



# TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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

## **Hopedale Park Commission September 24, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom**

Call to Order at 7:02 PM

### Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, David Sprowl, Michael Ledone

Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi

Town Administrator: Diana Schindler

Guests: Rohit Kaushik, Eagle Scout applicant

It was moved by David Sprowl, seconded by Michael Ledone to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 20, 2020. All were in favor.

### Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Rohit Kaushik presented the HPC with an Ice Rescue Ladder Project which he has proposed to be his way of earning the Eagle Scout badge. Rohit had prepared a powerpoint presentation detailing this project which would include 3-4 ladders and possible placement. Chairman Don Howes gave Rohit suggestions on placement and a contact person from Upton whom Rohit could reach out to since a similar project was done there. David and Michael both agreed that this was a great undertaking and a project long overdue for the Hopedale Pond.
- Turning on lights at Tennis Courts - Lights were turned on at the request of a resident but due to the failure of the override, Mr. Howes shut the lights off. After a discussion with the board, it was agreed to keep the lights on since the cost was minimal.
- Wedding Photos - Katelyn Barth requested to have her wedding photos taken on September 26, 2020 at 1:45 pm near the Hopedale Pond and after a discussion, the request was approved.

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

none

### Review previous action items

- Governor's Phase III of reopening Parks and Recreational activities - High School field hockey and soccer have had to revamp their game strategies. The MIAA requires a line marked at 10 feet to keep spectators away from athletes. AD will supply signage for the ballfield areas.
- Discussion pending any new information received regarding Grafton/Upton Railroad - potential land purchase - No new information has been received by the HPC as of this meeting. The Board of Selectmen will be meeting on September 28, 2020 and more information may be forthcoming from that meeting.
- Joint Conservation Commission and HPC letter to residents regarding Parklands - On hold until the Conservation Commission has a full board as one member has resigned.
- Update of fence repair at Town Park - Don Howes will reach out to the contractor for an update.

- Playground tree restoration/safety quotes - At this point in time, funds are not available for these projects. HPC will consider submitting project details to the Capital Planning Committee.
- Master Planning Committee - any interest of HPC member to be appointed - David Sprowl expressed interest and will reach out to the Town Administrator for details.

### **New Business**

None

### **Bills and Invoices**

Clerk is looking into the fiscal budget and preparing to present to the board salary and expenses for the fiscal year along with consideration of realigning expenses for the Special Town Meeting on October 24, 2020.

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

None

### **Report of board members**

Don Howes wanted to publicly thank the Highway Department for their work on completely refurbishing the bleachers and the surrounding area at the Town Park. Also at Phillips Field they pulled aged, old telephone poles that the fence surrounded, put new pieces in and with new boards, replanked the spaces between the telephone phones to secure this area.

Also wanted to thank resident, Randy Carbo, for his work on the benches in the Parklands in the past. He has been instrumental in repairing the picnic table benches in the Parkland. The benches at the Adin Street Triangle were in deplorable state of repair and with the help of the Highway Department, Mr. Carbo repaired these benches as well.

Michael Ledone expressed concern regarding the deterioration of the rocks from the wall near Freedom Street. This project would require a mason and depending on the cost for a temporary fix. This project could also be considered for the Capital Planning Committee.

The HPC has heard complaints regarding non-compliance with COVID rules at the playground. The Health Inspector will review the policies surrounding playgrounds and if the problem does persist, the BOH may consider closing the playground.

### **Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours**

None

Adjourn at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Arcudi  
HPC Clerk

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Don Howes, Chairman

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Michael Ledone

