



## TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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## Board of Selectmen

Sandra Biagetti  
Robert Burns  
Thomas A. Wesley  
**Town Administrator**  
Steven A. Sette

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### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Minutes

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

The regular Meeting of the Board and Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Biagetti in the Draper Room of Town Hall.

Present: Chair Sandra Biagetti, Selectman Robert Burns, Selectman Thomas A. Wesley, Town Administrator Steven Sette, Executive Assistant Susan Brouwer and Videographer Jeffrey Ellis

Chair Biagetti began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

#### Public Comment on Agenda Items

#### Consent Items

**1) Approval of Regular Minutes of August 17, 2015**

MSDV to approve regular minutes of August 17, 2015

Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

#### Correspondence

**1) Worker's Payroll Compensation Audit Information**

Administrator Sette advised the audit resulted in an increase of approximately \$4,100.00 per year.

#### Appointments and Resignations

None

#### New Business

**1) Proclamation to Joe Leoncini – Boston Post Cane Recipient**

a) Vote to accept and sign proclamation

b) Confirm BOS member(s) to attend and present Proclamation on Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 pm at the Hopedale Community House

MSDV to accept and sign the proclamation for Joe Leoncini's proclamation with the noted change of acceptance date from August 31 to September 1. Mr. Wesley volunteered to be present the proclamation to Mr. Leoncini at the Boston Post Cane Ceremony which will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 1:00 pm at the Hopedale Community House.

Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

Administrator Sette advised that Suzan Ciaramicoli was running a bit late and recommended the board advance the agenda to discuss the Freedom Street Dam and then go back to the loom discussion when Suzan Ciaramicoli arrives.

## 2) **Freedom Street Dam**

Administrator Sette referred members of the board to their packets advising that emails et cetera were forwarded for informational purposes regarding the Freedom Street Dam. Mr. Sette stated over the weekend of August 22-23, he received an email from a resident with a concern that the Freedom Street Dam leaking. Administrator Sette contacted Chief Daige who also serves as Emergency Management Director (EMD) and asked that he check the dam out at his earliest convenience.

On Monday morning when Mr. Sette arrived at work, he was notified of a posting on social media stating the dam had been breached. Steve had concern with the posting because when he was driving into work on Monday morning, it did not appear that the dam had been breached; there was a small leak and the person who did the posting later removed it from social media. Mr. Sette said the concern was that anytime you see this terminology you would think the dam was failing or there was a more eminent danger to the community.

Administrator Sette said that Chief Daige and one of the firefighter's went out and not only assessed the Freedom Street Dam; they also went up to Mill Pond and checked the flow; and then went up to North Pond. In addition, both Administrator Sette and Chief Daige called the Hopkinton Water Department who has control of the North Pond Dam. They were advised by Hopkinton Water Department that due to drought conditions North Pond they have been holding back as much water as possible. In addition, the Nipmuc Rod and Gun Club dammed water there because of lack of good fishing for their members. Mill Pond also didn't have significant flow. A resident shared their concern that the Hopedale Pond was down 14-18 inches, which is at the level of the winter. The process of flow was determined up stream and the lack of rain has also contributed to the water level. Administrator Sette said he also contacted Mr. Shwachman who is the owner of the dam and the mill. Steve said there was some question over ownership of the dam but as far back as 2010 when the spillway was repaired, however, all documents indicate that the dam is privately owned by First American Realty which is Mr. Shwachman's company. Administrator Sette he called Mr. Shwachman to advise him of the concern and for permission for him and Chief Daige to go onto the property. The next day, Mr. Shwachman's representative Bob Cook, looked at the dam and stated his observation was that the water coming through was normal for this time of year and there weren't any issues that they could see at the dam.

Administrator Sette stated that Chief Daige also contacted Dam Safety at the State level who also came out to look at the dam earlier today. Their representative commented that they have been periodically checking the dam over the years; the last time being 2012. The representative today observed no structural damage or breach of the dam and the amount of water coming through was minimal; there is no danger of breach for what is coming through at the Freedom Street Dam.

Administrator Sette said that he sent an email to the Chair of the Park's Commission advising that with the low water level at the pond, weeds are more visible. Administrator Sette suggested that rather than spending any more of his time or town resources on fixing the privately owned dam, a better use of time should be looking at what can be done to manage weed growth at the pond, noting that the Park Commission is working on a plan to address the weeds at the pond.

