

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee
Monday, Nov. 5, 2018, 6 p.m.
Shelburne Town Office, #2

Present: Bob Owens, Kay Boyce, Lissy Wolf, Kristin Prior, Jessica Brumsted, Rosalyn Graham

Call to Order: at 6:00.

Bob explained that Lee Krohn who had planned to attend our meeting was not well and could not come. Bob will report the outcome of our discussions to Lee and Betsy Cieplicki.

Public Comments: no public, no comments.

Approval of Minutes: the minutes of the Oct. 1, 2018 meeting were approved as circulated on the motion of Kay, seconded by Lissy. All in favor.

Financial Report: Bob reported that there has not been any significant change since the last meeting, with the bank balance just over \$12,000.

Review of meeting with State DEC on Oct. 11:

Met with Laura LaPierre of DEC, reviewed the history of the park and our offer to return the property to the status required for a Class II Wetland.

Ms. LaPierre asked that we consider returning to its pre-dog park condition, and reduce the size from its current 3 acres to ½ acre. She explained that if we do want a permit to exceed any limits, it would be extremely expensive. She also mentioned the possibility of cordoning off part of the park on a rotating basis to allow for the restoration of vegetation.

Ms. LaPierre suggested that Tina Heath of DEC would be available to meet and advise on possible actions leading to a resolution of the current situation.

Discussion:

Lissy: we should ask that DEC weigh the impact on water quality against the benefit the park provides to the town.

Kay: at the time the state identified the problem of the dog park being in non-compliance with Class II Wetland guidelines, they said we should come into compliance, or move, and the town recommended seeking a place to move.

All town-owned sites within Shelburne were evaluated using the 10 criteria approved by the Selectboard, and all sites were judged inappropriate with the possible exception of land near Bay Park (the long narrow strip to the west of the road leading to the parking area at the rear). The Shelburne Natural Resources Committee needs to weigh in on the possibility of removing underbrush to widen the southern end of that strip that is not Class II Wetland. A private consultant who recently did a Class II Wetland delineation of that area suggested that the part that was Class II Wetland could possibly be fenced in with no further action allowed.

Bob: minimal action during the winter (as suggested by Lee Krohn) with on-going contact with Tina, following an initial site walk.

Jessica: we are not alone. There are 11 other sites around the state that are similarly under review for having built ballparks, play grounds on Class II Wetlands, so they don't want to create a precedent by making exceptions to the rules for us. However it might be worth trying to have dog parks approved as a permitted use in a Class II Wetland.

Consensus: We will continue to move forward working with the DEC to address the Class II Wetland issues.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:15 on motion of Kristin Prior, seconded by Lisa Williams.