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TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Town of Hopedale – Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Meeting Location - Hopedale High School Multi-purpose Room

Call to order 6:30pm

Attendees

- Committee: Jim Abbruzzese, Derek Atherton, Mike Bresciani, Jim Fitch, David Guglielmi, Brian Keyes, Jennifer McKeon, Mac Murray, Keith Smith
- Absent: Joe Drugan, Tasha Griffin, Lori Hampsch, Brandt Wajda

SURVEY UPDATE

- Survey results haven't changed much, responses are still trickling in with 1-2 per day
- To date, the administrator has received 235 survey responses
- The survey will be in the Hopedale newspaper on Feb 1 to reach any residents that don't have access to the electronic version
- Low impact options were attractive to some, such as shuffleboard
- Dog Park - low favorability
- Fishing, boating also low favorability
- End of February deadline for survey responses

Feasibility Study Contractor Discussion

- Mike Bresciani – Either company would be a good choice. CDM Smith – wealth of experience specifically with parcels of land that have problems, including Draper. But, both companies are quality. CDM (fixed price, take charge when things go wrong)
- Dave Guglielmi – Both hit the mark for checks and balances. CDM hits all the right buttons for conservation committee
- Brian Keyes – Gayle (big hypothetical possibly not realistic), CDM - positive history. A toss. But leaning towards CDM.
- Jim Abbruzzese – Likes CDM experience with Draper cap, etc. Gale doesn't have inclusive service like CDM, but their presentation is forward thinking. He chooses Gale (forward thinking, outside the box thinking)

- Jen McKeon – Thinks both presented well. But, very different. CDM - conservative. Gale – more impressive, out of the box thinking. Looked to Mike and Dave to offer input as to whether CDM could rise to include forward thinking of GALE with their conservative ways. Mike gave an example about Milford field. She thinks both would be good, but given this response, chooses CDM.
- Keith Smith - Go with CDM. Familiarity with parcels of land and their limitations. Safer. Smarter.
- Derek Atherton - CDM, better presentation
- Mac Murray - Gayle presentation was impressive but CDM more experience
- Jim Fitch - same as Keith, Brian - CDM

Feasibility Contractor Vote

- CDM Smith wins bid for field study 8-1
- Study quote \$24,500

Parcel behind the High School

- Worth looking into options to acquire land
- Approx 3.1 acres.
- Committee members will look to see who owns that land, and propose a potential land donation for redesign

Preparation for BOS meeting on Feb 4

- Gather commitment letters.
 - Jim Fitch get one for softball.
 - Jenn McKeon to get one for School Committee.
 - Also, School Committee to get with town accountant and make arrangements for transfer or funds.
 - Jenn M. cannot make Feb. 4th meeting, Lori H. will be present for School Committee.
 - Lori will present funding portion of meeting - discuss other funding contributions, Softball \$1000 and Boosters \$100.

Outline for Presentation to BOS on Feb 4 at 7:00 PM

- Mac Murray to introduce the Committee and discuss current status.
- Jim Abbruzzese to discuss Survey Results.
- Lori Hampsch to discuss funding of feasibility.
- Mike Bresciani to discuss company chosen and plans for project.
- Mac Murray to give concluding remarks.

Ongoing plans and areas to investigate

- Town meeting will be an ask for funding for the project, and this committee will dissolve and a new committee will be formed
- Telegram Gazette - grant for open fields. Hopedale must have an updated Open Field plan

- Hopedale is part of the Blackstone Valley National Park group. Potential grant money available thru govt
- Brian Murray - potential state funding contribution
- Discussed grants to explore and other funding options. One thing Mike B. brought up was a debt exclusion for funding of fields. There was an article that he shared with the Committee. Northbridge is planning for a \$2.78M field's project that they are proposing to pay for with a debt exclusion, a temporary tax raise for them of \$570 for 1 year. A debt exclusion requires a 2/3 vote of the selectman and a ballot vote to pass.

Upcoming Action Items

- Present status of the committee's work to the Selectmen at their February 4, 2019 Meeting

Next Meeting Date

- Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm Hopedale Town Hall – Prepare for BOS Meeting at 7pm

Adjourn 8 pm