Administrator Sette then commented that Chief Daige had arrived and asked that he give an update on his meeting with Dam Safety. Chief Daige stated he met with a representative from Dam Safety and with Bob Cook from First American Realty. Chief advised that the Department of Dam Safety has a report on the dam from 2012 which identifies "a leak" with water coming through the rocks. The report shows there is no sediment or debris coming through and have deemed the dam as "safe". The representative also noted that the water

coming through the rocks has nothing to do with the pond level and does not create a hazard to the dam itself or undermining the road.

Chief Daige stated that he believes the low water level at Hopedale Pond is probably based on the following four factors;

- 1) Mill Pond being held back from flowing
- 2) North Pond being held back from flowing
- 3) Nipmuc Rod and Gun Club damming their pond
- 4) Lack of rain

Chair Biagetti recognized Tree Warden Walter Swift who stated the weeds in the pond are exponentially taking over the Hopedale Pond and the pond is dying. Walter advised that if something is not done to address the accelerated weed growth over time the pond will become a river and eventually a meadow with just a stream running through it. Mr. Swift recommended that community members be reached upon and that the Park Commissioners, Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission work in concert on plan to control weed growth in Hopedale Pond. Chair Biagetti stated that she too would like something done about cleaning up the pond. Ms. Biagetti asked Mr. Swift for his recommendations on where to begin the process;

Mr. Swift responded, the very first thing that should be done is to hire an aquatic biologist to evaluate the putrefying process and what steps should be taken to slow or remediate it. Town Administrator Sette advised in 2010 the private dam spillway was repaired using \$240,000 of town funds.

Park Commission Chair Dan Iacovelli stated that the commission has been working to secure additional grant funds focusing on preventing sediment from coming into the pond which he states eventually serves as a fertilizer for weeds.

Selectman Wesley commented that the town needs a comprehensive plan but needs to know what the town boundaries are. Mr. Wesley stated the town needs to determine what it can and cannot afford without losing a piece of the town's heritage. Mr. Wesley recalled weed control work being done about ten years ago. Mr. Iacovelli recalls the town doing weed control work in 2008 because that is when he moved into the town. Mr. Sette agreed with Mr. Iacovelli stating there is an RFP on file from 2008 with a project name "Hopedale Pond Assessment and Restoration Project". Administrator Sette said the town also applied for a grant in 2009 but the project was not funded.

Park Commission Chair Dan Iacovelli advised the Park Commissioner have looked into the following options for weed control; 1) purchasing a tool similar to a "sickle bar" which would need to be attached to a machine. This process is very labor intensive and you would need another machine behind to pick up the material. 2) There is a larger type machine that can be used that has a conveyor belt type system; however, Mr. Iacovelli said he hasn't been able to find anyone in the area that has this type of machine or does this type of work. Dan said that Dave Guglielmi is working to find a process that can be used to address the weeds in and along the pond area. Mr. Burns recommends reaching out to other towns stating there are many area towns that have ponds which have needed to be cleaned or dredged or weeded or dams fixed. There are also towns that have applied for grants to have this type of work done. Mr. Iacovelli stated he has contacted Senator Fatman's office to seek grant funding. Dan said he is waiting to hear back but advised that it has only been about a week.

### **3) Suzan Ciaramicoli – Historical Commission and Curator Little Red Shop Museum - Report on loom placement for current looms held in storage**

Chair Biagetti recognized Historical Commission member Suzan Ciaramicoli who provided copies of a timeline to board members showing in 2007 nine looms were removed from the Little Red Shop by a professional mover and stored in a garage on Lake Street which is owned by First American Realty. At that time, Town Coordinator Eugene Phillips signed a contract

with Hopedale Storage Co. aka First American Realty with the intent of the looms being stored for a few months at \$1.00/p month or \$12.00 per year, which was paid by the Friends of the Little Red Shop. Upon completion of the Little Red Shop restoration only two of the nine looms (chosen by former curator Dan Malloy) were returned to the red shop; the other looms fell under the radar because new people became involved and there wasn't any need to find out what was in storage because there wasn't anyone concerned with the yearly storage rental fee. On November 17, 2014, Mr. Bob Cook from First American Realty handed Town Administrator Steven Sette a letter advising the rental agreement would be terminated as of December 31, 2014, as they intended to put the facility on the market and needed to collect market rate for the storage units. As of January 2015, the monthly fee increased to \$130/m per unit or \$390/m. The Town Administrator agreed to help pay a portion of the storage rental fee until June 2015, which would allow the Historical Commission time to plan options for what should be done with the looms.

