



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices

Special Meeting

PO Box 409
677 Vermont RTE 7A
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

Recreation Committee

Dog Park – Volunteer Meeting

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM, at the Municipal Office building and remotely via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Thanks

Ms. Ruege opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and thanked attendees of the organizational meeting for the dog park construction at Howard Park. She introduced the coordinator of the dog park project, Sarah Costin, and gave her the floor.

2. Phases of dog park construction

Ms. Costin started by asking if everyone had signed in, then continued with a brief history of the dog park, from the donation of \$5000.00 by Joyce Cowper in memory of her dog Loki, to Harold Rowe's continuing efforts to get the park built, to where it is now. She mentioned the great work by the Shaftsbury DPW in clearing the area, creating a parking area and pathway, and adding drainage. She noted that the cleared area is about 2 acres, but the dog park will only be 1 acre due to limitations on funds for fencing. Ms. Ruege said that copies of the dog park plan were on the table. Ms. Costin explained the areas on the plan and then went over some of the costs: fencing had increased from \$3600.00 to \$3989.40. She discussed tensioning the fence and the additional cost which would bring the total to \$4333.10 before purchase of fence posts.

Ms. Costin then went over the dog park construction phases:

- Phase 1: Measuring and marking the area for placement of fence posts. Ms. Costin asked for connections with someone who can laser measure the area. Jen Holley asked if Mike Yannotti (DPW) had been contacted about this equipment. Ms. Costin said she had not because it's the DPW's busy time. Ms. Ruege said that she would contact Mr. Yannotti. Ms. Holley said she had cemetery flags to mark post hole locations.
- Phase 2: Digging post holes. Ms. Costin thanked Jay Coonradt for offering to auger holes. She noted that this is a huge savings in time, labor, and cost.
- Phase 3: Placing posts. Mr. Coonradt had several suggestions regarding post placement, including having a team follow right after the auger, cleaning up holes with a post hole digger and placing posts. Carry Crawford said she had a post hole digger. Corner and gate posts will need to be reinforced with concrete, but other posts will only need rocks and dirt for back fill.

- Phase 4: Attach fencing to posts, placing gates & rules sign. Ms. Costin noted that there will be 4 gates- 3 in the double gate area and 1 on the Buck Hill Rd. side for the mower. Mr. Coonradt said that 2- 6' gates would be best for access. Ms. Watson said that the rules needed to be posted as soon as the fences are up.
- Phase 5: Adding benches, including a memorial bench for Joyce and Loki, and other amenities.

3. Setting dates for phases

Ms. Costin asked what the best times for volunteers were. Weekends and evenings were best for most people. Dates cannot be set until after the area is measured.

4. Q & A

Henry Botzum had a question about the double gates and an area where dogs might get congested. Ms. Costin said that the area could be extended to eliminate the narrow area. Mr. Coonradt asked where the fence line will be, noting that there are many rocky areas.

Suggestions:

- Use a "Tonka" for hauling posts. The DPW has one and Ms. Holley knows how to drive it.
- Contact people who signed up last October. Ms. Watson will contact Helen Olney's son.
- Sourcing strong men and women to help move posts.

Harold Rowe spoke a little bit about an incident at Howard Park with an off-leash dog been trained to attack. Ms. Ruege noted that there were now cameras at the park.

Mark Rondeau of the Bennington Banner joined on Zoom to ask some questions to write an article. Ms. Ruege and Ms. Costin answered some questions, gave some history, and made a request for 8' sturdy locust posts.

There was some discussion of dogs using Howard Park but owners not cleaning up after them, and that Howard Park has a lot more use.

There was a brief discussion of sources for locust posts.

Ms. Ruege and Ms. Costin thanked the people for showing up, and their ideas. A date for the next meeting will be determined when time for measuring has been determined.

Ms. Ruege ended the meeting at 6:36 PM.