



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Park
Commission**
Don Howes, Chair
Michael Ledone
David Sprowl

Hopedale Park Commission March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom

Call to Order at 7:02 PM

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, David Sprowl, Michael Ledone

Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi

Administrative Assistant: Lindsay Mercier

Guest: Kristen Ledone

It was moved by Michael Ledone, seconded by David Sprowl to the minutes of February 18. March 3, and March 10, 2021. Unanimously approved.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Don Howes was contacted about a pine tree within the Parklands just beyond the culvert that needs to be removed. Michael Ledone made a motion to approve removing this tree as soon as possible for a cost no more than \$2000, seconded by David Sprowl All were in favor.
- The board reviewed the request from Milford/Hopedale Youth Field Hockey for Spring, Summer and Fall clinics Kristen Ledone was present to share information and she will work with the Athletic Director regarding baseball. David Sprowl made a motion to approve the spring, summer and fall youth field hockey program, seconded by Michael Ledone. All were in favor.
- Hopedale Girls Youth Softball sent the HPC their Spring 2021 Guidelines pursuant regarding COVID 19 and the board is waiting on Board of Health approval. Michael Ledone made a motion to accept the HGYS guidelines and program details, seconded by David Sprowl. All were in favor.
- HPC received an email from Kevin Small requesting permission to volunteer in cleanup in Parks/Parklands. At this time, the parklands do not need cleanup but Don Howes suggested sending Kevin an email regarding brush cutting along the pond shore or if he has any other ideas.
- The only update to the Notice of Intent to Sue Board of Selectmen regarding 364 West Street is that the court decision came through denying the injunction and that the residents are planning an appeal.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- The HPC met with the Finance Committee to review the 2022 Budget and Capital requests on March 10th. Since then, the Finance Committee has suggested that each department stay within a 1.6% increase. A discussion was held in regards to how to realign the expenses of the Park Commission with those constraints.

- The Master Plan Steering Committee worksheet was sent to Jim Abbruzzese. Don Howes suggested one edit in regards to removing the ESS as the responsible party for the stormwater drainage mapping and adding the Board of Health and Conservation Commission.
- Don Howes solicited quotes from our current vendor, Solitude and a new vendor, Water and Wetland for 2021/22 Hopedale Pond water treatments. Water and Wetland full service quote came in at \$9680 and Solitude's full quote is \$10,812. The half service quote for Water and Wetland came in at \$5780 and Solitude at \$5212. A discussion was held regarding whether the board would approve a half service program as was done last year or a full program. Michael Ledone made a motion to approve the water treatment full service program from Water and Wetland LLC for \$9680 pending revision of payment terms that would span FY21 and FY22 budget considerations. Motion seconded by David Sprowl, and all were in favor.
- Town Park Playground renovations/repairs are moving forward. Supplies and parts have been ordered along with replacing the steering wheel which was beyond repair.

New Business

- Discussion regarding possible development on Overdale Parkway - There is a plan in place to construct 4 houses on the right side of Overdale Parkway and 6 on the left side. These 10 parcels are privately owned and the project is being reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. It has not been officially determined if this impedes the Parklands. Don Howes brought this project to the board's attention so that they are informed and will continue to be informed moving forward. An email will be sent to the Town Administrator asking that the HPC be sent all information regarding this land project.
- Summer Tennis and Recreation Program - Jennie Holland will be managing the Craft and Tennis program this summer as she did an amazing job last year. She has hired the staff required and the program will start June 28th. The staff will work the week before to prepare for the crafts and for tennis instructor training. Don Howes will look into getting the bathrooms open and report at the next meeting.
As far as the basketball courts opening up, this decision is not up to the Hopedale Park Commission. The state dictates those guidelines and since there is no supervision or coach, the state has not allowed the courts to reopen as of today.
- Proposed cost collaboration with HYBA and Hopedale Schools - The HYBA proposed this joint project to repair/filling the northwest corner of Draper Field which is near the baseball and field hockey fields. After reviewing the site with the Athletic Director, the School Committee will review this request that each group contribute \$600 towards the needed loam to fill this large area. HYBA has approved this donation. David Sprowl made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for loam to repair the northwest corner of Draper Field, seconded by Michael Ledone. All were in favor. Don Howes met with the Highway Department as well regarding this project and requested that the HPC purchase a York Rake to spread the loam and for future field projects. Michael Ledone made a motion to approve the HPC to purchase a York Rake from the revolving account in the amount of \$1395. David Sprowl seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- High School Spring Sports Update - Spring sports will start on April 26th but no other details have been provided by the MIAA.
- Additional Dog Waste Station needed - The Highway Department is responsible for emptying the trash from the dog waste stations and is requesting an additional one be placed on the corner of Freedom and Dutcher Street outside of the Town Park since the other receptacle is always overflowing. David Sprowl made a motion to approve the HPC to purchase a dog waste station to be placed on the corner of Freedom and Dutcher Street outside of the park, seconded by Michael Ledone. All were in favor.

- Consideration to add gates to Tennis Courts - The Highway Department requested the HPC to consider these gates to assist in clearing leaves throughout the year from the courts. Each gate would cost \$1572. After a short discussion, the board did not move forward on this request

Bills and Invoices

- Summer repair and maintenance plans - It was discussed to review what remaining summer repair projects the board is working on and if there were any other needs before the end of the FY21. The board will continue to review what funds are available to any of these plans.

Public Comment - lengthy items

None

Report of board members

None

Adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Arcudi