



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747
Tel: 508-634-2203 x 302 Fax: 508-634-2200
Email: parks@hopedale-ma.gov

**Park
Commission**
Don Howes, Chair
Michael Ledone
David Sprowl

Hopedale Park Commission

March 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes for Joint Meeting with Finance Committee

7:00 pm

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Call to Order at 7:24 PM

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, David Sprowl, Michael Ledone

Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi

Town Administrator: Diana Schindler

Finance Committee: Chris Hodgins, Ken Wilson, Dennis Madigan, Elizabeth Callahan, Don Comastra, Patrick Maloney

The Park Commission reviewed the proposed FY22 Park Commission and capital project requests with the Finance Committee. Budget was proposed as follows:

Category	FY21	FY22
Salary & Wages	\$27,144	\$29,000
Other Personal Services	\$2,646	\$2,675
Weed Control	\$4,900	\$5,000
Energy	\$3,920	\$4,100
Water	\$3,136	\$3,225
Repair & Maintenance	\$11,956	\$25,000
Other Supplies	\$1,470	\$3,000
Total	\$55,172	\$72,000

This amount is a \$16,828 increase from last year which will allow the Park Commission to improve operations as opposed to maintaining status quo.

Don Howes shared the information that the Park Commission received a \$21,000 anonymous donation specifically for repairs/renovations to the Town Park Playground. The additional FY22 funds will assist in adding to these renovations.

Also discussed was a cooperative financial plan with the Hopedale Youth Baseball and possibly the High School to repair/filling the northwest corner of Draper field which is near The baseball and field hockey fields.

The Capital request submitted were as follows:

Tree Preservation and Storm Damage Protection of trees surrounding the Hopedale Playground

Tree preservation and storm damage protection needs to be addressed in the playground area of the Town Park. There are 15 trees that need attention from Dutcher Street from the bathroom facility to Park Street on Northrop Street. There is deadwood greater than 2 inches in diameter and trees need to be pruned to reduce the canopy. Crown reduction pruning is needed to reduce the leverage of the long, over extended limbs to reduce the likelihood of future storm damage.

This would improve the trees and SAFETY of in the “high use” areas of the Park.

Estimated cost as of today for this service: \$27,475.00 \$30,220

This does not include police detail or recycle fee of \$25.00 per cubic yard for debris removal.

The HPC anticipates a cost of at least \$30,000. \$35,000

Hopedale Town Park – Tennis Courts

The tennis courts are in desperate need of repair and restoration at Town Park. The community uses the courts all spring and summer along with the summer tennis lessons. The schools use the tennis courts for their competitive tennis program. Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has notified the schools that the courts do not meet regulations standards and that state tournament competitions cannot take place on the courts. Also regular season tennis matches are dependent upon the willingness of teams to play on these courts, which were few, so most matches were not on our home courts.

The Hopedale school department was in support of this capital project last year and continues to support this restoration project.

The HPC anticipates the cost of at least \$50,000.

Elizabeth Callahan inquired about the grant for the dog park proposed last year and due to COVID this plan, initiated by a Hopedale resident, is on hold. Also on hold is the Bocce Court proposed for the Town Park and funds were donated for this project as well.

The Finance Committee will keep the HPC informed to the acceptance of this budget as the process continues.

Motion to adjourn was made by David Sprowl at 7:41 pm, seconded by Michael Ledone. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Arcudi