



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Park Commission

Dan Iacovelli, Chair
Rob Jackson
Don Howes

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes 17 September, 2015

The Meeting of the Parks Commission was called to order at 19:01 by Chair Dan Iacovelli in the Draper Room of Town Hall.

Present: Dan Iacovelli, Rob Jackson, Don Howes, Dave Guglielmi, Mark Wyspianski, Burton Wright, Judy Belben, Ferdi Gunduz, Julie Gunduz, Janet Ellis, Peter Ellis

Reminder to attendees to complete the sign-in sheet.

Chair Iacovelli moved to Agenda Items

Pass over executive minutes

Regular meeting from 20 August approved
- MSDV Unanimous

Approval of executive session minutes from July 14th 2015

Action - >> Secretary to review and write-up notes.

Action items from previous meeting

Discussion of actions and updates from previous meetings. Updates recorded in the 'open' and 'closed' actions sections of this document.

Budget/bills

Previous bill 8/10/2015 from Advantage Irrigation – discussion of concerns over payments to Advantage Irrigation due to the labor rates being used.

Action - >> Chairman to reach out to Advantage Irrigation tomorrow to discuss pricing.

Motion made by Secretary to pay the remaining stack of bills.

- MSDV Unanimous

Budget discussion regarding weeds in Hopedale pond. Tree Warden (Walter Swift) has been in touch with Steve Sette and is recommending appropriating money for aquatic weed control. If we wait for budget season we won't be able to treat the pond for next spring. Mr. Swift is recommending that the Parks Commission post an article on the November warrant to ask for an appropriation of \$50,000 for aquatic weed control. Commission should continue to request money on a yearly basis until a comprehensive study is done on the pond.

Motion was made to place an article on the warrant for the Town meeting in November. Some discussion about dates, believe the meeting is on the 17th, and the Warrant opens 30 days prior. Somebody will need to represent the proposal on town meeting floor.

Action ->> Chairman to deliver proposal for warrant regarding care of plants to Steve Sette.

Agenda Jump to Pond

Citizen Dave Guglielmi contacted Terry Banks from the division of ecological restoration and was referred to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Had a discussion with Tom Flannery from DCR. Tom wanted pictures taken and emailed to him ASAP. Pictures were emailed and Tom responded stating that the pond is an urgent issue and we need to get together for a site visit.

Contact was also made with Aquatic Control to look at the situation as well. We are looking at state assistance first, then employing Aquatic Control if necessary. We will need to involve the conservation commission, acquire the right permits, and file the proper intent documents. Another option is the Natural Heritage Foundation, as there is a parcel of land (northwest quadrant of the pond by Freedom St.) that is part of Natural Heritage control.

There was some discussion about dredging the pond. There are companies that come in and remove the peat moss and materials underneath the pond. Dave will add this to his list of things that can be done to the pond.

The geese continue to be a problem with the pond. We can do egg addling in order to reduce the number of new geese populating the area, encouraging the adult geese to leave. We need to file paperwork with the state in order to perform the egg addling. Walter Swift has a map of the nesting sites which would be required for egg addling. Judy Belben also brought up the idea of creating lots of noise during geese migration in order to encourage them to find a new home.

Action ->> Secretary to provide Walter Swift (certified egg addler) with forms necessary to be completed.

Action ->> Chairman to collect map of geese nesting sites from Walter Swift

Cleaning up the pond is part of the solution, but the water coming in also needs to be managed. This is part of the work happening with ESS.

Discussion over dam in the pond due to reports that the dam was leaking. The Selectmen and Fire Chief found that the dam was not leaking. There is a belief that the pip used to feed the fire pump in the mill is failing. Phillip Shwachman owns the dam and nobody should be trespassing on that property.

Action>> Chairman to follow up with Steve Sette. If the dam falls under flood control are there other organizations to involve?

Concern was raised over the weeds strangling the trees in and around the parklands. There is brush along the edges of Hopedale St. and Lake St., and it is already impacting the aesthetic nature of the parklands. The Tree Warden was working on a plan to address this, but there is a concern over liability with homeowners and kids using loppers and shears.

NOTE: Commission needs to ensure that a line item for pond weed control is included in future budget discussions.

Agenda jump to vernal pools.

William Henry Manning was the designer of the Hopedale Parklands, and is listed in the University of Massachusetts library of architectural history. These and several other documents identify vernal pools within the parklands, and there is a process to classify vernal pools for protection. Judy reported debris doing damage to the vernal pools as well as causing pollution to seep into the pond itself. Judy provided a pile of materials related to the parklands, the intended architecture, etc., for the Commission to carry forward.

Action>> Don to provide copies of all materials to board members and Dave Guglielmi.

Complaints

From chairman - blanket statement, if there are any complaints/concerns with the parks department or parks related. Please send to parks committee via email or letter, so we can address the issues.

There has been some recent complaints that went through other areas first. We would like to be able to address the complaints directly.

Report from the highway liaison

National Grid provided roughly 20 or more people to help clean out a section of the park.

