



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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

Hopedale Park Commission May 19, 2022 Meeting Agenda 7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Sprowl at 7:15pm.

Attendance

Park Commission: David Sprowl, Michael Reynolds, Micheal Ledone

Clerk: Kristen Ledone

Guest: Diana Schindler, Ricardo Lima, Greg Habel, Monica Phillips, Janice Doyle

Board reorganization post-election. David Sprowl nominated Michael Reynolds as Chairman; Michael Reynolds accepted the nomination. David Sprowl made a motion to appoint Michael Reynolds as Chairman, Michael Ledone seconded this motion, all were in favor.

David Sprowl made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2022 seconded by Michael Ledone. All were in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- A Park Usage request was submitted by Greg Labossiere for summer clinics. David Sprowl made a motion to accept this request, seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.
- Shanna Lathrop, 5th grade teacher at Memorial Elementary, submitted a Park Usage request for 5th grade scavenger hunt. David Sprowl made a motion to accept this request, seconded by Mike Ledone and all were in favor.
- Greg Habel, Hopedale for Change, requested use of a bench by the Town Park to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of 1969. A place for 1 day to show support to Hopedale's LGTBQ community. Michael Ledone made a motion to approve the request, seconded by David Sprowl. All were in favor.
- A usage request was submitted by Laura Ingemi for Summer basketball league. The board requests the schedule be sent over once she has it. Michael Ledone made the motion to accept, David Sprowl seconded. All in favor.
- Lot A in Harmony, Green St/Rockridge. Michael Ledone spoke to Highway about it, Highway confirmed it is Park's land (13-14 acres). If Park's needs to use it, Highway will clear the mulch, regrinds, hanger, trailer. The property was donated to the town.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Benches for the Fairy Walk are currently being installed. Highway installed one bench as of today closest to the Rustic Bridge. 2nd and 3rd will be completed soon. Have been in contact with Tracy.

- Summer program calendar is all set. Edda Phillips has taken leadership responsibilities. Will begin after the school year ends. Michael Reynolds will meet with her soon to make sure she has all the supplies she needs. Hiring process is complete.
- Rustic Bridge/Stone hut update. Michael Ledone spoke with Don Howes. An individual is interested in donating funds to repair the Rustic Bridge and Stone hut. The donor is interested in having help financing a fence rental to cover the area, security detail for the duration to watch overnight each night for the four to five days to complete and also a porta potty rental (15 hours a day for 5 days). A little over \$5000 for the security detail for the HPD. A private firm would cost \$2500. Michael Reynolds requested more details and would like a project plan. What work will be done, timing, completion (security, timing, closure of the bridge). Park Clerk will reach out to Don Howes looking for a more detailed plan. The board will call a special vote if need be, to expedite timelines. Diana Schindler suggested the board may also have to get in touch with ConCom.
- Bocce Court update. Michael Reynolds reached out to Vince Kosciak to see if he would be interested in taking on the project as an Eagle Scout, but has not received a call back. Michael Ledone reached out to the town in regard to use of Ballou, it is Parks property. Highway informed Michael Ledone that there is a drainpipe, something to be aware of. Location has been approved, contingent on the group raising the necessary funds.
- Budget FY23 – The board had requested more funds be added to, the board received it. More money is being allocated towards trees. Budget closes in June, excess funds to spend before Fiscal Year closes.

New Business

- Diana Schindler spoke to the consultant with the open space committee. The Open Space draft was completed. Diana mentioned to the Select Board that the ARPA money, received from federal government, to respond to the outcome of the Pandemic, that the parks are becoming Community Wellness areas, providing wellness initiatives. The town received an allotment under \$10,000,000 and can use the money for anything in the town. The town would like to spend it as an investment in the community for items that haven't been able to get done. She would like to encourage the board to try to put together larger projects that they would like to see completed. Full plan for Town Park - feasibility, probable cost. Looking to do a feasibility study for the town park - field, tennis courts, playground - how they work together, any issues - to have a funding plan. \$1.5million ARPA funds remaining. Reynolds asked what the process is. Diana is working with several companies and will ask what the cost would be to do a feasibility study.
- Hopedale pond dredging update. Had an onsite meeting with Blackstone Watershed Collaborative. Has a lead on a state feasibility study for dredging the pond and the Feds and State want to connect the daylighting the community project. Hoping it will bring back the vitality of the pond. Focus area is mostly the big part before dam up to canal, where all sediment is.
- Weed treatment survey was done on the pond. The pond will receive weed treatment.

Bills and Invoices

Public Comment - lengthy items

Ricardo Lima said the Parks Commission should have been noticed as an abutter to the Overdale project. Proposal to donate 15 acres to the parklands and 12 spot parklands at the end of the culdesac at the end of Overdale (about an acre additionally) Mr. Lima invited the board to attend June 1st Planning Board Meeting.

Report of board members

Michael Ledone said how impressed he is with the improvements around town. Michael Reynolds is also impressed.

David Sprowl made a motion to adjourn. Michael Ledone seconded. All in favor