



# TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Park  
Commission**  
Don Howes, Chair  
Jim Abbruzzese  
David Sprowl

## **Hopedale Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm Draper Room, Town Hall December 19, 2019**

Chairman Don Howes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, Jim Abbruzzese, David Sprowl  
Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi  
Public: Matthew Costanza

It was moved by Mr. Sprowl, seconded by Mr. Abbruzzese, to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 21, 2019. All voted in favor.

### New Business

Matt Costanza was present to detail plans for the summer bandstand and tennis program for 2020. He will be running both programs and looking to have some of his staff returning. There is a need for six additional staff members and he will post the positions with the High School Guidance Department in the coming weeks. A preference will be given to new staff members who are not siblings so that if families have summer plans, the staffing isn't reduced by multiple employees. Matt is looking into private lessons after the group lessons and adding back yard games for the bandstand program. He will look into an updated email address that can be used for both programs every year.

### Correspondences and requests

The DEP filing was mailed December 13, 2019 to the following address:  
MassDEP Central Regional Office  
Wetlands Program  
8 New Bond Street  
Worcester, MA 01606

### Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

### Review previous action items

- Bath house project - The project is moving forward. The next two DEP filings will be ready to file in January for the ramp and the handicap parking space. Jim Abbruzzese will meet with the Conservation Commission in January.
- Electronic payments for summer programs - The board reviewed the electronic payments and discussed possible policy regarding refunds which they will review again at the January meeting. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve electronic payments for the 2020 summer program, seconded by David Sprowl. All were in favor. Information regarding the electronic payments will be coordinated with the Town Hall and on the website in the near future.
- Community Preservation Funds - Don Howes has spoken to our town Interim Administrator Robert Reed and stated that this is a work in progress with the Board of Selectmen.

- Review and vote on park usage fees - At the last meeting, the HPC reviewed the fees for in town and out of town fees for the youth baseball league. After an additional discussion, Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to have only one fee for both out of town and in town athletes in the amount of \$5.00.

Motion seconded by David Sprowl and the vote proceeded as follows:

Jim Abbruzzese	yes
David Sprowl	no
Don Howes	no

Motion failed to pass.

David Sprowl then made a motion to keep the current fee structure of \$5.00 for in-town and \$8.00 for out of town players. Jim Abbruzzese seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Jim Abbruzzese	no
David Sprowl	yes
Don Howes	yes

Motion passes.

### New Business

#### Repairs to Bandstand threshold area

This concrete area of the bandstand has been patched over the years and is uneven and in need of repairs. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve repairs to the bandstand threshold by Steve Gallagher at a cost of no more than \$1100.00. David Sprowl seconded the motion and all were in favor.

#### Timing of billing for Usage fees

After a brief discussion regarding when to bill the High School for the sports usage fee, it was agreed that this year the school will be invoiced in January. For the following FY 20/21, the invoice will be split and billed in October and April.

### Bills and Invoices

The following revolving account invoices were reviewed.

- Chase for \$760.00, Franklin Paint for \$409.05 and MacDonald Plumbing for \$881.58

Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to pay the above mentioned invoices from the revolving account, seconded by David Sprowl. All were in favor.

### Public Comment - lengthy items

None

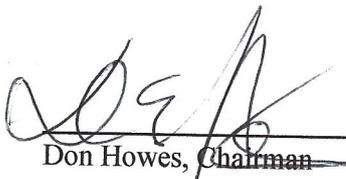
### Report of board members

The HPC received an email from the Finance Committee to start preparing for the budget season. The HPC board will meet on January 8th at 5 pm to review the Park Commission budget. Also to be considered is the capital expense for the tennis courts that the board is working on with the school department.

Adjourn at 8 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Arcudi, HPC Clerk

  
Don Howes, ~~Chairman~~

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Jim Abbruzzese

  
David Sprowl