



**Bancroft Memorial Library  
50 Hopedale St.  
Hopedale, MA 01747**

---

25 January 2024

Mr. Michael A. Diorio, Administrator  
The Hopedale Foundation  
PO Box 123  
Hopedale, MA 01747

Dear Mr. Diorio and Trustees of The Hopedale Foundation:

On behalf of the Library Trustees, staff, and patrons, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to the Trustees of The Hopedale Foundation for your generous gift to the Bancroft Memorial Library in the amount of \$1000.00.

Your donation will allow us to explore new initiatives and programming to enhance the Library's mission. This year, our strategic planning priorities include providing enhanced readers' advisory services and programming for patrons of all ages, with a focus on continuing efforts to celebrate literacy and inspire early readers. Last January (2023), we launched the "**1000 Books Before Kindergarten**" reading program. As of January 2024, we have more than 80 children participating in the program, with four children having reached the 1000 Book benchmark in the first year! We are also going to be rolling out a redesigned "**Check Out Challenge**" in February that will include all grades (K-6) at Memorial Elementary School with special incentives for the teachers and students in the three classes with the most participation throughout the month.

Please know how very grateful we are to The Hopedale Foundation for your ongoing support of the Bancroft Memorial Library and the Hopedale community.

Yours sincerely,

Tricia Perry  
Library Director

cc: Town of Hopedale Select Board

Select Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2023, 7:15p.m.

Present: Chair Hazard, Selectman Stock, Selectman Savage, Interim Town Administrator Nutting

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order 7:15 p.m.

**Consent Items**

Review/Approve Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2023, and March 13, 2023

Chair Hazard stated that because Selectman Savage was not present during these meetings, he will not be voting on them.

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the February 16, 2023, and March 13, 2023, meeting minutes. Chair Hazard seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Savage – Abstain

**Appointments & Resignations: None**

**New Business**

Review/Approve Select Board Policy Re: Public Comment at Board Meetings

Nutting noted that the Select Board should consider amending the public comment policy in response to the recent court ruling in the Southborough case. The Board can impose time limits on public comments and should not engage in discussion if the topic is not on the agenda. Nutting provided a draft policy which would limit comments to 3 minutes per person.

Selectman Stock motioned to accept the Public Comment Policy presented by Nutting, to be reviewed in six months. Selectman Savage seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Savage – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Vote to designate the Town Administrator as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator

Nutting stated that as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town must evaluate all parks and recreation/conservation areas with respect to their ADA compliance and make recommendations where applicable. In addition, the Town needs to designate an ADA Coordinator and adopt an Equal Access Grievance policy (next item on agenda).

Selectman Stock motioned to designate the Town Administrator as ADA Coordinator. Selectman Savage seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Savage – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Review/Approve Equal Access Grievance Policy

Town Administrator Nutting provided a draft policy, included in the meeting packet.

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the Equal Access Grievance Policy. Selectman Savage seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Savage – Aye, Hazard – Aye

**Old Business**

**Consider and Vote on Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting**

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the Order of Taking. Selectman Savage seconded the motion.

Selectman Stock – Aye, Selectman Savage – Aye, Chair Hazard – Aye

**Requests for Future Agenda Items**

Members requested the following items be included on future agendas:

- Chair Hazard requested the Select Board discuss their summer meeting schedule
- Selectman Savage requested the Board discuss a Hopedale Community Outreach program
- Selectman Stock requested to add a discussion regarding shortening the length of meeting minutes.
- Selectman Savage requested the Board schedule an executive session so he can get caught up with Town legal matters
- Selectman Savage requested future discussion regarding the Blackstone Valley Tech school budget.

**Executive Session(s): None**

Selectman Stock motioned to adjourn the regular meeting. Selectman Savage seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Savage – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the regular meeting at 7:55p.m.

Submitted By: Lindsay Peterman

Board Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Hopedale Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday June 26, 2023  
Draper Room, 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Chair Hazard, Mr. Savage, Mr. Stock, and Town Administrator Mr. Ruscitti

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Hazard

A. Consent Items

1. Welcome to Mitchell Ruscitti, Town Administrator! The Board members extended a warm welcome to Hopedale's new Town Administrator.

