



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Park
Commission**
Don Howes, Chair
Jim Abbruzzese
David Sprowl

Hopedale Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm Draper Room, Town Hall March 19, 2020

Per the direction of the Hopedale Board of Selectmen, this meeting was not open to the public but was televised live and recorded.

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, David Sprowl, Jim Abbruzzese

Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi

It was moved by Mr. Abbruzzese, seconded by David Sprowl, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2020. All voted in favor.

Correspondences and requests

- Requests from Friends of Historic Hopedale -
 1. Permission for a firepit for the Coffeehouse event on 3/27 was not needed as the event has been cancelled.
 2. Tracey Phillips submitted the proposal for a Mural Contest in correlation to the Hopedale Fairy Walk and co-sponsored by the HPC. This could be either painted on the north wall of the bathhouse or the back of the bathhouse garage. The FOHH and the HPC will assist with choosing the winner by April 30, 2020. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve the Friends of Historic Hopedale's Mural Contest, seconded by David Sprowl. All voted in favor.
- Spring Egg Hunt was cancelled.
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ellis who resides at 144 Freedom St. submitted a letter of notification regarding adding a stone retaining wall on their property that abuts the Hopedale Pond. They are in communication with the Conservation Commission.
- **Don Howes has received notice of two more potential donations for Pet Waste Stations, which he feels should be placed on the west side of the Parklands on the blue trail. It is impossible for the Highway crews to maintain the trash in this location and Don asked Mr. Ellis whose home abuts the Parklands if he would be interested in using his off road John Deere Gator vehicle to remove the trash. Mr. Ellis happily agreed to assist on a weekly basis.
- **The Governor of Massachusetts declared all state run playgrounds to close as of March 19, 2020. The Hopedale Board of Health also voted on March 20, 2020 to close the baseball, basketball, and softball fields at all fields and the playgrounds. This excluded the tennis courts. After a detailed discussion, Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to close all of town park facilities including baseball, basketball, softball at Phillips Field, Draper Field and Town Park including the tennis courts and playgrounds. Motion seconded by David Sprowl and all were in favor.

- ****The HPC received an email from Christine Luccini asking if the board had talked with the Athletic Director or Baseball coach regarding the placement of the approved Bocce Court. Mr. Howes did speak with the baseball coach. It was agreed that the pitchers could warm up elsewhere and it will be highly unlikely that anyone would be on the Bocce court during a baseball game.**

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Tennis courts warrant - The HPC received an additional quote from Kaloutas which seems to only include painting and patching of cracks. Cost is \$11,500 per court and an additional \$1450 per court for patching. The board will continue to pursue additional quotes.
- Bath house project - On hold at this time.
The boat ramp has been replaced with the coordination of the Highway Department which will greatly assist with the drainage issues.
- Parking area - Yellow trail off Dutcher Street - No updates at this time.
- Playground tree restoration/safety - The HPC continues to gather quotes regarding this safety issue.

New Business

Town Park playground - necessary repairs and modifications - Don Howes received a quote from Utliply for necessary modifications for the playground. This will be to replace the existing toddler swings with new swings. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve the necessary repairs to the toddler swings at a cost of no more than \$3126.00 by Utliply which would be paid by the HPC revolving account. David Sprowl seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Draper Field - Field hockey field/dog issues - The Draper field hockey field has major holes which appear to be from dogs digging. This area is hard to patrol with the gates locked. Mr Howes will open the gates when he is at his business so that the police department can check the area throughout the day.

Opening of fields - on hold

New regulations from Board of Health on recreational camps for children - It has come to the HPC's attention that there is a requirement for anyone holding a recreational camp for children to complete an application for a license to conduct such camp per the Hopedale Board of Health.

Update from the Recreational Field ad hoc Committee - Jim Abbruzzese, as co-chair of the Recreational Field ad hoc Committee discussed the status of this group. It is still an active group, they did not disband after their warrant article to receive \$250,000 for the engineering study did not pass last year at Town Meeting. Because the vote was so close, they felt they owed it to the town to go back to the drawing board. The proposed high level design is still the same as it was. There is \$25,000 earmarked from the state budget that must be spent by June 30, 2020 and the committee would like to use it to test the Draper Field. This would entail drilling borings at potentially known trouble areas to see what's in the ground as well as any potential contaminants. This can be done quickly, before the Town Meeting in May.

The committee is asking the HPC for permission to move forward on this. Since there is a Utilities and Use Agreement in place, nothing can be done onsite without permission from Rockwell and CDM Smith as legal LSP. The committee will be working with Gale Associates and they would work with their Licensed Site Professional. This report would be sent to the Park Commission which in turn would submit this to CDM Smith for approval.

The size of the borings would be determined in the LSP and details of what will be done with the soil that is unearthed.

David Sprowl made a motion to grant permission for the borings to be drilled at Draper Field if the Recreational Field ad hoc Committee agrees to move forward, following all LSP rules by Gale Associates, CDM Smith and all proper environmental protocols. Don Howes seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Bills and Invoices

Bills were signed for Ace Hardware, National Grid and reimbursement for Don Howes.

Public Comment - lengthy items

None

Report of board members

Don Howes reported that when he went to lock down the basketball court, the hoops need to be replaced as structural cracks were found. New nets will also be purchased.

Jim Abbruzzese asked if the HYBA can still construct the dugouts and the board felt that this can still be done with a limited number of volunteers.

****Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours**

Adjourn at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Arcudi, HPC Clerk

Minutes of March 19, 2020 were approved at the April 30, 2020 meeting held via Zoom and will be signed at a future date.

Don Howes, Chairman

Jim Abbruzzese

David Sprowl