



# TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Park Commission  
Dan Iacovelli, Chair  
Rob Jackson  
Don Howes

## Parks Commission Meeting Minutes 15 October, 2015

The Meeting of the Parks Commission was called to order at 19:01 by Chair Dan Iacovelli in the Draper Room of Town Hall.

Present: Dan Iacovelli, Rob Jackson, Don Howes, Dave Guglielmi, Mark Wyspianski, Walter Swift, Christine Gafney, John Waswill, Christian Deboer, Sandra Biagetti, Rick Espanet

### **Chair Iacovelli moved to Agenda Items**

#### *Agenda Item - Approval of regular meeting minutes from 17 September, 2015*

- MSDV Unanimous

#### *Agenda Item - Approval of executive session minutes from 14 July, 2015*

- MSDV Unanimous

#### *Agenda Item - Statement from the Secretary*

Over the last several weeks, I have received multiple reports of members of this board acting in a manner unbecoming of an elected official. Examples include public displays of aggressive and unprofessional behavior, unproductive email battles, and public arguments on social media. I firmly believe that this behavior is causing a lack of effective communication, both internal and external to the board, and an inability to resolve issues relating to the parks in an efficient and expeditious manner. My intention here is not to call anybody out specifically, but to publicly plea for a halt of this embarrassing behavior, and return our focus onto the town. I hope we can agree that although we are all imperfect by nature, the three of us only want what is best for the town. We have, and will continue, to make mistakes, but this board will only succeed if we can constructively correct those mistakes in a supportive manner. I would like to close with a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” - Thank you.

#### *Agenda Item - Review of Action Items from previous meetings*

Action - >> Secretary to review and write-up notes from 7/14  
10/15 – done. CLOSED

Action>> Secretary to send Bruce Edwards a letter of thanks at National Grid.  
10/15 - will do this week

Action>> Secretary to add links or docs regarding trails to Facebook and Website

10/15 - done. CLOSED

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

9/17 - No response. We were hoping for free, still hoping but not a priority.

10/15 - Still hoping for free. Spoke to AS Elliot, still will have something definitive at the next meeting.

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

9/17 On hold

10/15 - all done, settled. Tree is down. CLOSED

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.

10/15 - no update

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

10/15 - Hoping for a way to synchronize school and parks calendars automatically.

Action ->> 8/20 Don to follow up with house owner to discuss surveying the land and taking down the tree

9/17 - Don having difficulty emailing the person's house. Chairman to email letterhead to Don

10/15 - letterhead is done. Don spoke with Bill (homeowner), as he had an incorrect email address. The tree is coming down with no cost to Parks Commission. The homeowner will be providing a letter stating that he understands the liability. Concern was raised over review of letter; tree warden states that the letter from homeowner is sufficient.

Action ->> 8/20 - Chairman to follow up with Hopedale Jays for the metal box by the ball field as there are concerns about safety and cleanliness

10/15 - Spoke with baseball president. There is a lock on the box now, but owner of lock is unknown. Box was moved into the shed and is no longer a safety concern.

>> Don will cut the lock, provide a new lock with keys and provide keys to chairman.

Action ->> 8/20 - Propose that we have Mark and Highway move the pitching mound up near the batting cages

10/15 - mound has been moved. Mound is behind the baseball garage. Topsoil and seeding the remaining area is now complete. - CLOSED

Action->> 8/20 - Rob to contact Movie Night people to arrange for a list of 'needs.'

10/15 - Still no update

Action->> 8/20 - Don to investigate solutions and estimate cost of new lighting system for courts

9/17 Update - Spoke with Joe Scanzaroli to discuss two options. The more expensive solution is \$200 per light timer. One timer on the basketball court, the other is court timers, the other is court 2 plus half of 1. Cheaper is a windup timer - do the same thing but only 1 hour of play per twist of the timer.

10/15 - Individual timer control cost is \$65 for each timer control. During valid use areas, turn the timer and the lights will be on for an hour. Tennis court 1 needs additional work with a bucket truck. **Motion to approve up to \$225 made by rob, second by Don, approved. Don will follow up with installation. - MSDV Unanimous**

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.

10/15 – Discussion with Gina Rico from National Grid. No charges for red-cap of the connection. 3 separate lights quoted. 1.) Light at the bathhouse, pointed towards pond. 2.) Pole near the bench and 3.) Light fixture halfway down the triangle – currently covered in weeds. Quote is for \$148 each for the high pressure sodium. Lights 2 and 3 proposed. Concern raised over frayed wiring – this is the wire from the pole to the bathhouse. National Grid isn't tying into that wiring.

**Don made motion to fund lights #2 and #3. \$142. Rob seconded. - MSDV Unanimous**

Action->> 7/16 – Don to figure out how many of which keys we need for a new key system for the parks.

9/17 – List provided for how many keys are necessary. Quote form locksmith for \$700

10/15 - **Don to propose to spend up to \$700 in new key system for the parks. Seconded by Rob. – MSDV Unanimous**

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### *Agenda Item - Bills/Budget*

- Discussion over dynamic cleaning service. Service was not cancelled, although it is cancelled now.
  - o Dates on latest invoice for cleaning service were 9/10 and 9/9.
- Notice from town accountant, all payment sheets need to be signed by all three board members moving forward.
- Last minute bill from Emerald Irrigation for filter cartridge and quick connect, added to the list of bills.

### *Agenda Item - Eagle Scout Projects*

Action - >> 8/20 - ALL- bring projects in and let the Eagle Scouts pick what they want to go forward with.

- Request from Scout Christian Deboer, looking for ideas for Eagle Scout projects
- Project requirements – must have a lasting impact and provide some improvement to the town or a solution to a town problem.
- There are several trails in the parklands that are not laid out yet. It is possible to expand the previous project to include these additional trails. Some trails have been overgrown and lost since Manning's original design.

