

Shelburne Dog Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2023

Attendees: Bob Owens, Cheryl Gibson, Roz Graham, Lisa Williams, Karen Medsker (Guest: Michaela Ryan)

Call to order: 6:29pm

Approval of Minutes: The July 2023 minutes were unanimously approved without change.

Public Comments: none

Financial Update: Cheryl reported that the balance in our account as of 8-3-23 was \$1971.95. The only expenses logged in the past month were Myers trash hauling now at \$75.48/month for twice per month pickup. There were no revenues this month. Our only anticipated revenue will be the dog tag fees from the town this fall (approx. \$700)

Old Business: The Union Bank account opened by Bob Owens for the Go Fund Me campaign for invasives removal will be closed by Bob and the remaining balance (about \$40.00) will be transferred by Bob to our account with the town.

Goat Initiative: Goats spent 11 days in the park and clear much of the brush, but not all of it. The temporary fence at the north end of the park is still up and needs to either be removed or closed off completely. 5 of the posts belong to New Village Farm. Lisa and Cheryl will meet at the park to close off the temporary fence for now.

Census of dog park usage: the white board at the park is not being marked consistently so we do not have current numbers. Lisa will check the markers to be sure they are functional.

Plans for Shelburne Day: As the committee is not sure about how the park will be managed going forward (i.e. where the park should be located and how to manage it if in the current location), the committee decided not to have a presence at Shelburne Days this year. Roz will notify the coordinator.

Website updates: The website currently has listed names and email addresses for Lisa and Karen. The rest of the committee agreed to have names and email addresses added. Karen will work with the town to update the committee list.

Waste Hauling: We are currently using Myers with 2x/month pick up. The committee discussed cost and schedule for waste. Lisa will check with Betsy Cieplicki about whether we need to use Myers as the vendor and possibly consider Duffy's as an option based on cost and schedule options.

Fence maintenance; The side gate is off the holding pins and needs some repair . Lisa and Cheryl will look at this tomorrow at the park.

Fallen tree on the fence was removed by the town.

New Business: Goat Initiative discussion occurred with Michaela Ryan of New Village Farm. Michaela has suggested the committee consider having the goats clear the park brush 2 times each year for a week or less (April and mid summer) to control growth. She also asks we consider helping pay the cost of some of New Village Farms staffing to do this. Cost would be about 90 minutes of work each day for the current wage of about \$27/hour.

The committee discussed the future of the park at length. The group suggested that we meet with Betsy Cieplicki to discuss approaching the State of Vt to see if we can return some of the north section of the park to unused wetland in return for being able to manage the rest of the park with mowers/wackers and possibly goats. Lisa will work with Betsy to find a date which will replace our next meeting. There will not be a meeting on Monday September 11.

Adjourn 7:40pm

Recorded by Cheryl Gibson

Next Meeting will be scheduled with Betsy Cieplicki during business hours sometime in the next 4-6 weeks.

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