



# TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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

## **Hopedale Park Commission January 20, 2022 Meeting Agenda 7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Sprowl at 7:06 pm.

### **Attendance**

Park Commission: David Sprowl, Michael Ledone, Michael Reynolds

Guests: Kristen Poisson, Karen Crebase, Scott Mandeville, Leah Hodgdon, Becca Solomon, Tracey Phillips

Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2021 seconded by Mike Ledone. All were in favor.

### **Announcements, correspondences and requests**

- Kristen Poisson, principal at BBC is proposing a Forest Friends program using the forest environment as a classroom. Bright Beginnings Center is Hopedale's early childhood center located at Park Street. This concept of nature classrooms are in 25 districts in Massachusetts. This class would be totally outdoors except during extreme weather, promoting play in the natural environment. The program would be using the Parklands near the Bathhouse and the portable toilet in that area which is available year round. Two to three teachers will be with the 10-12 students Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12 noon, with Fridays as possible make up days. With full support from the Park Commissioners, Mike Reynolds made a motion to accept the proposal to allow the Forest Friends program to be held at the Parklands for the Fall of 2022. Mike Ledone seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Leah Hodgdon is requesting a potential 5K race next June, from Draper Field to the Parklands in honor of her Dad. Funds raised would be donated to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. She is proposing to hold this event on June 25, 2022. Mike Reynolds suggested working with the Hopedale Fire and Police for guidance along with checking with the Hopedale Youth Baseball for any conflicts. Mike Reynolds made a motion to accept the proposal by Leah Hodgdon to hold a 5K race using the Parklands and Draper Field, seconded by Mike Ledone. All were in favor.
- Scott Mandeville from the HYBA Board of Directors is inquiring about adding electric service at the Draper Baseball Field. This request is the HYBA's initial fact finding regarding electricity for the snack shack for interior and exterior outlets for a refrigerator. Future outlets would be looked into for pitching machines and lighting. The discussion concerns were hurdles and opposition due to the landfill and where to connect to existing poles. HYBA will investigate initial steps with National Grid taking into consideration that the parking lot is privately owned. Scott Mandeville will put together a feasibility report along with the cost analysis and report back to the HPC.
- William Adamski is requesting to plan his Eagle Scout project around planting trees in Hopedale. This project would be in coordination with the Tree Warden. William was unable to participate in the zoom meeting but he had a discussion with Becca Solomon, Tree Warden about his plans to plant trees around the Parks and Hopedale streets with her guidance. Mike Reynolds made a motion to support William Adamski move forward with his Eagle Scout project to plant trees with the guidance of the Tree Warden. Motion seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.

- Jim Comisky is requesting an overnight Parklands camping event with his Troop 4 Milford Boy Scouts. Jim was unable to attend the meeting but had sent the HPC details of his plans for his Troop. Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the overnight camping event subject to approval by the Hopedale Fire and Police and the requirement that the area be left in good condition. Motion seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.
- Friends of Historic Hopedale Annual Pondside Fireside event is scheduled for February 5, 2022. As this is an annual event, and due to COVID concerns, they will be using more of the Parkland space. Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the Pondside Fireside event for February 5, 2022, seconded by Mike Ledone. All were in favor.
- Friends of Historic Hopedale Fairy Walk is planned June 11, 2022 and is another fabulous event held in Hopedale. Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve the Fairy Walk and use of the Parklands for June 11, 2022, seconded by Mike Ledone. All were in favor.

#### **Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)**

None

#### **Review previous action items**

- Park Commission Capital Improvement Projects were discussed that include but not limited to the drainage issue at the Town Playground, trees that need to be removed/maintained at the Town Park for safety reasons, lighting needs at Town Park, the tennis and basketball courts that need to be improved, the Rustic Bridge that is falling apart and a possible mitigation plan regarding the beaver dams. The pond weed capital budget line item was discussed as those funds are dwindling and the board agreed that this line item should be part of the regular budget line.
- Fencing on the Northrup Street side of Town Park is in need of desperate repair/replacement. After a review of the project, Mike Reynolds made a motion to approve AnyFence to be the contractor to repair this fencing as per the quote received with the caveat that fencing around the tennis courts previously contracted is completed. Motion seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.

#### **New Business**

- Seasonal To Do List was reviewed and checking the town Park bathrooms needs to be added especially since there was an issue with the vacuum breaker that caused some water damage. Kevin MacDonald is repairing this and the bathroom should be open soon.
- FY23 Budget discussion was held. David Sprowl did attend the Finance Committee meeting last week and the board will be asked soon to submit the budget. Major funding is needed for the Park Commission and support is needed from the Finance Committee if capital projects are feasible and worth the time for members to solicit quotes. Many grants are available but most require matching funds to be in the budget first and foremost.

#### **Bills and Invoices**

Mike Reynolds purchased trash bags from Ace and also gave Chris Nadeau the go ahead to purchase paper towel dispensers and toilet paper holders that need replacing for the Town Park bathroom that were vandalized.

#### **Public Comment - lengthy items**

None

#### **Report of board members**

Mike Ledone inquired about summer staffing and would like to expand the summer program to include an "All Sport Program".

Mike Reynolds made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Ledone. All were in favor.