



# 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 November 21, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

### Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, Jim Abbruzzese, David Sprowl  
Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi  
Public: Jason MacDonald  
Meeting was videotaped.

Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2019\*MSDV

### Correspondences and requests

- Donations - The HPC received a donation from Steve Ellis from Bright Insurance for a pet waste station which will be installed at the base of Draper Field.
- Park Usage request from Friends of Historic Hopedale for Fairy Walk 2020 - June 13 2020 This is co-sponsored by the HPC and the board continues to be in favor of this event.
- \*\*Event Sign request was also presented to the board to be placed on the parkland bulletin board and the triangle at the intersection of Route 16 and Adin Street from November 23, 2019 through December 8, 2019. The board fully supports this request.
- \*\*CDM Smith had the capped area professional mowed and cleared for the season. While there, samples were taken to verify yearly that the venting is properly working and in order.
- The Boy Scouts requested that during the Winter Stroll they will be tending to fire barrels in a few locations, one being near the first park bench near the Little Red Shop. They will be selling smores kits. The HPC approves of the location of the fire barrels that are in close proximity to the park property.

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

None

### Review previous action items

#### Pickleball - lining of tennis courts

Previously the HPC had a verbal agreement from the Athletic Director that the MIAA approved the adding pickleball lines to the tennis courts. On November 13, 2019 the MIAA representative Carolyn Bohmiller confirmed in writing via email that the pickle ball lines can be painted, not taped on the courts and they must be a different color and easily distinguishable from the tennis court lines.

to repair and replace the bench near the culvert. They are working with a local vendor and the donation will be paid directly to the vendor.

- The storage trailer at Phillips Field is in need of repair. The Hopedale Youth Softball Association has agreed to donate vinyl siding. There is a pending quote for labor and the board is waiting for the invoice. David Sprowl made a motion to approve up to \$600 for labor costs to install the donated vinyl siding, seconded by Jim Abbruzzese. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

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

Tracey Phillips submitted a Park Usage Form for the Friends of Historic Hopedale for the Fairy Walk to be held June 13, 2020 to be reviewed at the next HPC meeting.

### **Review previous action items**

#### National Parks sign location

A discussion was held regarding the placement of the National Parks sign to be in the area of the kiosk near the bath house. The National Park Ranger will come out at a time to be determined and the HPC will take into consideration maintenance concerns and placement of sign at that time.

#### Dog Park at Draper Field

Don Howes and resident Lisa DuBois met with the Board of Selectmen on October 16th to inform the board of the concept being considered for a Dog Park at Draper Field. At this point in time, the board is agreeable to the concept and looks forward to additional information. In obtaining the potential grants, the BOS must allow the use of a parcel of land before moving forward.

#### Go Go Goat Mowers - additional dates

Because of the overwhelming positive response and advertising of the goats, they are booked for the remainder of the season. The board will look into availability for the spring.

#### Bath House project

Jim Abbruzzese is waiting for proof of insurance from Blackstone Valley Tech and their availability. The start of this project may be moved to the spring, depending on obtaining these documents and the weather. In the meantime, he felt that the deck and stairs should be removed this fall for safety reasons.

#### HYBA Dugout Plan

HPC received approval to move ahead with the dugout project from CDM Smith and the documentation was forwarded to the Hopedale Building Inspector. The permit is ready and work may begin when the HYBA is ready.

#### Phillips Field Fencing - Quote from Hawkeye Fence

The HPC has now obtained an updated quote for the guardrail protection for the parking area at Phillips Field. The quote is \$3400 to install wood on steel commercial guardrails, labor, hardware and rail ends. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve installing guardrails per the quote from Hawkeye Fence and taking this expense out of the HPC revolving account. Motion seconded by David Sprowl and passed unanimously in favor.

#### HPC Website review of current FAQ

Passed over for the November meeting



### Pondside benches painted

Neighbors of the Parklands volunteered to paint the benches near the pond and the HPC would like to thank them for a job well done. They look new and refreshed.

### HPC Usage and Sign request form

After a few additional changes were made, the form is updated and ready to be uploaded to the HPC website.

## **New Business**

Review Common requests of the Park - The HPC would like to start creating the calendar of events and usage of the parks. The board will invite members of the community who frequently use the fields and parks for the November meeting.

Overview of Fin Feather program - Jeff LeClaire shared the success of the Fin Feather program this past summer and he submitted a check in the amount of \$345 for the land use permits. He presented the board with his proposal for the summer of 2020 with a small increase in fees. David Sprowl made a motion to approve the Fin Feather Program dates and fees for the summer of 2020, seconded by Jim Abbruzzese. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Summer 2020 Park Programs - Matt Costanza has agreed to run both the bandstand and the tennis program for the summer of 2020. The HPC will reach out to Matt to see which staff members will be returning and invite him to a future meeting. Matt was interested in adding a school age tennis program for next year as well.

Don Howes will inquire with the Town Hall business office as to how to get the electronic payments ready for next summer.

Adin Street Triangle grubs and other field fertilizer treatments - This will be a work in progress. David Sprowl will look into grub control for the spring.

Geese control at fields - The HPC received a quote from a company called Taking Flight which works with park departments regarding controlling the geese. Don Howes suggested contacting the Athletic Director and discussing this further in the future.

Leaf blowing in Parklands - Over the last few years the Cross Country Coaches were tending to the leaves in the parklands before the races and it later became the responsibility of the Highway Department. In blowing the leaves clear of the path for the runners, Don Howes wondered if this was creating more of a hazard since it also moves the gravel. The HPC will revisit this in the future.

Wireless Game Cameras - Don Howes proposed adding cameras to the fields due to vandalism, dog issues etc. A discussion was held and was agreed that this is not needed at this time.

Sign for Town Park - Don Howes proposed that the HPC install a sign on the ridge of the kiosk with the words "Hopedale Town Park" at a cost of \$400. David Sprowl made a motion to approve spending \$400 for the sign for the Town Park and paying this with money in the revolving account. Motion seconded by Jim Abbruzzese and motion passed unanimously in favor.

## **Bills & Invoices**

- Invoice for reimbursement for Town Flag that Don Howes paid for - Revolving Account needs vote to approve. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve and pay the invoice for the town flag in the amount of \$67.45, seconded by David Sprowl. Motion passes unanimously in favor.
- Babe Ruth invoice - Since our invoice is past due to the league and the board does not have a complete address list to invoice per resident and non-resident, it was agreed to invoice the league just the \$5.00 per participant fee. Moving forward next year, the non-resident fee of \$8.00 will be applied and the invoice will be prepared in September.

## **Public Comment - lengthy items**

None

## **Report of board members**

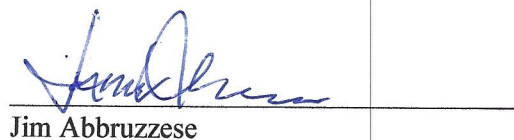
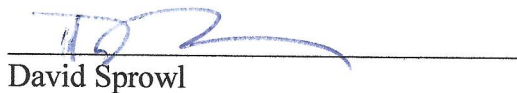
None

Adjourn at 9:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Arcudi, HPC Clerk

  
Don Howes, Chairman  
Jim Abbruzzese  
David Sprowl

*If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Hopedale Town Hall, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747, or please call (508) 634-2203 at least 7 days in advance of the scheduled meeting.*