



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Park Commission

Dan Iacovelli, Chair
Rob Jackson
Don Howes

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes 20 August, 2015

The regular Meeting of the Parks Commission was called to order at 19:02 by Chair Dan Iacovelli in the Draper Room of Town Hall.

Present: Dan Iacovelli, Rob Jackson, Don Howes, Walter Swift, David Gulielmi

Chair Iacovelli moved to Agenda Items

Pass over executive minutes

Regular meeting from 16 July approved - motion by Don and second by Rob for approval
- MSDV Unanimous

Reviewed Open Action Items – Open and Closed Actions appended to these notes

Next item - Cooperstown 5K road race

- Road race through the parklands proposed by coach taking baseball team to Cooperstown
- Currently scheduled for the 2nd Sunday in November, November 8th. Police department has been notified.

- Concern raised about liability running through the parklands.

Action - >> Chairman to check with town hall regarding liability of runners through parklands

- Once commission receives flier we'll post on Facebook
- Don Motioned to approve pending liability, Rob Second – **MSDV Unanimous**

Next Item - Pond Cleanup

- Roughly \$10,000 remaining from the Narragansett Bay Watershed program
- Letter to be sent in for Mass DEP in an attempt to get . We were supposed to know by the end of July. \$320,000 for work proposed through the study for drainage filter systems

- Weeds around pond are out of control. Chairman expects dredging costs to be around \$10 Million. Alternative would be special cutters to chop weeds at the bottom, costs roughly \$3000 per machine. There are bigger machines to brush cut and carry up a conveyer belt. Haven't found anybody to rent, purchase is \$50k-\$200k. Searching for company to do the work for us.

Action - >> We need representation to attend next conservation committee meeting or possibly get a little committee deciding what to do. We need to identify who controls water rights, control for inlet at North Pond, control for outlet at the mill. Suggestion to get the vegetation analyzed to see if a draw down would be helpful or what other treatments would be most effective.

- Don made a motion that Dave Guilliemi spearhead the effort to help get the pond cleaned up. Second by Dan. – **MSDV Unanimous**

Action - >> Parks should investigate what other towns are doing. Milford has been 20 year project.

Action - >> Seek out an aquatic biologist to help analyze what is in the town.

Action - >> Need a plan to seek out legislators as well.

- Effort to volunteer park clean up with power tools opened an issue with liability.

- Question about Narragansett funding - can they take the money if we don't use it by a certain time period. Biggest issue was water coming off of Northrop and Dutcher St. Provided a design to help filter out the water. Still haven't sent cameras up the drainage system.
- Action - >> Chairman to send Walter Swift the water quality report.
- Action - >> Don has boxes of material to review to provide to Dave Gullielmi.
- Action - >> Chairman will contact Town Hall to notify of Dave Gullielmi's appointment

Agenda Jump - Bathhouse road on the right. Row of cedar trees planted at one point in time.

- Very first one on the right on the way down needs to come down. We don't know if it is exactly on town property or resident's property. We need to request a letter from the owner of the property. Don has the house number and more info (house 76). Don contacted tenant of the house who has provided owner's name and info. Don looking for permission to contact owner to remove the damage tree at now cost to parks detorment or homeowner. No obvious boundaries so somebody would have to survey the property.
- Action - >> Don to follow up with house owner to discuss surveying the land and taking down the tree.

Agenda Jump - Eagle Scout project/Volunteer work

- Don wants to provide a list of projects that are in their early state that we could add as a Eagle Scout project.
- Discussion about adding beach volleyball - Mendon did this project. It would have cost \$10k to built, but Mendon did it for \$3k with donations.
- Area near the parklands picnic areas needs to be cleaned and fixed up.
- National Grid wants to send us 30-50 people as volunteers to cut brush and bring the brush to the road edge. Walter to help identify what should and shouldn't be cut.
- Sign kiosks for entrances to the parks needs to be fixed up. We talked about getting Blackstone Valley Tech to donate materials and/or time. Would be another volunteer opportunity
- Action - >> ALL- bring projects in and let the Eagle Scouts pick what they want to go forward with.
- Motion made by Don to engage National grid. Seconded by Dan. – **MSDV Unanimous**

