keep the grass and underbrush controlled.

#### DEC update:

Lee Krohn reported on the initial surveys of the park by Dori Barton who SVDP has contracted to look for possible compromise solutions to the DEC's requirements that we have been following for the past two seasons. Those suggestions include:

A buffer area that could have paths in the section that is not technically Class 2 Wetland

Making the main entry via a graveled path from U-Haul Trail

Waste receptacles would be permitted

Perhaps a central path the length of the park

Lee commented that Tina Heath from DEC, during her recent visit to the park, was more conciliatory and impressed by the measures SVDP had taken to abide by the regulations for what could be done in a Class 2 Wetland.

#### Other compromises:

Keeping the gravel in the entry area

Return the benches to the park and reconnect the water line

Cordon off the small dog park area as a first step to a rotating program of regrowth plots

Noted that activities requiring permits, if they are in a buffer area, are only charged 25 cents a square foot

#### Further questions for Dori and Tina:

Lee will inquire about possible use of the type of path protection (with boards) that the state uses in its parks, to make access to the park easier in mud season – could this path be as much as 20 feet long. He will also ask about goats grazing.

#### Financial report:

Currently the SVDP has a fund balance of \$10,119.07, with Aug 2 to Sept. 6 income of \$815 from 2019 dog license fees, and expenses of \$296.32 for trash hauling, \$173.92 fee for Dori Barton's site visit, and a

\$44.47 water bill. Expenses pending will be paying for the surveys by Dori, paying for licensing, purchasing doggie bags and paying for trash service.

If there was a move to future expansion we might consider fund-raising campaign. We could work with the state who could choose to use our dog park as an example of appropriate wetland use.

Board recruitment:

Bob posted an appeal for new board members on Front Porch Forum and Face Book. Happy that Marissa responded.

Lissy Wolfe is interested in continuing but has been dealing with some health problems.

Need replacement for Mary West who resigned.

We will repeat the Front Porch Forum notice and also need a notice in Shelburne News.

Any suggestions of possible names should be referred to Bob.

Dog Fair for Humans:

Cancelled due to lack of interest from dog-oriented vendors. May reconsider for a future date. Thanks to Betsy for her hard work on this.

Perhaps a Pet Parade could be a fun event that would raise awareness. Suggestion of scheduling for the weekend before the Farmers Market opens in the spring.

Other Business:

Our posting on the Town website needs attention – very out-dated information.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.