



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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

Hopedale Park Commission November 19, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm Remote Meeting via Zoom

Call to Order at 7:12 PM

Attendance

Park Commission: Don Howes, David Sprowl, Michael Ledone

Park Clerk: Mary Arcudi

Guests: Vicki DeMott, Director of Music Together

It was moved by Michael Ledone, seconded by Don Howes to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 24, 2020. All were in favor.

Announcements, correspondences and requests

- Vicki DeMott from Music Together of Blackstone Valley sent in a formal request to hold music lessons in the Town Park in the spring. These lessons are for families with infant children up to age 5. She is currently running this program in the Wellesley Warren Park and is an established business owner. She has COVID protocols in place and will provide information to the Board of Health and a full detailed plan to the HPC. The board overwhelmingly agreed that this would be a great addition to the Park program once additional information is received. As an exchange for any fees at this time, Vicki will join the Park Summer program for a day for families.
- Ann Greene and her family would like to donate a memorial bench near the Hopedale Pond in memory of her daughter. The board requested that the family put together a formal proposal with two preferred locations and the HPC will vote to approve at their next meeting.

Public Comment - Short Items (non-discussion)

None

Review previous action items

- Now that the Conservation Commission has a quorum the HPC will be forwarding the draft created by both commissions to their board and scheduling a time to review and vote to move this forward.
- Rohit Kaushik has completed the approved Eagle Scout Ice Rescue project and has done a wonderful job. Three ladders were constructed by Rohit, his fellow Scouts and leadership and will soon be ready to install in three locations; Lake Street telephone pole, bench near the Bath House and one on the center bench near the Little Red Shop. Congratulations to Rohit.

New Business

- Don Howes has received numerous comments regarding littering in the Parklands and just recently a written complaint which prompted him to inspect the Parklands. He found yellow tape on the existing signage, weathered laminated signs and logs moved what seemed to indicate accommodations for the race course. He cleaned and cleared the Parklands of all debris.

The HPC agreed that a letter be sent to the High School Athletic Department reminding all that nothing can be attached to the current Parkland signs without formal approval of the board and to give suggestions of using cones instead that would be installed before the race and removed afterwards. The Parklands should always be left in pristine condition for all residents to use.

- The Town Park and all fields will soon be closed as the sport season comes to an end. Chris Nadeau and his team have already removed the tennis court nets on courts one and three, leaving the nets on court two for continued use if the weather permits. Court lights are off for the winter. The portable toilets will soon be cleaned and locked and the gate will be locked at Phillips field.

Bills and Invoices

The budget for HPC fiscal year 2021 was confirmed at the special town meeting in the amount of \$55,172, which is \$2012 less than last year.

The board was asked to consider what projects need to be done in the spring and projects that would be sent to the Capital Committee that would exceed the HPC budget for consideration for FY22.

Public Comment - lengthy items

None

Report of board members

Don Howes expressed his thanks to the Highway Department for their diligence and continued work in closing the tennis courts, working on the baseball field and bleachers that were refurbished along with clearing three large pine trees near the entrance of the Parklands.

Motion to adjourn was made by David Sprowl, seconded by Michael Ledone at 8:07 pm.