2. Review/Approve Inter-Fund Transfers: Information on each transfer is available on the town website in the meeting packet. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to approve the following transfers: (1) from snow removal and contract services to the various funds as presented in the transfer request, (2) from election professional & technical to election salaries, (3) from Council on Aging transportation to COA salary and wages part-time with amounts as stated in requests.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye

3. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes: December 20, 2021, and June 12, 2023: Motion made by Mr. Savage and seconded by Mr. Stock to approve the minutes as presented.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-aye

4. Accept \$21,130.50 donation from anonymous donor to fund legal fees associated with West Street litigation: Motion made by Mr. Savage and seconded by Mr. Stock to accept \$21,130.50 donation from an anonymous donor.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

B. Appointments & Resignations

1. Resignation of Marcia Matthews from Conservation Commission: Ms. Matthews sent notice to the Administrator's office of her resignation. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to approve this resignation.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

2. Resignation of Chris Leduc, Road Commissioner: Resignation received this week from Mr. Leduc included in packet. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to accept resignation effective 7/1/23.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

### C. New Business

1. Meet with Road Commissioners; Chair Eli Potty in attendance.

- Regarding Hiring of Highway Superintendent: The position is posted on MMA and the posting will be up for 30 days; some applications have been received. Chair Hazard feels the applications should be going to the Select Board as well as the Road Commission. Chair Hazard also asked if they could correct the posting to make it gender neutral.

- Regarding Process for Filling the Vacancy on the Road Commission: This needs to be posted for 1 week in accordance with MGL. The Select Board and Road Commission must meet and vote jointly; this meeting is scheduled for July 12. The appointee will serve for the remainder of Mr. Leduc's term (until 2024 Annual Town Election). Those interested need to submit an application by July 10.

2. Consider and Vote on proposed expansion of OGeez Brands MA, LLC, at its 6 Charlesview marijuana manufacturing facility to occupy a total of approximately 7,400 square feet on the first and second floors. There is a host community agreement in place with OGeez but it will need to be revised to include the second-floor expansion. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to amend the host agreement to allow this expansion.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye

### D. Old Business

1. Consider and Vote on Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022, Special Town Meeting : Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye

### E. Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken):

Mr. Stock stated that they had a wonderful Flag Day event. Sally Deselles was presented with the retired flag for her contributions to the Town. Also, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday event at the Community House went very well and he thanked Tara Chambers.

Mr. Savage stated that the summer programs have started up. He also stated that the ZBA is seeking a member and 2 alternate spots. He urged members of the community to get involved.

### F. Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Mr. Savage requested (1) in-depth discussions regarding Blackstone Valley Tech (2) continued progress with the Parks Department regarding recreational and other facilities (3) an update on the Adin Street Complete Streets grant; Chair Hazard suggested that this topic be included on the next agenda.

Rob Fahey (citizen) asked for an update on moving the Parklands under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and how legally that would work.

G. Administrator Updates:

TA Ruscitti stated that a request for a 1-day liquor license will be among the items on the Board's next agenda; members did not cite any concerns. He will be meeting with members of the Parks Commission to review grant and other opportunities, including addressing accessibility at Park facilities.

H. Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken):

Correspondence is available on the town website in the meeting packet.

I. Executive Session(s):

1. Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Savage to move into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town, and the Chair so declares, in matters captioned Town of Hopedale v. Jon Delli Priscoli, Reilly v. Town of Hopedale, and Grafton & Upton Railroad v. Town of Hopedale. Attorney Sean Grammel from Anderson Kreiger LLP will be present. The Board will not return to open session.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the open meeting at 7:40p.

Respectfully submitted: Kelly Grant

Board Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

**WARRANT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES**

SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Hopedale

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at the **Draper Gymnasium 13 Dutcher Street Hopedale, Massachusetts**

on **TUESDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, 2024**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE . . . . . FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH  
STATE COMMITTEE MAN . . . . . WORCESTER & HAMDEN DISTRICT  
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN . . . . . WORCESTER & HAMDEN DISTRICT  
TOWN COMMITTEE . . . . . HOPEDALE

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of February, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenda A. Hazard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard J. Stock

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott M. Savage  
**Select Board of Hopedale**

Return of Service: Posted at the Town Hall, Police Station and Hopedale Post Office

\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.  
Constable (month and day)

A True Copy, attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa M. Pedroli Town Clerk



# HOPEDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

40 Dutcher Street - Hopedale MA. 01747

Tel. (508) 473-1050 Fax: (508) 902-0076

[www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department)

*Thomas M. Daige - Fire Chief*

*David J. McMorrow - Deputy Chief*



Select Board  
Town Hall Office  
78 Hopedale Street  
Hopedale MA 01747

January 23, 2024

Re: Resignation of Career Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan White

