



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

David Sprowl
Michael Ledone
Chairman Michael
Reynolds

Hopedale Park Commission

February 14, 2023

Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom

Attendance

Park Commission: Mike Reynolds, David Sprowl, Mike Ledone

Clerk: Kristen Ledone

Guests:

Mike Reynolds called meeting to order at 7:02pm

Mike Ledone made a motion to approve minutes from January 19, 2023. David Sprowl seconded, all in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Sally DeCelles sent in a usage request for the Summer Band Concert Series at the Town Park. Requests are for each Wednesday during June and July; rain dates are Thursday evenings. David Sprowl made a motion to accept the usage request, seconded by Mike Ledone. All were in favor.
- The board had received several correspondences regarding the current situation of the tennis courts. The Park Commission has responded to numerous emails and phone calls from citizens/parents looking for immediate action. Mike Reynolds shared the quote for a "Short Term Fix" which came in around \$31,000 for all 3 courts. A company would come in, fill cracks with acrylic, power wash & paint courts with new lines. The courts would then be usage for the near future, though it would be a band aid/temporary fix. On the quote it indicates that cracks will reappear within 1 year. The lifespan of the work would be 1-3 years max. Mike R had met with Jeff Nutting and discussed the Park Commission's Capital requests. Jeff had suggested based on things transpiring around town, that the Park Commission include a separate line item in the budget for the tennis court repairs as a contingency – in the event the Town Park project fails, this would potentially allow funds to be allocated to the tennis courts. Mike Ledone made mention that if they were to band aid the tennis courts other things in the budget would have to be removed, for example the weed treatment. Mike R said there has also been outreach with the potential for additional funding from various groups including Boosters and the school. Dave Sprowl mentioned that he had been following the tennis court situation for many years – MIAA had come out and measured the courts years ago and disqualified the courts. At that time the courts were going to be repaired, the warrant was \$15,000 and was denied. Now the quote is for over \$30,000 – he said the money wasn't there years ago and is probably not there now. Monica Philips had raised her hand, she is very concerned with the current status of the tennis courts. She has chatted with several people and tried to get a quote – bare minimum – just to make the courts safe to play even if just for the summer program. She was looking to see what the timeline would be for Concept 2A – Mike R explained that from a high-level timeline. The vote would be in May 2023 at Town Meeting, if approved a few months post meeting to start the project, then 9 months to a year of actual construction time for the totality of the project. Mike

Ledone said the earliest it could be done would be March 2024 if everything went perfectly. Realistically it would look like late fall of 2024. Monica was also concerned about not being able to use the park at all during construction. Mike R explained that they would need to be flexible and change things around including Band Concerts, Day in the Park, high school athletics, summer program and many more. Michele T from the Boosters mentioned that they were willing to help small scale.

- Regarding the Town Park project, Mike R has sat down with Jeff Nutting to discuss the project. Jeff said that it would be a challenge financially. A lot of work would need to be done with various leadership around town. He was in agreement that something needs to be done in regards to the facilities in town beyond just \$35,000 to temporarily fix the tennis courts. He made the suggestion that if the project costs \$4 million, then ask for \$4.3 and complete all necessary work around town, not including the Rustic Bridge. The board is aware that a project of the size will come with a lot of resistance but that a lot of people are behind it. Currently, the \$10,000 in the budget spread across all of the athletic fields is just not sustainable. Mike R said that they have potential donors, but no written agreements or confirmed amounts to be received by the town. All maintenance costs going forward with updated fields will be included in annual budget once the project is completed.
- The board will continue to work with FinCom to finalize budget. Mike R is planning to attend the Finance Summit.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

- None

Review previous action items

- Draper Field/HJSH Field Hockey updates. Mike L had reached out to Shelley Hynes from Varsity Field Hockey and Hopedale Youth Baseball for a list of improvements they would like to see down at Draper Field. Some of the needs include safer & flatter playing areas. Mike L had met with Dominic Sanches from D&S Landscape to flatten and reseed the field hockey field area – the quote came in at around \$7200. Work would include 40 yards of screened loam, rototill, power rake and hydroseed the area. A foreseeable issue is that there is no water at Draper – would need to brainstorm alternative solutions. Work could begin in April; field would potentially be playable sometime in August. Mike R had a brief conversation with members of the Youth Baseball Board regarding the field improvements and they informed him that based on their registration numbers that they would be able to get by with fewer fields. Milford Hopedale Youth Field Hockey committed to donating \$2000 to the repairs. Mike R would like to have a new quote written up, leave the majors field alone, and level the entire area with the field hockey and minors/tee ball fields. Mike L said he would get back in touch with D&S to get a new quote.
- Mike L has been in the process of getting in touch with Kelly Alley and the Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts to create some sort of removeable ramp for the back of the Bathhouse. Will continue to update the board through the process.

New Business

- The board received a quote for the Rustic Bridge. \$1.25 million to repair and rebuild. Tighe and Bond said the bridge is not repairable, it needs to be completely redone. The bridge is crumbling, rebar is exposed. The path leading to the bridge is being washed away and is unstable. Mike R added the Rustic Bridge to the Capital Improvement list.

Bills and Invoices

- All invoices are paid/current

Public Comment - lengthy items

- Monica raised her hand with concerns about the Summer program. Mike R said that Edda Philips resigned and will not be returning. A post will be created on the Hopedale town site advertising the open position.

Report of board members

Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours

David Sprowl made a motion to adjourn, Mike Ledone seconded. All were in favor.