

Shelburne Village Dog Park
Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, 6 p.m.
Meeting Room #2, Town Offices

Present: Committee members Bob Owens, Kay Boyce, Lisa Williams, Rosalyn Graham

We welcomed a very special guest, Fred Tiballi, the donor of the land for the dog park, and Jessica Brumsted, Representative to the Legislature from Shelburne/St. George, who has been helping the committee as we seek the best answer to the challenge of being told we must relocate the dog park question.

Chair Bob read an email from Interim Town Manager Lee Krohn who said he expects we will be able to meet with the Selectboard on Oct. 9 and he recommends that we have a plan of action to share with them at that time.

Lisa reminded the committee that information gathered by the several surveys by Shelburne Community School students last year could be valuable in documenting the community opinion which made it clear that people wanted the dog park to stay in its current location, and that not moving it to a location near residences would not be popular.

The chart that Lisa created, documenting the unsuitability of the sites offered as alternatives by the town, will be part of the information provided to the Selectboard when we meet.

Financial report:

Current balance: \$12,838.

Expenses: \$1851 for trash removal, bags, the delineation at Bay Road site, and an ad.

Further discussion:

Have to be ready for a park that is nothing but a fence.

Offer to mow twice a year, move the shed or ask Scouts to remove it, let saplings grow, check with the tree warden about the trees, ask Jeff Hodgins to assess the rocks which we believe are indigenous.

Kay recommended that we meet with the representative of the DEC, if she is willing to talk to us to ask for advice and recommendations and reaction to our minimalist plan, and then talk to Governor's office. The possibility of permit costs is an unknown factor.

Jessica volunteered to talk to Legislative Counsel, an environmental expert who might be able and willing to advise.

Fred suggested asking the state to remove a portion of the wetland designation and also that we might ask Michaela on New Village Farm to provide a place for the shed so we could still use it for storage. Scout leader Ed Hamilton has said he would move the shed.

Other business:

Oct. 19 talk by Dr. Sarah Smets and Dr. Andrew Koenitzer of Ark Veterinary Hospital. We will do posters for town, Front Porch Forum postings and Shelburne News story. Also good if we spread words to dog owners we know, whether they are dog park users or not. Sarah had called Roz to say she was planning to bring toothbrushes for those attending the event, since part of her talk will be about dental care for dogs.

Bob said he had been informed about a dog that was attacked by a husky named Atlas. Bob had responded that we have no power to bar dogs from the park. Incidents must be referred to the police.

Kay reported that she had seen the therapy dog folks who spoke at our public event, and Deb Helfrick who talked about dog communication at the annual meeting of the Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Both previous presenters indicated that they would be willing to do presentations again in 2019. She also reported that the 7th annual SVDP fund raising event at her home had raise \$450 for the organization. She recommended more publicity to get more people next time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Reported by Rosalyn Graham