

**Shelburne Dog Park Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 9, 2023**

**Attendees:** Bob Owens, Cheryl Gibson, Roz Graham, Lisa Williams, Karen Medsker, Mead Atkeson (guest)

**Call to order:** 6:30pm

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

**Public Comments:** none

**Financial Update:** Current account balance is \$1915.42. Expenses this month were Duffy's trash of \$48. Added to the account were revenues of \$89 reflecting the deposit of the remaining GoFundMe campaign money. Bob reporting closing the GoFundMe account. We are still anticipating the deposit of yearly dog registration funds from the town expected to be around \$650.

**Old Business:**

Park Maintenance: Betsy Cieplicki received the following response from Tina Heath from the State of Vermont regarding the committees questions about park boundaries and maintenance:

Hi Betsy,

Thanks for your patience with my response. The existing permit for the dog park, along with the boardwalk and invasive management species plan are regarded as what can be done here without adversely impacting the wetland system. Additional impacts to convert and manage more space in the wetland would likely be difficult to permit. The Wetlands Program has been consistently clear over the years that due to this area being mostly wetland (and contiguous to the Class I LaPlatte wetlands) there are limitations to what can be done on the parcel, and any uses that are proposed moving forward are within the Allowed Use parameters of VWR Section 6. Grazing in the wetland may be considered an allowed use that is specific to agriculture (growing food or crop for profit), but not for the purposes of vegetation management or to convert a wetland area.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Tina

Based on this response, the committee now needs to consider whether to leave the park as is; meaning that the park will be "largely unusable" for some portion of the year due to dense overgrowth of brush; OR to pursue another parcel of land for location of the park. The question is not urgent at this time as the brush is beginning to die back and the park is basically usable now. The committee decided that a conversation needs to occur with the new Town Manager and Betsy Cieplicki in early 2024 to review what land parcels owned by the town may be available, what the town is willing to do to help with the search, and if the committee needs to write up an appeal to the community for a donation of land for dog park use. Bob reported that the only likely possible site that we know of is near the community gardens.

The committee decided not to meet for November and December ( and not do a photo fundraiser for the holidays) but resume in January 2024 and plan a town meeting in February. Also, based on the State of Vermont response, the goat initiative will not be repeated. Lisa will notify New Village Farm and return the fence posts still in the park. Cheryl will take down the remaining fence post.

Possible liquidation of the shed and equipment will be postponed until the committee figures out the location issues.

Lisa will organize fixing the park side fence entrance. Mead Atkeson ( guest in attendance) offered to help with this work ( phone:978-831-0534).  
Lisa will also check on the water shut off with the town.

Park census: The white board has been taken down as it was warping with the moisture. Karen will look in to a different white board for recording park usage.

Trash Hauling: Duffy's has started the pick up which will be every 2 weeks. Next pick up is 10/18/23. Lisa will post the pick up schedule at the park.

**New Business:** none

**Adjourn:** 7:10pm

Recorded by Cheryl Gibson

**Next Meeting will be January 8, 2024 at 6:30pm at the town offices**