Roughly 4-5 dump truck loads of brush and debris were removed from the park, including broken pieces of the picnic tables. This was an estimated 50-60 man-hours of work. Bruce Edwards from National Grid thanked the commission for the opportunity to help and is working to put the parklands on a recurring schedule.

Action>> Secretary to send Bruce Edwards a letter of thanks at National Grid.

There were maps placed online identifying the hiking trails around the parklands. These were part of a Boy Scout Eagle project.

Action>> Secretary to add links or docs regarding trails to Facebook and Website

During the meeting there was a suggestion as well for volunteers to help continue the park cleanup, something akin to 'adopt an area' from the local Scout groups. There was also a concern about poison ivy near the old rustic bridge, including a suggestion to include a poison ivy poster/placard to be placed in the kiosks.

Motion was made to continue to allow volunteer work without review, pending insurance validation.

- MSDV Unanimous

Town Park Rules

Due to time and lack of preparation, we are tabling the discussion over proposals for rule changes.

A concern was raised over rules regarding ice skaters. At one point in time there was a rule that there were to be no ice fishing holes south of the island. New ice fishing holes south of the island are a threat to ice skaters.

Action ->> Don to add a new sign to the list for 'no ice fishing south of the island.'

This discussion brought a concern around lighting for the skating area. Don is still looking into floodlights for the poles from National Grid. We might be able to set it up so that the light is turned on and off twice a year, called red capping. This is a flat fee for maintenance, and National Grid maintains the connection and the capping.

Discussion of signage required in and around the parks and parklands. The plan is to acquire the following signs:

- No feeding the waterfowl (3 signs)
- Please keep off Bandstand (2 signs)
- No Parking (3 signs)
- Boat Ramp (2 signs)
- Overlay sign for Phillips Field (1 sign)

Cost for all signs is \$365.

- MSDV Approved Unanimous.

Floating Lanterns

There was a request to use fire lanterns in the pond for an event. There was a discussion with the Fire Chief, who stated that this has been done in the past. It is a small votive, and the people managing the event should have at least one person in a canoe to collect the lanterns. No approval granted.

Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours

Concern over vandalism at various locations, including the bandstand and the old rustic bridge. At one point in time the police chief did try to get a grant for more security. At this point the Commission would like to solicit donations for trail cameras.

Discussion regarding over-seeding at Phillips Field. The board understands that now is the time and something needs to be done. Walter Swift will aerate the area, Don is checking to find out where to get the aerator. Walter is recommending fifteen (15) 50 pound bags of double eagle perennial rye grass, available at John Deere Landscapes.

Action ->> Don to work with Mark to get this task complete.

A motion was made to allocate up to \$1500 for aeration and grass seed for the fields. Some discussion over adding fertilizer to the order, however, the board would like to table the use of fertilizer until the kids aren't using the fields as much (later in the season).

- **Unanimous approval**

Well report and sprinkler head map were handed over from Dan to Don. There was some concern over the age of the well report (2001)

Adjournment

Don Howes motioned to adjourn at 21:07. Chair Iacovelli-Aye; Secretary/Treasurer Jackson – Aye

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 scheduled meeting.

Open Actions:

Action - >> - Secretary to provide notes for 14th of July executive session

Action - >> - Chairman to work on getting cover replaced at irrigation system in Phillips.

- 9/17 - Cost is between 50 and 200, either plastic or metal. May go with metal one.

Action ->> Don - Survey from AS Elliot Associates on playground

- 9/17 - No response. We were hoping for free, still hoping but not a priority.

Action ->> Don to work with Bob for acquiring signs. 2 Boat Ramp and 2 'No Parking' signs and commercial poles

- 9/17 - Don went to a local company, YYZ signs. \$30 each. Add waterfowl and bandstand - all \$30. \$65 for vinyl overlay, \$275 for a brand new sign for Phillips. Just need to get the poles from Bob.

Action ->> Chairman to notify town council to assemble paperwork with Mr. Benoit's legal council regarding removal of town tree hovering his property

- 8/20 On hold until we hear back

- 9/17 On hold

Action ->> Don to follow up with playground equipment out of Uxbridge for survey of playground equipment

- 8/20 tire swing is in and fixed, all done. Cargo net piece needs notification and Don needs to work with Mark to install.

Action ->> Secretary to collect and correlate info regarding parks activities and post to website and FB page

- Some information posted, but still need more information/calendars.

- 8/20 - Still need to go through the calendars

Action->> Secretary to create signs to be placed at parks notifying public of laws

- 8/20 synopsis signs are available. On hold until review of bylaws

Action ->> Members need to review bylaws and propose changes

Action ->> 8/20 We need representation to attend the next conservation committee meeting or possibly get a little committee deciding what to do with the pond.

- 9/17 – No change

Action - >> 10/20 Parks should investigate what other towns are doing.

Milford has been 20 year project.

- 9/17 – No Change

Action - >> 8/20 Don has boxes of material to review to provide to Dave Gullielmi.