Agenda Budget and Bills

- Discussion of Bills to be paid.
- Have them paid this week if found to be correct. Start more formal reviews next month
- New process to scan the bills ahead of the meeting so we can review prior to the meeting and be ready for discussion

Agenda - Parks Employee Tasks

- Getting dugouts at Phillips Field painted - school blue colors for the teams.
- Need the inside of the shed cleaned out as well.
- Bathhouse, need Mark to organize the tool area.
- Request to include raking the sand a bit to make sure it is relatively clean
- Clean up of markings in the parklands that have been spray painted.
- Portable backstop not used any more. Current coaches have no use and it is unusable as is. Don proposed we scrap the portable backstop. Seconded by Dan - – **MSDV Unanimous**
- Action - >> Chairman to follow up with Hopedale Jays for the metal box by the ball field as there are concerns about safety and cleanliness
- Action - >> Propose that we have Mark and Highway move the pitching mound up near the batting cages
 - Fence repair needed at the tennis courts
 - missing some mid-rails. \$500 minimum, \$200 to bring it to where it should be.
- An additional \$350 to cover the space between the fence and the wooden backstop.
 - Don motion to spend \$1050 to do it directly. Discussion

- Seconded by Dan. – MSDV Unanimous
- Damage under bandstand - door jam is pretty much shattered but the door itself is fine. Create a new jam for \$350 along with installation.
- Motion made by Don to fix the jam for 350, seconded by Dan. – **MSDV Unanimous**

Agenda Item Phillips Fields and Athletic Fields

- Parent group had formed to see what we are doing to improve/relocate fields. Probably start meeting again soon. We should be invited to the meetings. At least one of us at every meeting after the first. We'll post the meeting location.
- Concern over existing soccer goals and the chance of people getting hurt by hanging on the nets and pulling them down.
 - Possibly retrofit the existing goals to secure with weights
 - Until we get weight issue straightened, the nets should be brought together and locked up to keep them from rolling over.
- Motion made by Don to contact Jess and have the goals locked or secured by the liquid filled weights. Seconded by Rob. – **MSDV Unanimous**

Highway Liaison Report

- Cleaned up walk-around entrance for freedom st. gate.
- Dutcher st. entrance has a piece of concrete with rebar sticking out - needs to be addressed
- Cleaned up the sign that had graffiti on it.
- Many thank to the Highway department for helping us with these tasks.
- Discussion of raising mower deck. It is problematic to raise the deck on the commercial mowers, but we need taller grass in the parklands to deter the geese. Trying to see if we can use one mower for the athletic fields and another for the parks and grass area.

Agenda - Movie Night

- Request for better management of resources (bathrooms, lighting, etc).
- Action->> Rob to contact Movie Night people to arrange for a list of 'needs.'
- Possible solution for resources would be a key bypass system to keep the lights on for a two hour window.
- On discussion of lighting, Mendon has a way to enable lights at tennis and basketball courts for optional use.
- Action->> Don to investigate solutions and estimate cost.

Agenda - Draper field

- Should have everything finalized by November for transfer of Draper Field to the town. These fields will most likely will become parks responsibility. Once that happens we need to start planning how to fix and maintain. Either need to shift employee to full time or higher another guy. Need to bring back topic for budget in January.
- Ideas for Draper Field include...
 - Looking at making a different entrance for that field so we fully control it.
 - Managing sampling wells some above ground and some are flush.
 - Teams from different town using the fields.

Agenda — Other topics in the last 48 hours

- Someone contacted from cub scouts. Request to camp in town park the night of day in the park.
 - Need to inform fire and police chief
 - No big stakes in the ground, etc. If they get the bypass for the bathrooms.
 - No objections from Parks Commission
- Resident asking for signs to not feed the geese
 - Fin and Feather might have a good answer to the don't feed the geese signage need

- Looking at a unisex handicapped stall for the park bathrooms
 - Leave current bathrooms as is, but extend building out to where ports-john is
 - Include a utility closet
 - Possibly have some numbers for budget season

Adjournment

Don Howes motioned to adjourn at 21:36. Chair Iacovelli-Aye; Secretary/Treasurer Jackson – Aye

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 schedule meeting.

