

Hopedale Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2022

Call to Order: 3 pm by Becca Solomon  
Special Meeting held at Town Hall Draper Room.

Attendees:  
Becca Solomon, Dave Guglielmi, Marcia Matthews.

### **General Business**

Discussion of Town Warrant Articles 8-12 regarding the West Street Property.

Becca called the meeting to order at 3 pm.

Dave presented a report referencing a FEMA Hazard Plan that listed Hopedale Pond as a vulnerable resource. "Hopedale Pond is included in the Massachusetts 303d list of impaired waterways. Historically, Hopedale Pond has been affected by excessive nuisance aquatic vegetation. The build-up from this vegetation, together with sediment accumulation from the outflow culverts which enter the Pond, have caused a significant reduction in the Pond's ability to adequately store water.

"Flood storage capacity during enhanced precipitation events, and the inability to store and contain water which would be needed during periods of drought, have now reached a point of critical concern.

"The central location of Hopedale Pond in the comprehensive watershed area extending from North Pond in Hopkinton, southward following the Mill River, through Massachusetts and culminating at Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, demonstrates the importance of sustaining Hopedale Pond's vital functions.

"The Flood of 1955 is the area's benchmark event which demonstrably illustrated this critical vulnerability of Hopedale Pond."

The Commission discussed the warrant for Town Meeting Articles 8-12 regarding the Grafton-Upton Railroad's offer to divide the West Street property in a Settlement Agreement. Becca said on a site visit, they found a skeet range with many shell casings, and a clear cut that will affect water quality. The DEP said the Conservation Commission has limited authority shared with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Commission voted unanimously to recommend a No vote on Articles 8-12.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. Next meeting is April 19, 2022 at 6 pm.

Agenda will be posted per standard posting requirements. Agenda will include call-in/Zoom meeting information.