



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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

August 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes 7:00pm Draper Room, Town Hall

Call to Order at 7 PM

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, Jim Abbruzzese

Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi

Public: Sheila Embree, David Sprowl, Randy Carbo, Lisa Dubois, Brandt Wajda

Approval of Minutes: June 20, 2019 - *MSDV Approved

Consideration of the following candidates for possible appointment to vacant Park Commission Board seat:

1. Shelia Embree 2. David Sprowl 3. Randy Carbo

Each candidate was given an opportunity to answer questions and provide information on their request to be nominated for the open seat on the Park Commission.

Correspondence and requests

- Certified letter received from Department of Public Hearing regarding the Grafton & Upton Railroad Company regarding the public hearing for July 17, 2019.
- Notice was given to the HPC regarding a public Zoning of Appeals case for an abutter to the Phillips Fields on Mellen Street for a variance to build an addition and deck at 32 Mellen St.
- Request from Kristy Loporto regarding additional band concerts in August - MSDV Approved with the condition that the HPC be named Co-Sponsor for liability purposes.
- Request from FOHH for Spooktacular Race on October 26, 2019 - MSDV Approved
- Request from FOHH for Winter Stroll on December 7, 2019 - MSDV Approved
- Request from Hopedale Cultural Council for Day in the Park on September 14, 2019 and tennis court use for Art Show- MSDV Approved
- Email correspondence from a resident whether the cement blocks will be removed from the Parklands and it was stated that this is a work in progress and costly, therefore it may not be addressed in the near future. It has been determined to be safe and stable.

Public Comment - Short Items

- Lisa Dubois of 94 Dutcher Street addressed the board with a request to develop a Dog Park in Draper Field and provided the board with grant information that could cover the costs involved up to \$250,000. This project was well received by the HPC and will move forward by providing the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen with the idea and grant information to move forward if possible.
Lisa was invited to return to the next HPC meeting on August 22, 2019 for follow up.

- Lisa also brought the idea of having a Bocce Court built at the Town Park and has already solicited donations and volunteers to assist in the project. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to agree in principal to the Bocce Court at the Town Park, seconded by Don Howes and motion passed unanimously in favor.

Review previous action items

Town park tennis registration, bandstand programs - Program is coming to an end next week culminating with a pizza party. The summer program was a great success with excellent staff and many Hopedale children took advantage of these summer activities.

Bath house project - The Conservation Commission is ready to approve the project and Jim Abbruzzese will follow up on this. There has been extensive erosion from all the storms we've had lately.

Town Park drainage mapping with cameras - Don Howes was able to secure a company who uses a location device to find the water heads and drainage lines which provides the board with detailed information on how to improve the drainage at a reduced cost. The water drainage issues are around the tennis courts where it floods and the entrance to the tennis court area.

Intown Field use reservations, protocols and groups - This is a work in progress and the usage forms are being revised to provide more details and user friendly.

HYB request for keys and storage arrangement - Don Howes reported that the storage bins were unlocked while checking them, therefore no additional keys will be allocated for town owned storage units.

Tennis courts and MIAA regulations - notification to School Committee - Based on the information received from Stephanie Ridolfi, Athletic Director, the tennis courts are illegal for any future competitions. The HPC drafted a letter to the School Committee, Superintendent, Athletic Director and Town Administrator stated that the HPC does not have the funds to allocate to this project but are willing to assist in obtaining bids and providing assistance in any other capacity. Letter to be sent on August 2, 2019.

New Business

- HYB Dugout Plan - Discuss and approve - Brandt Wajda presented the detailed plans to the HPC and the board reviewed the construction details and location. Materials and labor have been donated and the HYB has received approval from the Conservation Committee. Don Howes advised him to obtain approval from CDM Smith. The HYB will meet with Hopedale Building Inspector to obtain a building permit next. A motion was made by Jim Abbruzzese to approve the concept and idea to build the dugouts at Draper Field with the condition of having approval from CDM Smith and the Building Inspector, based on the proposed plans received at this meeting. Motion seconded by Don Howes and motion passed unanimously in favor.
- Brandt Wajda also reported to the board that the "Little Sharing Library" has been built and ready for installation at the Town Park as previously approved. This is a public sharing book cabinet and was built and donated by the Wajda family.
- Repair and moving of Town Park play equipment - While repairing some of the play equipment, there was a suggestion that these structures be relocated for spatial requirements and age appropriate areas of the playground. The move would also put these structures in shaded areas during the mid day. The HPC agreed with these changes to the playground.
- Goats in Parklands - Don Howes brought the idea of having goats assist in the difficult steep areas of the park property to mow. He found a company in Upton called Go Go Goat Mowers

and the cost is \$650 per week but they are willing to give the town of Hopedale an additional week free if we decide to use this company. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve up to \$650 to hire the Go Go Goat Mowers and payment would come from the HPC revolving account. Motion seconded by Don Howes and unanimously passed in favor. Don Howes will follow up with the Conservation Commission.

- Phillips Field playground wall - Don Howes presented the board with real stone faced blocks to place at the top of the playground at Phillips Field which would protect the area similar to a guard rail. The blocks are 2' x 2' x 8' and made by a company in Northborough. The approximate cost is considerably less and around \$300. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve spending up to \$500 for these stone faced blocks to use at Phillips Field at the top of the playground. Don Howes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously in favor.
- Planet Aid - The HPC received a request from Planet Aid to place a clothing/shoe donation bin at the Phillips Field. They currently have donation bins at the High school and elementary school. After a short discussion, the board decided they do not want an additional bin placed at Phillips Field.
- Bills & Invoices and Clerk review of progress- The HPC clerk reported that all bills have been filed and ready for payment with the Treasurer. The past due account with Milford Ace Hardware has been rectified to both sides satisfaction and we have zero past due balance. All year end bills are completed and the few accounts that needed to be encumbered are complete. Invoices were presented to the board for HYB portable toilets and to the High School for usage fees including lining and portable toilets. HPC usage forms and key sign out forms were presented to the board and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Public Comment - lengthy items

None

Report of board members - The board members discussed the nomination for the open seat on the HPC. It was decided after a review of Open Meeting Laws and coordination with the nomination at the August 12, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting, that they would nominate their choice at this current meeting. This would allow these individuals to be available as well for the BOS meeting. Don Howes nominated Randy Carbo and Jim Abbruzzese nominated David Sprowl.

Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Arcudi, HPC Clerk

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.