



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Park Commission

David Sprowl
Michael Ledone
Chairman Michael
Reynolds

Hopedale Park Commission

December 7, 2022

Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Reynolds at 6:06pm.

Attendance

Park Commission: Michael Reynolds, Michael Ledone, David Sprowl

Clerk:

Guest:

Michael Ledone made a motion to approve the October 20, 2022 minutes, seconded by Michael Reynolds. All were in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Draper Field and challenges with the condition. Mike R spoke with Stephanie Ridolfi and she mentioned that there was pushback from the referee assignor for the high school. Due to the current condition, they have recommended no home games play at Draper Field. Mike R explained limitations as far as improvements to the field are concerned. Mike L agreed, concerned that now 2 high school teams cannot play home games/matches, tennis and field hockey. Mike L suggested moving field hockey to Lot A but doing so would still leave issue of Draper Field for Youth Baseball. Mike R spoke about how Parks does not have equipment necessary to maintain the fields and do not have the funds to maintain. Need to figure out as a board, to develop a long-term solution for maintaining the fields. Mike R spoke about how Phillips Field is not too far off from being playable. Mike L mentioned that there is some money in the Repair/Maintenance budget to put towards the fields. The board discussed potentially bringing in more loam to the fields. Mike R agreed some money needs to be put towards Capital Improvements. Mike R recommended to table the conversation and start putting together quotes from various organizations as it relates to field improvements. Mike R will speak with Emerald Irrigation, Hopedale Youth Softball & Youth Baseball to see if they have any relevant information/ideas pertaining to field improvements. Mike L suggested reaching out to the youth leagues in town to help fund field improvements. The board agreed to move topic to the January meeting, will make a plan after the New Year.
- Mike L had the Town Park bathrooms winterized by Kevin MacDonald. Moving forward, the Water & Sewer Commission mentioned that they could winterize the bathrooms in the future.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Lot A use and improvements update. Mike R suggested to table this conversation until January with the continued field improvement plan. Mike L spoke with Diana Schindler about having Tighe & Bond

conduct a study of Lot A previously and is still trying to get in touch with her regarding this conversation. Mike L wants to have the conversation about funding Lot A improvements, Mike R is concerned it would be intrusive for Chris Nadeau and Highway Department as they leverage that location for leaves, regrinds and various equipment.

- Town Park Feasibility Study was approved and funded through ARPA Funds; cost is roughly \$20,000. Based on the study of the Town Park, Mike R will suggest they also include Lot A in the study. The study will give the Board the opportunity to put together a game plan.
- As part of the Hopedale Pond dredging, a study will be conducted on the Rustic Bridge. The Hopedale Historical Society will “adopt” the bridge and will fund any repairs necessary for the bridge.

New Business

Bills and Invoices

- All current.

Public Comment - lengthy items

Report of board members

- Correspondence received from Greg Habel. Hopedale for Change was running an event around Thanksgiving creating signs. Mr. Habel wanted to place signs around town. Mike R said the Board needs to agree what types of signs they will approve around town. Agreed that signs around town should not be political. Mike L was concerned that it would set a precedent for other organizations and putting signs up that are contradictory. The Board is concerned that if you allow one sign, whether you agree or not, you have to allow the other signs that may contradict with the original sign. Mike R volunteered to reach out to Mr. Habel and explain the Board’s reasoning as to why he was unable to place the signs around town.
- Mike L brought in the nets from the tennis courts for the winter and also adjusted the lights at Town Park.
- Mike L spoke about the Bathhouse – Steve from Highway has been slowly cleaning out the Bathhouse. Canoes and boats were brought to the Boathouse and Steve has been cleaning out trash and various tools. Forest Friends from BBC has now been able to use the Bathhouse. David Sprowl said they had previously discussed building a deck on the back of the Bathhouse – all agreed it would be a good idea for an Eagle Scout Project.

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