Open Actions:

Action ->> - Chairman to work on getting cover replaced at irrigation system in Phillips.

Action ->> Don - Survey from AS Elliot Associates on playground

Action ->> Don to work with Bob for acquiring signs. 2 Boat Ramp and 2 'No Parking' signs and commercial poles

Action ->> Chairman to notify town council to assemble paperwork with Mr. Benoit's legal council regarding removal of town tree hovering his property

- 8/20 On hold until we hear back

Action ->> Don to sit down and figure out how many of which keys we need. Each of us to send Don's thoughts request-wise and run it by Locksmith for a final.

Action ->> Don to follow up with playground equipment out of Uxbridge for survey of playground equipment

- 8/20 tire swing is in and fixed, all done. Cargo net piece needs notification and Don needs to work with Mark to install.

Action ->> Secretary to collect and correlate info regarding parks activities and post to website and FB page

- Some information posted, but still need more information/calendars.

- 8/20 - Still need to go through the calendars

Action->> Secretary to create signs to be placed at parks notifying public of laws

- 8/20 synopsis signs are available. On hold until review of bylaws

Action ->> Members need to review bylaws and propose changes

Closed Actions:

Action>>> Chairman to follow up on process to repair fields with money from lawsuit

- We have \$500 coming payments

- 8/20 All funds have been received as of 2 weeks before 8/20

Action>>> Chairman to follow up with irrigation company to find out why the sprinklers aren't working

- Inquiry into irrigation company to determine when we can meet up to fix things at Phillips Field

- 8/20 Advantage Irrigation came out. Issue with improper programming of controls. Reset the entire system. Pressure is good. One zone doesn't work now, believed it was planned to be a future zone. Advantage Irrigation will create a map for the zones. The system is timed to go on at 5:30 AM, with 15 minute intervals cycling through 19 zones. Closest zone has 7 heads, one with

5, and others are 3-4 depending on distance. Advantage will be providing a quote for installing heads in the infield. There should be a well report from around 2003 that we can acquire, and there was a \$1500 assessment for the well.

Action->> Don to check with highway to see what equipment is available to do slice seeding, as well as concrete blocks for parking lot

- No access to broadcast or slice seeder, no concrete blocks.

Action ->> Chairman to find out new rules for going out to bid for new electric bulbs

- Dan to find out - still open - still needed?

- 8/20 - Project scrapped due to cost outweighing usage.

Action->> Secretary to send a letter to Fire Department acknowledging and thanking them for their assistance.

- 8/20 letter went out today.

Action->> Don Howes to arrange facilities at bath house. All porta-potties should be handicapped accessible

- 8/20 all OK on that one.

Action->> Don Howes to walk the lot with Mike Smith and discuss options for a 60'x40' playground.

- Looked and have some requests for volunteers to survey west and southwest boundary of the property so we can know where we can place the new playground. If we can't get volunteer, we'll get a quote.

- 8/20 - Don and Mike walked and agreed where they would like to go, down the hill to the right.

AS Elliot Associates is providing a courtesy (free) survey to locate the West, South, and Southwest borders so we can identify the exact property. The goal is to provide a rough plan of where the hill currently is, parking lot infrastructure, borders, fence, perhaps a layout for the playground. We need to start looking for a volunteer that would help with digging into the hill to create the playground into the hill. Looking to push hard for the spring. Next action is to complete the survey.

Action->> Chairman to double check wording with police for signs

- 8/20 - Email sent with one for the boat ramp. Signage available is approved to be enforced.

Action->> Don Howes to investigate cost and options for locking system to re-key

- 8/20 - Unique keys controlled by a single master system. Including everything including the installation of a 'couple' of locks. Adding a key for the irrigation system in the snack shack over at Phillips.

Action->> Don to talk to Nstar regarding the electricity pole near the bathhouse

- Still open, Don to meet with local electrician tomorrow on this and some other projects

- 8/20 - Submitted flood light request. Park property poles isn't in their system and the pole numbers line up. To install floodlights on those poles - no price install, winter only would be \$40/month for a 400 watt fixture. 2x/year to have the light capped to disable the power.