



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 Remote Meeting via Zoom May 28, 2020

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, David Sprowl, Jim Abbruzzese
Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi
Town Administrator: Diana Schindler
Guest: Mike Ledone

It was moved by Mr. Abbruzzese, seconded by David Sprowl, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 30, 2020. All were in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Becca Solomon has stepped up to assist in volunteering for the Park Commission and Mr. Howes has sent her his contact information.
- A neighbor of the Town Park has requested a sign for respectful language and music volume near the basketball courts. The HPC will look at other parks to come up with language for a sign to encourage visitors to be kind to our neighbors.
- The Conservation Commission has requested HPC representation at their next meeting regarding homeowner's pruning and cutting trees within areas that are wetlands/conservation in the Parklands. The HPC will attend their June 19th meeting and will post this joint meeting.
- Chris Kivior has requested permission to hold the annual Larry Olsen 10K Classic event on September 26, 2020. The board will wait to approve this event as more information is needed with the Governor's state guidelines in the next phases. The Board of Selectmen also needs to approve this event.
- Doug Scott, owner of Lakeside Ranch, has asked the HPC for permission to videotape the Parklands to create a youtube video. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to ask Mr. Scott to complete a Parks Usage form and it will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- An email was received on May 28, 2020 from Michele Terando regarding the tennis court repairs and reseeding concerns of Phillips and Draper Fields. The tennis court warrant to renovate was removed by the HPC due to the fiscal concerns and reseeding is certainly on the wish list depending on end of year balance of the HPC budget.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Progress on mural on Bath House - The mural is still a work in progress and is coming out beautiful.

- Update on park closure and park summer programs - Governor's Phase 1 plan along with a request from Hopedale Youth Softball on summer 2020 program - At this time, the playground, basketball court and baseball field will remain closed until further guidelines are released from the state. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the opening of the tennis courts and it was decided that the courts would open with supervision hopefully this coming Saturday, May 30th. This opening would allow single and doubles match playing and residents can sign up at the tennis courts or by email at hopedaleparksprogram@gmail.com. Information on signing up will be on the HPC website, facebook page and a notice on the Kiosk.

The HPC will look into funding from the COVID19 Relief fund with the Town Administrator to open the bathrooms at the Town Park.

Youth Baseball and Softball leagues are preparing for practice and games to resume during Phase 2 and 3. The HPC is onboard and will wait to hear from the Governor on the guidelines and timeline for this to resume.

Fin and Feather summer program is currently on hold as well and waiting for their application for running a camp in town which needs to be approved by the Board of Health.
- Playground tree restoration/safety warrant and quotes - No updates on quotes at this time
- Update on testing of soil at Draper Field by Recreational Field ad hoc Committee - Jim Abbruzzese reviewed the entire process completed to date regarding the geotechnical study request for Draper Field improvements. The request for ground testing that was sent to Rockwell International was denied due to the depth of the borings over the allowed two to three feet. It was a devastating disappointment for the RFAHC and after a review of all documentation, the committee scheduled a conference call with the parties involved including Rockwell's attorney, Gale Associates, CMD Smith, Diana Schindler and members of the RFAHC. The committee learned that the intent of the land grant between the Town of Hopedale and Rockwell, on the date it was signed, that the land would be used for the same purpose moving forward; baseball, soccer and field hockey fields. They are against major construction such as turf fields, drainage and footings for lighting. Liability was a major concern as well when testing the soil.

After meeting with the Board of Selectmen on May27th, it was agreed that if Rockwell continued to deny the request, that the committee close the book on this particular project. Moving forward Jim Abbruzzese is meeting with North Turf to discuss improvements and recommendations they may have for Phillips and Draper Fields with the money the RFAHC has to use by June 30th. The HPC was onboard with any improvements on these fields and Jim will report back at the next meeting.
- Budget for FY 21 - Town Administrator Diana Schindler reported that at this time, there are several renditions of the FY20/21 budget. The renditions for the Park Commission range in a reduction of \$2000 to almost \$10,000 which is a major concern in running the park department. Don Howes presented the board with a reduction proposal from Solitude Lake Management for weed control expenses. Money saved could assist in the tree restoration/safety issue in the Town Park. At this time, the HPC hopes the tree restoration/safety warrant will still be presented at the town meeting but concerned that it will be denied due to the fiscal issues for FY20/21. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to reduce the weed control for the Hopedale Pond by half as proposed by Solitude Lake Management subject to further review of finances approved at the next Town Meeting. Motion seconded by David Sprowl and all were in favor.
- Repair/replace fencing where needed around the Park - Don Howes has asked two fence companies for quotes to repair fencing at the Town Park in several locations. Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to approve up to \$5000 to repair the fencing and Northup Street railing. Seconded by David Sprowl and all were in favor.

Bills and Invoices

- Revise School Usage Fees invoice - After a review of the invoice, Jim Abbruzzese made a motion to reduce the annual fee and expenses by \$800 for services/supplies not implemented for lacrosse. Motion seconded by David Sprowl and all were in favor.

Public Comment - lengthy items

None

Report of board members

None

Adjourn at 9:18 PM

Minutes approved verbally on June 11, 2020 via Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Arcudi
HPC Clerk