

**Shelburne Dog Park Committee
Meeting Minutes**

January 11, 2021, 6:30 pm

Zoom Public Meeting at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2se3sev>

Call to Order

Present – Bob Owens, Cheryl Gibson, Lisa Williams, Roz Graham, Marissa Parisi

Bob reported that Boy Scout John Curley couldn't attend but he has the wood for board walk construction project and is ready to start in March. Bob says we will still need further permits from state related to trees, etc. before the project can proceed.

Public Comments – no public comments

Board Update – Prospective board member Gloria Frederici has not attended a board meeting to discuss possible membership. Roz will check back with her.

Financial Update – Bob reported that Betsy Cieplicki indicates there is \$6850.46 in the SVDP account. The only recent expense was the trash collection and payments of \$610 + \$80 to John Farrell for moving the north end fence.

Review of By-Laws

Some major concerns in current bylaws

Members – the board had voted to remove membership as listed in Article 4.

Marissa suggested that as we are a subcommittee of Parks & Rec Committee, we might look at their bylaws, follow them while adding something specific for the Dog Park. Bob will check with Betsy and Lee Krohn and perhaps Marilaina Luxton Jones who was an early member of the board to confirm this as a proper next

step. Marissa said Secretary of State has a permit format and SVDP may have followed that. Goal is to have guidelines for how we should do things and what our goals and intentions are.

New Business

Of gates and small dog park -- Lisa suggested we should review the dog park rules. Also asked about the gate to the small dog area which is dangerously unhinged. The main gate which was in poor shape has been repaired recently. No one is sure who did that work.

Cheryl questioned what to do about small dog park: should we fix it up and would we be allowed. Bob said he believes we can't cut anything including grass and weeds, but we could just go in and trample the grass down.

Lisa suggested we might develop a small dog park in an area that isn't Class 2 Wetland, perhaps in an area where weeds wouldn't be a problem. Bob suggests a walk through the dog park with Betsy to discuss future plans and consulting with Dori Barton of Arrow Wood Consulting, the person who did the study of wetland on which the map is based. Bob will contact her to discuss possibility of a new small dog park.

Perhaps we could also get permits for a clear path (or boardwalk) loop around the park that would keep the grass and weeds down and improve access and extend use of the park.

Removing the current small dog area fence would open up the entrance area and should be done before the board walk work begins. Having a small dog area and advertising it could be good for park – also useful when need a separated area for safety or training or time-out. Cheryl suggested meeting with the state people to confirm the boundaries and details of the ruling.

Better signage -- Cheryl reported on her research about SVDP signage near the road. She submitted a zoning request to the town. Betsy offered to split cost of a sign on Harbor Road near Ti-

Haul trail to serve the trail and dog park. Cheryl also checked possibility of a sign on Route 7.

Publicity – Based on the success of the Halloween Day for Dogs, there was a discussion of a new event to raise awareness of the Dog Park. Suggestion was to have a Love Your Dog theme on Valentine’s Day. A first step is to check the state executive rules on gatherings. Among the suggestions are:

- An ad in Shelburne News and postings on FPF (Roz will check cost of ad.
- Marissa checked and state regs say only your immediate household but assuming this is an outdoor event with not a lot of people would be ok.
- Maybe write a haiku for your dog.
- Have Valentine treats for dogs.
- Bring colorful tennis balls – extra fun toys for your dog at the park.
- Plan -- For Valentine’s Day event on Feb. 14 – ad in SN Feb 5 and 12 – maybe also Saturday, Feb 13. Theme: “Loving your dog – loving your dog park.” Maybe a “Dog kissing bench” with big SVDP sign behind it.
- Lisa will get quote on a wood – sign for use at many events.
- Lisa and Marissa will work on publicity with Roz. Smooch Your Pooch.

Adjourn

Next Meeting February 8, 2021

Reasonable accommodations shall be provided upon request to insure that this meeting is accessible to all individuals regardless of ability