

Shelburne Village Dog Park Committee
Board Meeting
Monday, November 8, 2021
6:30 p.m. at Town Hall (and via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by Bob Owens, Committee Chair, at 6:32 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Owens, Lisa Williams, Cheryl Gibson, Roz Graham, Laura Parks, Karen Medsker

Public Comments: None

Minutes of the October meeting were not available in hard copy and so were not discussed.

Financial Update: Bob did not have a financial update, but the status is pretty much the same as last month, with about \$4,500 in the account.

Invasive Species: Keeping invasive species and other growth from destroying the fence was the main topic of the meeting. Two alternatives were discussed, based on previous research by Cheryl and Bob:

1. Employ Bob Hyames of Habitat Restoration Solutions. He plans to cut the plants growing within the fence and near the fence, then apply the herbicide Buckthorn Blaster to the stumps. This herbicide is state-approved. He proposes to do this work this fall, as soon as possible, and again in the spring.
2. Employ Greg Renallo of Teachers Tree Service. Greg proposes not to use herbicide or chemicals of any kind but to cut down the growth as much as possible this fall. Then in the spring, as soon as the leaves are fully out, burn the new growth.

Extensive discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the two approaches. The cost is about the same, roughly \$6,000 for the first year (fall and spring treatments).

Karen moved that we use Bob Hyams, and Cheryl seconded the motion. After additional discussion, the committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Cheryl will contact Bob Hyams to work out the details, including a date for the work to be performed. He can use volunteers on the day(s) of work. Cheryl will also ask about removal of brush. The park will be closed during the work. We will simply put a sign on the gate.

Roz pointed out that we need community publicity about what we are doing and why. Everyone agreed, but no specific plan was made.

Funding: Since we have enough money to cover the first (fall) treatment, but not enough for the second (spring) treatment, Bob Owens approached the Select Board and requested one-time funding of \$3K for this purpose. Since this could not happen until July 1, even if approved, the committee will need to raise funds in the coming months.

Next meeting: Monday, December 13

Topics to be discussed at December meeting include moving the sign to the left of the gate and getting better locks for the gates.

Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Recorded by Karen Medsker