



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Park
Commission**
Michael Reynolds
Michael Ledone
Chairman David
Sprowl

Hopedale Park Commission September 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Sprowl at 7:04 pm.

Attendance

Park Commission: David Sprowl, Mike Reynolds, Mike Ledone

Clerk: Mary Arcudi

Town Administrator: Diana Schindler

Town Counsel: Katherine Klein

Guests: Sue Ciaramicoli, Ricardo Lima, Stephanie Thomas, Greg Habel, Rob Fahey, Liz Savage, Lou Arcudi, Liz Callahan

Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2021, seconded by Michael Ledone and all were in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- The HS Class of 2024 requested to hold a corn hole tournament fundraiser on Saturday, October 2nd but has not submitted a park usage request form as of yet. The board will consider this at a later date.
- A written request was received from Colleen Strapponi to review Article 97 Smith vs Westfield 478 Mass 49, a precedent setting case for protecting the Parklands (Article attached on page 2 of agenda). Ms. Strapponi could not attend this meeting. Mike Reynolds reviewed the previous Board of Selectmen's meeting where this was discussed in detail. Town Counsel Katherine Klein detailed that through this article, land can be deeded to a town. The Overdale Parkway land deal is not owned by the town and there is no proof that this land was dedicated to Article 97 in any records. Property owner Rob Fahey stated he did not believe the Park Commission had been involved in protecting the Parklands in this Overdale project nor the Railroad deal. Mike Ledone responded that they have been involved and he believes we have to respect the rights of the landowners involved. Mike Reynolds also stated that the Park Commission agrees to preserve, maintain and expand our open space and Parklands and agreed that the Commission needs to respect the landowners. Before the Overdale Parkway land deal starts construction, many other town boards need to approve all details. Due diligence has been done by our boards and Town Counsel. Stephanie Thomas questioned the land deal litigated in 2003 and Katherine Klein replied that that 40 homes development proposed did not involve Article 97 and resident Ricardo Lima reminded the board that they did not have knowledge of the 1985 gift in the 2003 litigation. Mr. Lima stated that none of the Parklands are being touched, over 10 acres will be donated to the Parklands and actual parking spaces will be added for residents to use to visit the Parklands in this area and to assist Highway and Fire crews to turn around.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Jeff Leclaire, from Fin and Feather was unable to attend the meeting to review the summer program but sent a letter detailing fees collected and attendance. The HPC will reach out to Jeff to return to next month's meeting.
- There was no update from Anna Graham from Picnic Pastimes regarding her request to use the Park and the board has not received an approval from the Health Agent at this time.

- Greg Habel reviewed the sign suggestions from Hopedale for Change members regarding diversity in Hopedale Parks with the Board. The HPC will research options for signage. Mike Reynolds suggested that the board consider Phillips Field playground as well.
- The full board reviewed the revised quote for Pathway to ADA Swing and Mike Reynolds made a motion to purchase 40 mats at the cost not to exceed \$3400 from the revolving account for the ADA path. Mike Ledone seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- A discussion was held regarding the quotes for Town Park stone wall repairs and the board decided to continue this discussion to the October meeting after a full walk around of the stone walls.
- Mike Reynolds updated the board on the decision of the Finance Committee not to move the Park Commission's capital requests for tree maintenance at the Town Park needed for the safety of the residents nor the Tennis Court renovations.
- Park usage fees were reviewed and it was agreed to keep the fees as they are and to review them again next spring. Clinics and sports programs pay \$5 per Hopedale resident and \$8 per non-resident. The Commission also agreed to invoice the HS Athletic Department in two payments in October and then in April as previously discussed before COVID.
- David Sprowl did not have an update on cost and availability of Go Go Goats to assist with the growth along the east side of the pond near the Little Red Shop at the time of this meeting. He will report on their availability at the October meeting.
- After a review of the photos and plans sent via email, Mike Reynolds made a motion to install a sign near the Bath House for the Blackstone River Valley Historical Park. Motion seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.

New Business

Mike Reynolds received a call from Carol Mullen, from Council on Aging regarding the previously approved Bocce Court that they are looking to fund the difference needed to complete this project. Mike will keep the board informed on the progress of this project.

Bills and Invoices

None to review.

Public Comment - lengthy items

Property owner, Rob Fahey informed the board of the disrepair and damage of the Rustic Bridge including the railings. Mike R and Mike L will include this in their walk around for the Town Park stone wall with the potential contractor and possibly add this to the Capital Request list moving forward.

Report of board members

No updates regarding the Open Space and Master Planning Committee meetings were discussed. Diana Schindler stated the Open Space meeting members are identifying goals and have put out a survey for residents to chime in on.

Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours

Liz Savage was present to request permission for her Cub Scouts to build a sign for the Town Park. This would be a year long project and the Board wholeheartedly supported allowing this project.

Chris Gaffney sent the HPC an email requesting to put signs up on the trianage and the park space across from the town park for the Sacred Heart Church Christmas Fair. The board unanimously approved this request.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:52 pm by Mike Reynods, seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Arcudi, HPC Clerk