The dilemma was when the Little Red Shop reopened it was decided that the focus be more about the history of Hopedale rather than just about the looms; thus why only two looms were returned to the Little Red Shop, leaving seven looms.

The Historical Commission is recommending the Atwood Loom which dates back to 1875 (not a Draper Loom) be gifted to the Windham Textile and History Museum located in Windham, CT because that is the area from where the loom originated. The museum would like to restore the loom and get it back in working order. Windham Textile Museum is also willing to transport the loom at no cost to the town. The Historical Commission is recommending gifting the loom to Windham Textile and History Museum.

The six looms in storage and one located at the Little Red Shop; the Historical Commission recommends the town enter into agreement with Noble & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation (NCCHP) who is willing transport and store the looms free of charge at their facility which is located in Granville, MA. The terms of the agreement will allow the town to retain ownership of all but one of the looms which would be gifted to (NCCHP) after they evaluate and develop plans for restoration of at least one of the looms and with the Town's approval would gift the loom to NCCHP so they can place the loom on public display. Ms. Ciaramicoli advised this gives the town flexibility of retaining ownership of the looms, so that later on down the road if the town found another entity interested in restoring or displaying a loom; the town would have the right to do so.

Ms. Ciaramicoli said she provided Steve Sette with a copy of the Memorandum of Storage Agreement from Noble & Cooley for Town Counsel review. Town Counsel recommended a the town enter into a Storage License Agreement, where no dollars are exchanged and no town meeting vote is required; only Board of Selectmen approval.

Mr. Wesley commended Suzan on her presentation and efforts in getting these historical looms transferred to locations that will keep their historical character and significance.

Mr. Burns inquired whether they intend to sell the Atwood loom or whether the museum would allow the town to retain ownership. Ms. Ciaramicoli assured Mr. Burns that this loom has no historical significance to the Draper heritage and that the Windham Textile and History Museum is an upstanding 501C3 outfit and a major museum that will preserve this loom for all to enjoy beyond foreseeable future. Mr. Burns inquired about insurance coverage on the looms.

Ms. Ciaramicoli stated the looms are currently insured for 1 million dollars and part of the agreement is that the town continues insurance coverage for the looms at their new locations.

Mr. Wesley asked Administrator Sette if the insurance will carry over to their new location in Granville and Mr. Sette replied that it would.

Administrator Sette said the agreement will be presented for signature at the next Board of Selectmen on September 21, 2015.

The Board again thanked Suzan and the Historical Commission for their diligent efforts in

getting these looms preserved and stored in a thoughtful manner.

Old Business

None

Public Comment and requests for future agenda Items

None

Administrator News

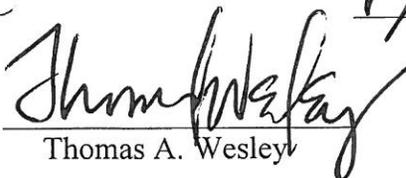
Administrator Sette had mentioned the following items;

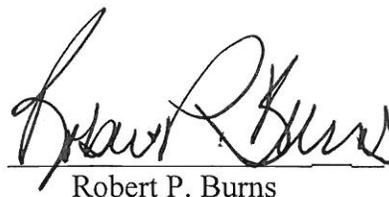
- a) Steve thanked resident Jean Hill for the donation of the flowers in the barrels located out front of Town Hall and for the care she has put forth in maintaining them.
- b) A reminder to residents that on September 12 is Day in the Park which should be a nice day. In addition to food vendors and craft vendors there is a juried Art Show. The Town will have a table set up for people interested in signing up for Boards or Committees.
- c) The joint meeting with the Upton Board of Selectmen on September 22 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a walk through of the newly renovated town hall.
- d) Mr. Wesley wanted to recognize Ian Strom who was recognized by Sports Center for his baseball success. There is a story on Ian in the Hopedale Town New which is a local paper.

Adjournment

With no further regular business before them at 7:38 p.m. the board adjourned their meeting.

  
Sandra Biagetti, Chair

  
Thomas A. Wesley

  
Robert P. Burns

**Hopedale Board of Selectmen**

**\*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted**