



# TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Park Commission  
Don Howes (Chair)  
Rob Jackson  
John Waswill

## Park Commission Meeting Minutes 15 September, 2016

Meeting called to order by Don Howes at 19:00, Hopedale Town Hall

Present: Rob Jackson, Don Howes, John Waswill

Citizens: Jeff LeClaire (Fin and Feather, non-resident), Mike Smith (HYGSA), Dave Guglielmi

Approval of Minutes August 25, 2016

- MSDV Unanimous with minimal changes

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

- Mike Smith providing an update on the Phillips Brother's Field Scoreboard – Footers are poured and approved, conduit run, targeting end of next week for the board to be operational. Emerald Irrigation pulled conduit for the installation of a sprinkler head to deliver water to the field for wetting the infield. Electrician also volunteering time to help hook up the sign, which also needs to be inspected prior to use.

### *Review previous action items*

### *Future playground area review*

- Work continues on the new playground base.
  - The Road Commission wants to do guardrail systems along the playground instead of the berm to help deter cars. The guardrail would run along the playground (where the berm was) as well as along the road to hopefully deter cars from parking along the road. The guardrail could be galvanized steel (quote roughly \$4800) or treated lumber (no quote yet). Don will get quotes for comparison
  - There was some discussion regarding potentially changing the drainage pattern or the person laying out the parking lot. Mike recommended wildflowers/ground cover for the hill going up against existing homes.
  - Don to contact Ultiplay to bring them in for a site review
  - Rob to contact SenseAbility gym about seeing if they want to donate a handicapped swing. There might be additional monies we can get for the handicapped part of the playground.

### *Trees*

- A more thorough inspection, including use of bucket trucks for closer view, is required. Don working with Tree Warden to schedule the inspections

### *Irrigation Phillip's Field*

- Some of the sprinkler heads might be too low...some of the areas are showing 3' circles of green. Possibly there isn't enough water pressure. We are looking at having our worker clean up the water filter and raise the heads at the same time.

### *Park Highway worker*

- Bob Biagetti was hired as park worker.

### *Rustic bridge*

- Mason that we were working with has decided that he can't do anything until Spring. Don looking at alternative vendors.

### *Discussion regarding facility use guidelines*

- Guideline document is acceptable. The next step is to assemble a list of intended recipients of the letter – Superintendent, Principals, Police/Fire, etc. We should be sending a copy of the letter, along with a use form, to the proposed list. Don to send out a starter list and Rob and John to supplement.

### *New Business*

#### *Fin & Feather*

- Reviewing the 2016 breakdown - Jeff recommending more advertising around the boat rentals to pull in more revenue. Possibly get some signage along with the Hopedale Cultural Council signs for the band concerts.

- Board is OK with the continuation of the birthday parties so long as notice is given in advance to ensure that there isn't any conflict of scheduling.

- If archery is to be done, the area needs to be cordoned off with warning signs to alert anybody else using the facilities.

- Discussion of tee-pees being constructed - Signs at entrances say no structures. Some discussion over if these were structures as indicated by the rules, or simply forts. We believe it is still good practice to take down the shelters after they are built - part of 'leave no trace.'

- Jeff proposed a 4 day April vacation clinic. Archery, biking, canoeing. There would be a minimum required number of kids (10). Possibly a couple of days in February as well - snow shoeing, hiking, barrel fire perhaps. Board approval for both February and April assuming there are enough kids. Rob to talk with Jeff about getting the information published. MSDV Unanimous

#### *Hopedale Milford Youth Soccer Association*

- Discussion over locking the soccer goals and getting the goals off of the field. Lacrosse had to move the goals off of the field. We are now working with Eric Dahlgren - Fields coordinator for HMYSA, who will be our main point of contact going forward.

#### *Hopedale Pond*

- All members to review Solitude contract and get feedback to Don by **Monday**. The proposed schedule runs past the fiscal year, so we will need to encumber. We are also budgeting \$5k per year for 'pond fund' for future weed control.

#### *Town Park*

- Receiving complaints about goose poop.

- There is a spray of goose repellent that we could use on the fields, but that would cost nearly \$1000. Additionally, there are special regulations involved when the spray is used on fields used for school use.
- Some discussion about having Mike Smith bring his dog around, however, this could cause confusion as dogs aren't allowed in Town Park.
- Egg addling an option, but we aren't discussing at the current time as we don't have funds.

- Possible safety issue with a step in the park. We can purchase a kick plate for roughly \$234 as opposed to over \$1000 to fix. MSDV – unanimous to purchase the kick plate

- Discussions are happening between Don and the benefactor for the extension to the restrooms at town park.

## *Phillips Field*

### *Updates on high school sports*

- Working with Bill Gaines who is the new Athletic Director

### *Updates on requests*

- Temporary key for Christopher Kivior for use of the bathhouse provided (requested by Olson)
- No problems with FOHH signage for their event in Town Park areas
- Form request to Carol Hall - OK, big balls need to stay in the outfield, but need to complete the field

### *Bills & Invoices*

- Bills will be posted to google docs. All members to review bills

### *Public Comment - lengthy items*

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

Motion to close by Rob at 20:28, seconded by John, MSDV Unanimous

### *Future playground area review*

- Questions from group about Playground plans - Don presented playground history and plans to residents in attendance. Residents were very pleased with the presentation and plans.
- Discussion of Hopedale Girls Softball and their donation for the electronic scoreboard that will be plugged into the power at the concession stand.

### *Bills & invoices sign off*

- MSDV Unanimous

### *Review town park violation letter*

- Letter sent from Chairman to HYBA

### *Trees*

- There was an issue with the 'Prom Tree' near the Little red shop which fell and needed to be addressed immediately. At which time, an additional tree was taken care of as well. The fee for taking care of these trees will come out of the Tree Warden budget.

### *Irrigation Phillip's Field*

- Irrigation system is working but putting water on dry ground isn't as effective and the weather has been unusually dry. There might be an issue with some heads not performing as they should due to getting clogged.

### *Park Highway worker*

- Job has been posted internally – the union approved the verbiage. As it is a union position it needs to be posted internally first prior to opening to external applicants. When it comes to an interview time, we may need another person as a tie-breaker for the interview process, as one person from HPC and 3 people from Highway could create a tie.

### *Eagle Scout kiosk project*

- On Hazel St., on the north side of the Parkland, by the gift shop there is a new park map kiosk. On the kiosk is a list of donors who contributed to the project. Inside the kiosk the map from Mark Andolina's Eagle project is visible, along with a QR code to scan for more information. Chris Ashby, who built the kiosks will come in with an exact presentation.

### *Rustic bridge*

- No update yet. No contact with the mason expected to do the work.

### *Public Comment*

- None

### *New Business*

- There was a request submitted for facility use by Hopedale Youth Baseball/Cooperstown 2017 – a whiffle ball home run derby during Day in the Park. MSDV Approved  
Unanimous

### *Hopedale Pond*

- Visit from Jeff LeClaire from Fin and Feather sports to discuss use of the parks.
  - o The original agreement with Fin and Feather was established as a seed program, with the HPC subsidizing some canoe rentals. The original motivation was to extend options beyond the existing youth clinics and bring boating back to the beach. The Hopedale Cultural Council recommended Jeff speak with the Park Commission at the time...this as several years ago. The original commitment was \$75, with the money coming in from the Youth Program was used to subsidize the canoe rentals.
  - o There is a joint desire to implement some structure, with a wrap-up of the year during the fall meeting (August/September timeframe), and discuss the proposal for services each spring.
  - o There was discussion regarding the fees incurred for offering the summer camps. The current fee is per child (\$10) as opposed to \$125 per week fee that Fin and Feather receives from other towns. It was noted that currently Hopedale Park Commission charges \$8 for softball and baseball facilities use for non-residents, and \$5 for residents.
  - o Regarding usage of facilities for parties and other outings. There is concern that the town is not getting revenue for the Fin and Feather use of the facilities for parties. Chairman raised concerns over a for-profit company, charging a fee for their service, but not submitting a fee to the Park Commission for the usage.
  - o Chairman invited Jeff to the next meeting to do a final review on 2016 and look over a 2017 proposal.
- After repeated calls to Aquatic Control Technology, they still have not worked the weed treatments. Aquatic Control Technologies was purchased by Solitude Lake Management, which could be contributing to the issues. There are additional documentation requirements surfacing above the work that was done for Aquatic Control Technologies. They did commit to holding the contract price for next year, and they will do what we need to get done this fall. By the next meeting we should have the contract done or know we need to seek other options.
- Kathleen Cavanaugh was hosting sunrise yoga classes next to the bathhouse. The funds raised and canned goods were donated as part of this service. A sincere thanks to Kathleen for her service to the town.

### *Town Park*

- Discussion over plan for refactoring the town park bathroom to add a handicapped stall. There will be additional storage room that will be added along with small water heater and the circuit breaker would be moving to that storage facility. There is a potential benefactor that will be working with a contractor to layout and potentially do the work. Don has been working with legal counsel to ensure that the contract 'gift' fits within all town rules and legal issues.

### *Phillips Field*

- Addressed during discussion with residents

### *Discussion regarding facility use guidelines*

- The HPC would like to adopt a letter over the course of the next meeting, stating that should anybody have an organized event they need to contact the town to let us know they are having an event. For example, Elementary school doing a field day. All plans need to get online to minimize overlap and to plan proper maintenance. Secretary to draft a note to send to police, fire, schools, etc.

### *Updates on high school sports*

- There is a new Athletic Director - Bill Gaines, and Don has been in conversation with him regarding working together for school sports.

Other topics no anticipated in the last 48 hours

Rob motioned to adjourn at 20:45, seconded by John, MSDV Unanimous.

### Hopedale Parks Commission

\*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted \*\* Roll Call Vote

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Hopedale Town Hall, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747, or please call (508) 634-2203 at least 7 days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

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