Action ->> 8/20 Don to follow up with house owner to discuss surveying the land and taking down the tree

- 9/17 - Don having difficulty emailing the person's house. Chairman to email letterhead to Don

Action - >> 8/20 - ALL- bring projects in and let the Eagle Scouts pick what they want to go forward with.

Action - >> 8/20 - Chairman to follow up with Hopedale Jays for the metal box by the ball field as there are concerns about safety and cleanliness

Action - >> 8/20 - Propose that we have Mark and Highway move the pitching mound up near the batting cages

Action->> 8/20 - Rob to contact Movie Night people to arrange for a list of 'needs.'

Action->> 8/20 - Don to investigate solutions and estimate cost of new lighting system for courts

- 9/17 Update - Spoke with Joe Scanzarelli to discuss two options. The more expensive solution is \$200 per light timer. One timer on the basketball court, the other is court timers, the other is court 2 plus half of 1. Cheaper is a windup timer - do the same thing but only 1 hour of play per twist of the timer. \$70.

Closed Actions:

Action ->> Don to sit down and figure out how many of which keys we need. Each of us to send Don's thoughts request-wise and run it by Locksmith for a final.

- 9/17 - Done - emails have gone through. List is there. Plan is to have a master key that opens everything, as well as an individual lock. \$700 to do everything.

Action ->> Propose that we have Mark and Highway move the pitching mound up near the batting cages.

- 9/17 Done

Action - >> Chairman will contact Town Hall to notify of Dave Gullielmi's appointment

- 9/17: done

Action - >> Need a plan to seek out legislators as well for help with pond

- 9/17: Chairman contacted John Fernandes office and has a list of people to contact. Also contacted Ryan Fatman and Joe Zarella (department of environmental protection).

Action - >> Chairman to send Walter Swift the water quality report.

- 9/17 Reports received - closed

Action - >> Seek out an aquatic biologist to help analyze what is in the town.

- 9/17: When the state comes in to perform an evaluation, they will review. Biologists are assigned to test before, after, and during treatments

Action ->> Chairman to check with town hall regarding liability of runners through parklands

- 9/17 Runners all signed waivers, no issue of liability

Action>> Chairman to follow up on process to repair fields with money from lawsuit

- We have \$500 coming payments

- 8/20 All funds have been received as of 2 weeks before 8/20

Action>> Chairman to follow up with irrigation company to find out why the sprinklers aren't working

- Inquiry into irrigation company to determine when we can meet up to fix things at Phillips Field

- 8/20 Advantage Irrigation came out. Issue with improper programming of controls. Reset the entire system. Pressure is good. One zone doesn't work now, believed it was planned to be a future zone. Advantage Irrigation will create a map for the zones. The system is timed to go on at 5:30 AM, with 15 minute intervals cycling through 19 zones. Closest zone has 7 heads, one with 5, and others are 3-4 depending on distance. Advantage will be providing a quote for installing heads in the infield. There should be a well report from around 2003 that we can acquire, and there was a \$1500 assessment for the well.

Action->> Don to check with highway to see what equipment is available to do slice seeding, as well as concrete blocks for parking lot

- No access to broadcast or slice seeder, no concrete blocks.

Action ->> Chairman to find out new rules for going out to bid for new electric bulbs

- Dan to find out - still open - still needed?

- 8/20 - Project scrapped due to cost outweighing usage.

Action->> Secretary to send a letter to Fire Department acknowledging and thanking them for their assistance.

- 8/20 letter went out today.

Action->> Don Howes to arrange facilities at bath house. All porta-potties should be handicapped accessible

- 8/20 all OK on that one.

Action->> Don Howes to walk the lot with Mike Smith and discuss options for a 60'x40' playground.

- Looked and have some requests for volunteers to survey west and southwest boundary of the property so we can know where we can place the new playground. If we can't get volunteer, we'll get a quote.

- 8/20 - Don and Mike walked and agreed where they would like to go, down the hill to the right.

AS Elliot Associates is providing a courtesy (free) survey to locate the West, South, and Southwest borders so we can identify the exact property. The goal is to provide a rough plan of where the hill currently is, parking lot infrastructure, borders, fence, perhaps a layout for the playground. We need to start looking for a volunteer that would help with digging into the hill to create the playground into the hill. Looking to push hard for the spring. Next action is to complete the survey.

Action->> Chairman to double check wording with police for signs

- 8/20 - Email sent with one for the boat ramp. Signage available is approved to be enforced.

Action->> Don Howes to investigate cost and options for locking system to re-key

- 8/20 - Unique keys controlled by a single master system. Including everything including the installation of a 'couple' of locks. Adding a key for the irrigation system in the snack shack over at Phillips.

Action->> Don to talk to Nstar regarding the electricity pole near the bathhouse

- Still open, Don to meet with local electrician tomorrow on this and some other projects

- 8/20 - Submitted flood light request. Park property poles isn't in their system and the pole numbers line up. To install floodlights on those poles - no price install, winter only would be \$40/month for a 400 watt fixture. 2x/year to have the light capped to disable the power.