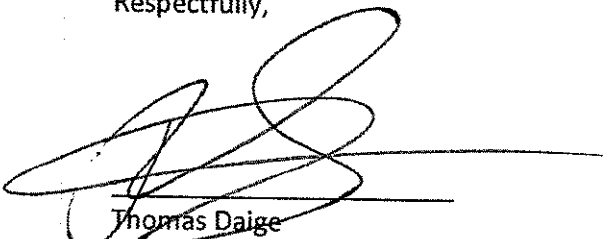
Madam Chair,

Please see the attached letter of resignation from Career Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan White effective January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Ryan joined our department in January of 2016 as a Call Firefighter and was promoted to Career Firefighter/Paramedic in January of 2019. Ryan is a true gentleman, a dedicated family man, a patriot, is the epitome of professionalism and always lead by example. Ryan was always working on being a better firefighter and paramedic, even while helping raise his two children with his wife and being away from Hopedale serving his country as a member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

On behalf of the entire Fire Department, I would like to thank Ryan for his service to our country and for seven years of service to our department and the residents of Hopedale and we wish Ryan, his wife and two children all the best in their future endeavors.

Respectfully,



Thomas Daige  
Fire Chief





# HOPEDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

40 Dutcher Street - Hopedale MA. 01747

Tel. (508) 473-1050 Fax: (508) 902-0076

[www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department)

*Thomas M. Daige - Fire Chief*

*David J. McMorrow - Deputy Chief*



Hopedale Select Board  
Town Hall Office  
PO Box 7  
78 Hopedale Street  
Hopedale MA 01747

February 7, 2024

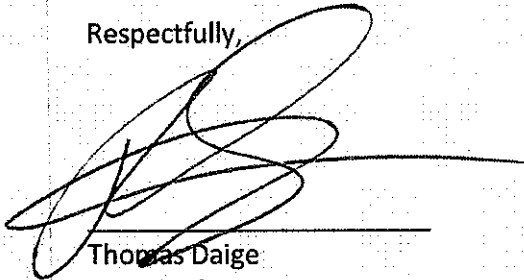
Re: FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Award

Madam Chair,

Please see the enclosed letters from Governor Healy and State Fire Marshal Devine regarding our award of the Department of Fire Services, FY24 Firefighter Safety & Equipment Grant in the amount of \$11,181.92. This grant award will go toward replacing and upgrading equipment pertaining to firefighter safety which will allow us to continue to properly serve the residents of Hopedale.

I respectfully request the Select Board accept this grant.

Respectfully,



Thomas Daige  
Fire Chief



MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY  
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Department of Fire Services*

*P. O. Box 1025 ~ State Road*

*Stow, Massachusetts 01775*

*Telephone (978) 567-3100*

*[www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)*



JON M. DAVINE  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

February 6, 2024

Chief Thomas Daige  
Town of Hopedale  
40 Dutcher Street  
Hopedale, MA 01747

Dear Chief Daige,

I am pleased to provide you with a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Standard Contract Form, Grant Agreement Scope of Work and Budget, and Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form for your FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant award. Please print and mail copies of these documents with original signatures to Tim Moore at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) address above. The Standard Contract Form Instructions and Commonwealth Terms and Conditions, which are incorporated by reference into this contract, may be found at [www.macomptroller.org/forms](http://www.macomptroller.org/forms). As a reminder, equipment orders may not be placed until this contract has been fully executed by DFS and your department. DFS will provide you with a copy of the fully executed contract and provide specific direction to proceed when your contract has been executed.

The funds for this program will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis in accordance with the terms of the grant Notice of Funding Opportunity. Once you have received your equipment and paid the vendor(s), reimbursement requests may be submitted to DFS by submitting the following documents to [OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov](mailto:OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov):

- Completed Final Report Template.
- Copy of invoice(s) with detailed description of all eligible costs.
- Proof of payment to the vendor(s) (cancelled check copy or other official financial system record).

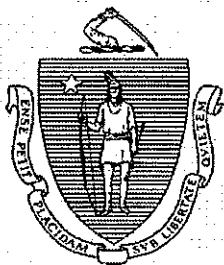
If you have any questions during the grant performance period, please contact Tim Moore at 978-567-3721 or [OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov](mailto:OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov).

This program is an excellent opportunity to improve the health and safety of firefighters across the Commonwealth, and I am grateful that we are able to provide this vital equipment to your department this year.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Davine  
State Fire Marshal

*Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety  
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy*



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

**MAURA T. HEALEY**  
GOVERNOR

**KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 6, 2024

Chief Thomas Daige  
Town of Hopedale  
40 Dutcher Street  
Hopedale, MA 01747

Dear Chief Daige,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) has awarded the Town of Hopedale Fire Department \$11,181.92 in State Fiscal Year 2024 funding for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.

