



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Park Commission
Don Howes (Chair)
Rob Jackson
John Waswill

Park Commission Special Meeting Minutes 25 August, 2016

Meeting called to order by Don Howes at 19:00, Hopedale Town Hall

Present: Rob Jackson, Don Howes, John Waswill

Citizens: Jeff LeClaire (Fin and Feather, non-resident), Chris Gilly, Allison Balko

Approval of Minutes June 16 & 25, 2016

- MSDV Unanimous

Future playground area review

- Questions from group about Playground plans - Don presented playground history and plans to residents in attendance. Residents were very pleased with the presentation and plans.
- Discussion of Hopedale Girls Softball and their donation for the electronic scoreboard that will be plugged into the power at the concession stand.

Bills & invoices sign off

- MSDV Unanimous

Review town park violation letter

- Letter sent from Chairman to HYBA

Trees

- There was an issue with the 'Prom Tree' near the Little red shop which fell and needed to be addressed immediately. At which time, an additional tree was taken care of as well. The fee for taking care of these trees will come out of the Tree Warden budget.

Irrigation Phillip's Field

- Irrigation system is working but putting water on dry ground isn't as effective and the weather has been unusually dry. There might be an issue with some heads not performing as they should due to getting clogged.

Park Highway worker

- Job has been posted internally – the union approved the verbiage. As it is a union position it needs to be posted internally first prior to opening to external applicants. When it comes to an interview time, we may need another person as a tie-breaker for the interview process, as one person from HPC and 3 people from Highway could create a tie.

Eagle Scout kiosk project

- On Hazel St., on the north side of the Parkland, by the gift shop there is a new park map kiosk. On the kiosk is a list of donors who contributed to the project. Inside the kiosk the map from Mark Andolina's Eagle project visible, along with a QR code to scan for

more information. Chris Ashby, who built the kiosks will come in with an exact presentation.

Rustic bridge

- No update yet. No contact with the mason expected to do the work.

Public Comment

- None

New Business

- There was a request submitted for facility use by Hopedale Youth Baseball/Cooperstown 2017 – a whiffle ball home run derby during Day in the Park. MSDV Approved Unanimous

Hopedale Pond

- Visit from Jeff LeClaire from Fin and Feather sports to discuss use of the parks.
 - o The original agreement with Fin and Feather was established as a seed program, with the HPC subsidizing some canoe rentals. The original motivation was to extend options beyond the existing youth clinics and bring boating back to the beach. The Hopedale Cultural Council recommended Jeff speak with the Park Commission at the time...this as several years ago. The original commitment was \$75, with the money coming in from the Youth Program was used to subsidize the canoe rentals.
 - o There is a joint desire to implement some structure, with a wrap-up of the year during the fall meeting (August/September timeframe), and discuss the proposal for services each spring.
 - o There was discussion regarding the fees incurred for offering the summer camps. The current fee is per child (\$10) as opposed to \$125 per week fee that Fin and Feather receives from other towns. It was noted that currently Hopedale Park Commission charges \$8 for softball and baseball facilities use for non-residents, and \$5 for residents.
 - o Regarding usage of facilities for parties and other outings. There is concern that the town is not getting revenue for the Fin and Feather use of the facilities for parties. Chairman raised concerns over a for-profit company, charging a fee for their service, but not submitting a fee to the Park Commission for the usage.
 - o Chairman invited Jeff to the next meeting to do a final review on 2016 and look over a 2017 proposal.
- After repeated calls to Aquatic Control Technology, they still have not worked the weed treatments. Aquatic Control Technologies was purchased by Solitude Lake Management, which could be contributing to the issues. There are additional documentation requirements surfacing above the work that was done for Aquatic Control Technologies. They did commit to holding the contract price for next year, and they will do what we need to get done this fall. By the next meeting we should have the contract done or know we need to seek other options.
- Kathleen Cavanaugh was hosting sunrise yoga classes next to the bathhouse. The funds raised and canned goods were donated as part of this service. A sincere thanks to Kathleen for her service to the town.

Town Park

- Discussion over plan for refactoring the town park bathroom to add a handicapped stall. There will be additional storage room that will be added along with small water heater and the circuit breaker would be moving to that storage facility. There is a potential benefactor that will be working with a contractor to layout and potentially do the work.

Don has been working with legal counsel to ensure that the contract 'gift' fits within all town rules and legal issues.

Phillips Field

- Addressed during discussion with residents

Discussion regarding facility use guidelines

- The HPC would like to adopt a letter over the course of the next meeting, stating that should anybody have an organized event they need to contact the town to let us know they are having an event. For example, Elementary school doing a field day. All plans need to get online to minimize overlap and to plan proper maintenance. Secretary to draft a note to send to police, fire, schools, etc.

Updates on high school sports

- There is a new Athletic Director - Bill Gaines, and Don has been in conversation with him regarding working together for school sports.

Other topics no anticipated in the last 48 hours

Rob motioned to adjourn at 20:45, seconded by John, MSDV Unanimous.

Hopedale Parks Commission

*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted ** Roll Call Vote

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.
