



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

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Park Commission

Don Howes, Chair
Jim Abbruzzese
John Waswill

March 16th, 2018 Meeting Minutes 5:00pm Draper Room, Town Hall

Call to Order - Town Hall – 16:00

Attendance

- Park Commission - Don Howes, Jim Abbruzzese. Absent – John Waswill
- Public – Steve Sette Town Administrator

Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2018

- Motioned, seconded and approved by quorum.

Correspondence and requests

- The Ellis family of 144 Freedom St contacted the Park Commission as an abutter to park property per Conservation Committee policy of their intent to add decorative landscaping structures to their yard. The Park Commission agreed that beautifying their yard is a welcome addition to the abutting property.
- The Hopedale Cultural Council submitted dates for Band Concerts in June and July as well as Day in The Park on September 16th. Approved.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Phillips Field
 - Snow is affecting the opening of Phillips field which will encroach on the start of high school spring sports on March 19. The Park Commission will monitor the field for safety and turf readiness and will notify the high school when the field is opened.
 - The guard rail installation will begin when weather permits.
- Town Park
 - The Band Stand has been reviewed by a contractor for structural improvement and leaks. Work will begin when weather permits and completed before scheduled usage.
 - The bathroom door widening at the bathroom building will take place as soon as weather permits.
- Park rules, signs and postings, dog policy
 - Deferred
- Field use maintenance fees
 - Don Howes suggested removing the infield lining option for in town baseball and softball since we are not properly staffed to keep with the multiple schedules. Park staff will continue to mow the outfields, drag the dirt infields a couple times per week and maintain the lines painted in the outfield. Park staff will continue to line the fields for high school softball and baseball games.
- Pond inflow

- The Pond Study Implementation Committee has been formed. The following boards and commissions will be represented by the following people:
 - Park Commission – Down Howes
 - Conservation Commission – Dave Guglielmi
 - Board of Selectmen – Lou Arcudi
 - Board of Health – Jason MacDonald
 - Water and Sewer – Bob Burns
 - Highway Dept – Jack Farrar
- White Ash tree behind 108 Dutcher Street
 - Tree warden is going to have this tree taken down for safety reasons after the snow melts.

New Business

- Playing fields – Selectman
 - Town Administrator Steve Sette informed the Park Commission that the town has officially taken ownership of Draper Field. The Board of Selectmen will form an ad hoc committee to review all park assets. The committee will include representation from all in town youth sports programs, high school sports, the Conservation Committee, Board of Selectmen, Park Commission and residents. Upon Selectmen approval the Park Commission will be charged with managing Draper Field until the ad hoc committee decides its future use.
- Budget meeting/park projects
 - Deferred
- Drones
 - There was discussion about the use of drones on park property. They could be considered similar to hobby RC planes, which are not currently allowed. Don and Jim agreed that drones might be allowed with a permit that would be dependent on the applicant's insurance. No decisions were made.
- Rustic Bridge
 - Pictures were taken of the bridge and sent to a bridge and dam maintenance company with a request for a preliminary review to help assess if the bridge is safe for repair or if replacement is recommended and the associated estimated costs. Fallen trees and branches were removed from the Park Lands trails encountered on the way to the bridge.
- Removal of survey stakes
 - This is in reference to the survey stakes placed at the 100 Dutcher St property for damaged tree removal. Don called the tree company that removed the tree to see if they removed stakes - they did not. Park Commission will send an email asking if the home owner removed the stakes. The surveyors will charge \$200 to reconfirm the property boundary and replace the stakes.
- Tennis Registration & Bandstand programs
 - Registration for Town park summer activities is open, and applications and payments have been received. Checks are being held until the programs are full. Only one summer employee from last year will not be returning. Day trips to be determined soon.
- Review of Spring School Sports meeting with Jim
 - Use of town tools for the maintenance of the baseball field by Hopedale Youth Baseball is to be approved by the Highway Dept.
 - Parks to cover initial grass lining for all fields and will maintain them during the mowing season. Infield lining will be provided for high school baseball and softball but is only available during week days.
 - Don will ask Mark Espanet if any of the summer park employees would be willing to line the fields for weekend games.
- Dogs in Town Park
 - The pros and cons of the existing "No dogs" rules were discussed. Additional information regarding the maintenance of Town Park is to be collected.

- Pond weed updates
 - Weed maintenance is budgeted at \$5k yearly after last year's initial treatment. The latest estimate for this coming spring, summer and fall maintenance has been estimated at \$10k. There is \$22k left in the initial project budget. \$11k was approved for this year's maintenance by way of motion, second and approval by quorum.
- Bills & Invoices
 - All open bills and invoices have been paid.

Public Comment - lengthy items

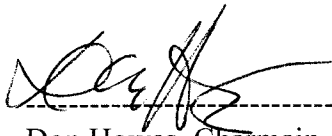
None

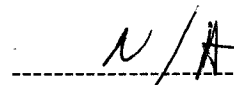
Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours


None

Adjourn 17:00

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 schedule meeting.

 5/18/18
Don Howes, Charmain

 N/A
John Waswill, Treasurer

 5/17/2018
Jim Abbruzzese, Secretary