With each new challenge, the fire service in Massachusetts demonstrates its ability to adapt, overcome, and continue providing the excellent level of services that the citizens of the Commonwealth have come to expect. Please know how thankful I am for this, and how grateful I am to be able to provide your department with this important equipment.

The contract, terms and conditions, and other award documents for this program will be provided to you by DFS. Please contact Tim Moore at DFS with any questions about this award at 978-567-3721 or [Timothy.Moore@mass.gov](mailto:Timothy.Moore@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Maura T. Healey in black ink.

GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Driscoll in black ink.

LT. GOVERNOR KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL

## Martha White

---

**From:** Michael Reynolds <mreynolds827@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 5:29 PM  
**To:** Mitchell Ruscitti  
**Cc:** Martha White; Hopedale Park Commission; Michael Ledone; chris laron  
**Subject:** Town Park Retaining Wall Options  
**Attachments:** Hopedale Town Park - Retaining Wall Alt. Analysis Presentation red.pdf

Hi Mitch,

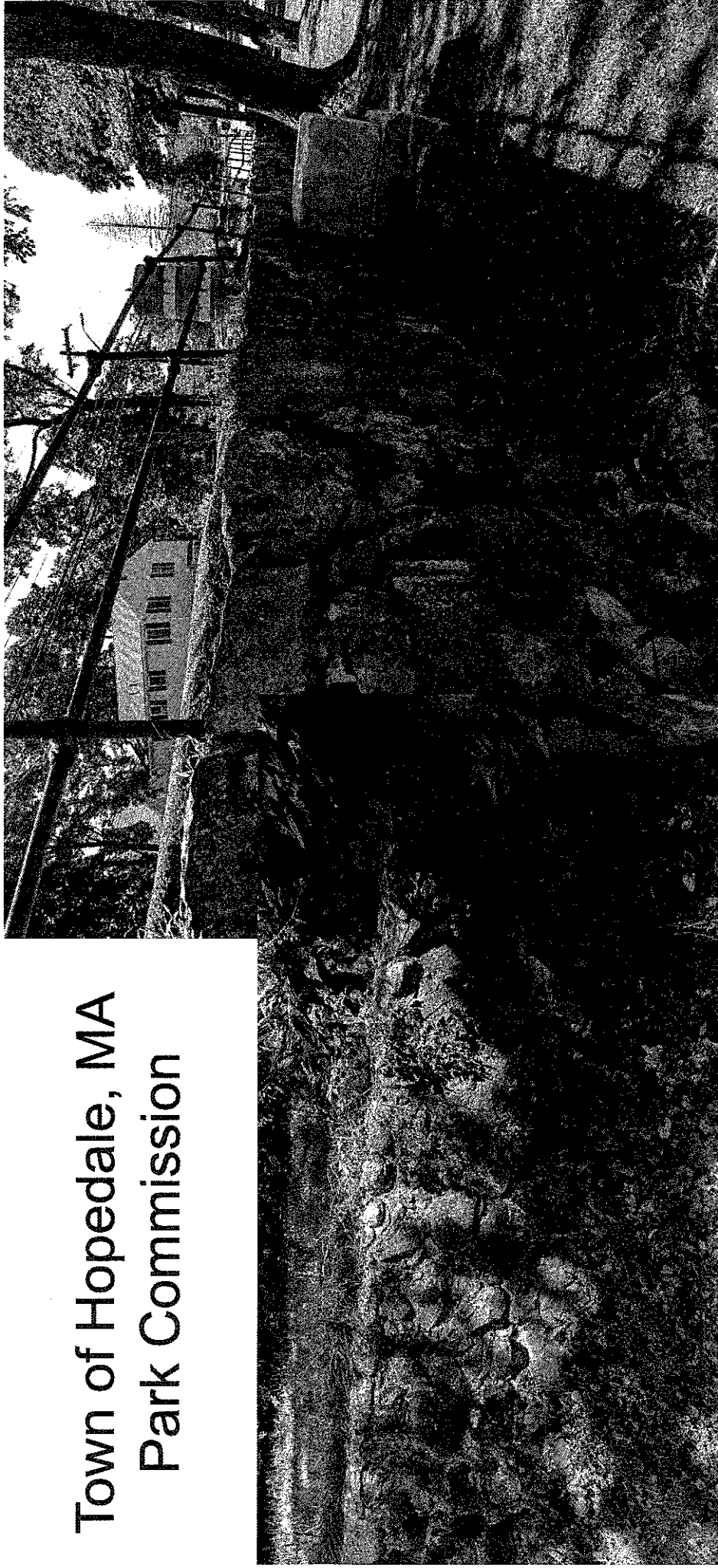
At our Park's meeting last month, the commission discussed the attached document, which is a synopsis of the full report you already have in hand, and the corrective action options.

