



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Park
Commission**
Don Howes, Chair
Michael Ledone
David Sprowl

**Hopedale Park Commission
August 20, 2020
Regular Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom**
This meeting was live and recorded.

Call to Order by Chairman Don Howes at 7:05 PM.

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, Michael Ledone, David Sprowl
Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi
Town Administrator: Diana Schindler
Guests: Via zoom - Stephanie Ridolfi, Christine Burke

It was moved by David Sprowl, seconded by Michael Ledone, to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 30, 2020. All were in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Debra Hogan from 13 Hope Park Ave requested assistance regarding tree damage - Don Howes and members of the highway department met with Ms. Hogan regarding this tree which will require a professional tree removal company to assist.
- All board chairpersons were invited to participate in the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, August 24th to discuss the GURR pending land purchase on West Street.
- The Conservation Commission sent a rough draft of the letter to residents regarding tree trimming and grass clippings left in the Parklands and the HPC has added to this letter which will be finalized at an upcoming joint meeting.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Larry Olsen 10K for September 26, 2020 has been cancelled by their organization.
- Update on fence repairs at Town Park - This repair has not been completed by the contractor and Don Howes will follow up on this for the next meeting.
- Proposal to clean playground equipment pending notification of COVID19 funds available - There is no protocol in place to have playground equipment cleaned at this time and it is still unclear if COVID19 funds are available.

- Grafton/Upton Railroad - pending purchase of 363-363 ADJ West Street - The HPC has already sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that they hold off on exercising the right of first refusal regarding this land purchase. Mr. Howes gave a brief overview of the status and a summary of what possibly could be included in any Memo of Agreement with the GURR. It is unclear as to the details and the sentiment of the board to obtain more information. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of the town purchasing the land outright or allowing the GURR to purchase the land. Mr. Ledone requested more information regarding the possibility of the railroad imposing any eminent domain proceedings which will be addressed at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

New Business

- Fall Sports pending notification from MIAA - Athletic Director, Stephanie Ridolfi addressed the board regarding the news from DESE and MIAA allowing sport tryouts to begin with modifications. Soccer, field hockey and cross country will be allowed with these modifications and tryouts will be at Phillips and Draper Field. Much still needs to be ironed out and Mrs. Ridolfi will keep the HPC informed as information comes in. Portable bathrooms will be available at both fields and the fields will be lined by September 18th.
- Youth Field Hockey at Town Park field lining questions - This league is asking for permission to use part of the baseball infield to accommodate the regulation size field. Permission was granted and required that the field will be returned to the way it was found. There is also a storm drain that will need a plywood cover with astroturf to prevent players from injury.

Bills and Invoices

Michael Ledone inquired about the quotes and repairs for the town playground. Don Howes will gather all quotes and information and send these to the board members for review at the next meeting. The board is hoping for donations for some of these upgrades.

Public Comment - lengthy items

None

Report of board members

Don Howes reported that CDM Smith is adding additional test wells today, August 20th at the Draper landfill. As a point of information, the cap on this landfill is deemed a temporary solution which will be monitored over 30 years. There is a 5 year report which the board will inquire about and monitoring is done twice a year. This has been reduced to once a year since monitoring has been positive and going well according to plan.

A very large pine tree near Driftway/Cutler Street area is dead from a previous lightning strike and needs to be removed by a professional company.

Diana Schindler, Town Administrator, addressed the board regarding any interest in joining the Master Planning Committee. She will forward information to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Arcudi
HPC Clerk

Minutes were approved on September 17, 2020 via zoom.

Don Howes, Chairman

Michael Ledone

David Sprowl