The commission strongly desires Alternative 3A as the corrective action of choice and would also consider Alternative 3B but that being less desirable as we would reduce Town Park space by approximately 10 feet wherever the new wall is constructed.

Based on the continued deterioration and safety concerns, this is something we feel should be put in front of the decision makers (i.e. select board, fincomm...etc.) as soon as possible for discussion.

Thank you,  
Mike Reynolds  
Hopedale park Commission

Town of Hopedale, MA  
Park Commission



## HOPEDALE TOWN PARK – RETAINING WALL EVALUATION

Presented by: Daniel Ciaramicoli, PE

# PRESENTATION AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Project Overview
3. Wall Evaluation
4. Subsurface Investigation
5. Replacement Alternatives
6. Discussion

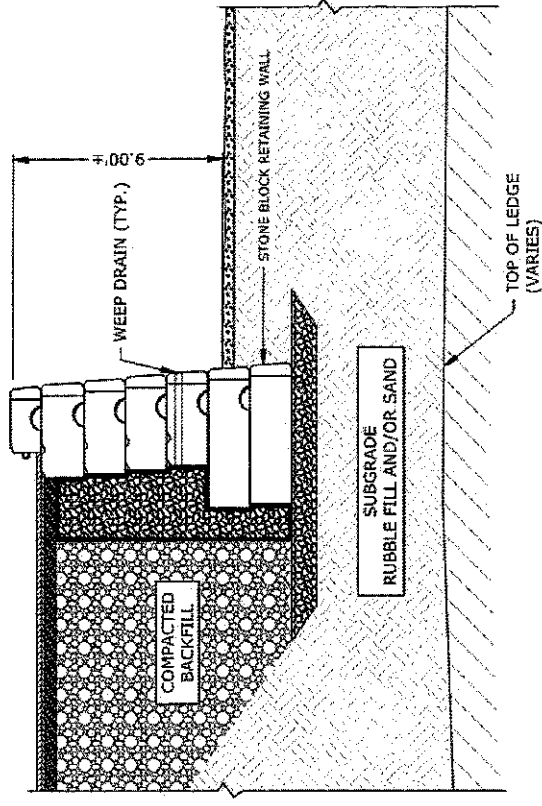
# PROJECT OVERVIEW

1. **Wall Evaluation (Completed September 2023)**
  - Inspect the existing wall and quantify deficiencies
2. **Subsurface Exploration (Completed September 2023)**
  - Assess soil properties for wall foundation design
3. **Alternatives Analysis (Completed November 2023)**
  - Review solutions and choose a Preferred Alternative
4. **Preliminary Design (Estimated Completion February 2024)**
  - Initial design and layout of the Preferred Alternative
5. **Final Design (Estimated Completion May 2024)**
  - Initial design and layout of the Preferred Alternative

# ALTERNATIVE 3A – IN-PLACE CONCRETE BLOCK WALL

Remove the existing wall and replace with a modular concrete block wall in the same position.

- Estimated Cost: \$1,120,000
- Estimated Construction Schedule: 3 Months
- Impacts During Construction
  - Temporary shoring needed at 25 Northrop Street
  - Lane closures on Northrop Street and Freedom Street
- Concrete block with pattern instead of real stone







## TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7  
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200  
[www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov)

**Select Board**  
Glenda A. Hazard, Chair  
Bernard J. Stock  
Scott M. Savage

**Town Administrator**  
Mitchell Ruscitti

February 6, 2024

TO: Select Board  
FROM: Mitch Ruscitti, Town Administrator  
REGARDING: Declare ARPA funds as "lost revenue"

We have been reviewing our records to ensure that all reporting and other requirements associated with ARPA funds have been fulfilled. One recommendation that has come out of this research is that an amount equal to the amount of ARPA funding the Town was awarded should be voted by the Select Board as "lost revenue."

ARPA funds were intended to be used "for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such . . . government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the . . . government prior to the emergency."

Initially, government entities receiving ARPA funds had to calculate and demonstrate the amount of revenue loss attributable to the public health emergency. However, the Interim Final Rule released in September, 2023 stipulated that government entities could declare up to \$10,000,000 (but not to exceed the amount of ARPA funds awarded) as lost revenue without calculating that actual amount of lost revenue.

Therefore, a simple motion such as the following would be in order:

Move that the Board vote to declare \$1,778,795 to be revenue losses attributable to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We will be continuing our research into other ARPA program requirements to ensure our compliance.

Thank you.