### *Agenda Item - Irrigation system at Phillips Field*

Action - >> Chairman to reach out to Advantage Irrigation tomorrow to discuss pricing.

- 10/15 - Chairman spoke with Advantage and they decided to back out of the work. - CLOSED

Action ->> Don to work with Mark to get this task (seeding) complete.

- 10/15 – Done - CLOSED

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

- 9/17 - Cost is between 50 and 200, either plastic or metal. May go with metal one.
- 10/15 - Still open.

Dan would like to get the zones that aren't functioning properly shutoff.

Action ->> Mark to shutoff zones that aren't functioning properly and reprogram on Monday.

Some discussion of which vendor to work on the winterization. Don is recommending Emerald Irrigation.

Action ->> Chairman to schedule an additional meeting to determine vendor for irrigation.

### *Agenda Item - Closing of the Park*

- Need to plan the work necessary to close the park facilities. Bathroomos must be winterized by the second week of November. Port-a-johns are collected at once. Mark

and Don will work to get the facilities winterized.

- Lights will be shutoff at the same time as the facilities are winterized

Action ->> Dan to get quote from Pintos (historical vendor) for winterizing facilities

Action ->> Don to get quote from McDonald (who has been good to the Parks in the past) for a quote to winterize.

Action ->> We need a meeting with the highway department to discuss work projects for Mark. Don to work with the Road Commission for availability.

### *Agenda Item - Pond*

Action ->> Chairman to deliver proposal for warrant regarding care of plants to Steve Sette.

10/15 - done, waiting on town council on what is acceptable

Action ->> Secretary to provide Walter Swift (certified egg addler) with forms necessary to be completed.

10/15 - Walter to fill out and try to file before Jan 1st. Parks Commission must submit the completed application

Action ->> Chairman to collect map of geese nesting sites from Walter Swift

10/15 - Removing the action - Walter knows of geese nesting sites in his head. Should be done every year. Need to make yearly action item.

Action->> Chairman to follow up with Steve Sette. If the dam falls under flood control are there other organizations to involve?

10/15 - No progress yet.

Action->> Don to provide copies of all materials regarding vernal pools to board members and Dave Guglielmi.

10/15 - All paperwork has been submitted into the town filing cabinet. Need to get somebody to do filing/cataloging. Closed

Action ->> Don to add a new sign to the list for 'no ice fishing south of the island.'

10/15 - Not added to the purchase.

- Need to be specific. South of island or between Island and Dam? Final verbiage is 'No ice fishing between island and dam' Suggesting 4 signs, two signs over at Lake st. 1 at bath house, 1 at light, near red shop. 3 Signs same size as before, one size larger.

3 same size, one larger.

**Motion - Rob to motion approve up to \$150 for the four signs. Don to follow up and get signs purchased.**

Action ->> 8/20 We need representation to attend the next conservation committee meeting or possibly get a little committee deciding what to do with the pond.

- 9/17 - No change

- 10/15 - Secretary to email

Action ->> 10/20 Parks should investigate what other towns are doing.

Milford has been 20 year project.

- 9/17 - No Change

- 10/15 - Still open.

### Pond discussion over weed management

- We are currently scheduled to be on town meeting warrant for the pond herbicide treatment which is long overdue

- Chairman spoke with Jim Riordan from ESS, if we go for permitting we will need to have a map laid out

- o Some discussion over a belief that the company doing the treatment would be responsible for creating the map.

- Dave G has been leading the effort on a voluntary basis. He did speak with DCR who is finishing a project out west, but they are very interested in coming out.

- o Dave also spoke with Keith Gazelle from Aquatic Technologies in Sutton. He has a tentative meeting setup to look at the pond tomorrow. If not tomorrow, it will

be Wednesday or Thursday of next week. They will tell us what weeds to take care of, what not to, and the method of treatment. The pond needs to be tested 6 times during treatments.

- Proposal from ESS discussed and handed over to Dave Guglielmi for his notes
- Rick Esponet – Need an order of conditions to treat the pond. If we go to the finance committee, we can get the money
  - o Advice to look at historical budgets where the budget jumps 20-25k
  - o Somebody from the board needs to be prepared to present the plan to town meeting.
  - o Rick stated that the commission used to do spot treatment in coves and in some fishing lanes.
  - o Also advised that during the work, the dam at 140 needs to be closed in order to manage water flow.
  - o Company doing the work must also do follow up treatments, need to make sure this is included in the bidding process.
- There was some discussion regarding grants or state money available for weed control. The common belief is that there isn't anything available for weed control as it should be a maintenance item. There was some discussion with Senator Fatman's office who stated they would look into it.
- North pond does perform periodic draw-downs to help get rid of the weeds.

### *Agenda Item - Update on signs*

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

- revise, review rules and synopsis of rules. \*\*\*\*

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

- 9/17 - Don went to a local company, YYZ signs. \$30 each. Add waterfowl and bandstand - all \$30. \$65 for vinyl overlay, \$275 for a brand new sign for Phillips. Just need to get the poles from Bob.

- 10/15 - Poles from highway department is all good. Closed.

There is some concern concern that we don't have the rules posted. Need to get something up regarding metal detectors and digging. Police said police can't do anything because it isn't posted. NOTE: Town park specifically says no metal detectors.

### *Agenda Item - Other topics not anticipated in the last 48 hours*

Thank you letter received from Union church. Thank you to Union Church!

Discussion of waiver form for volunteers. Chairman created a draft waiver and has reviewed with Town Council

Action ->> Members to review draft waiver and discuss at next meeting

Christine Gaffney - Sacred Heart Church - would like to put banner on triangle on Adin st. and 16. November 1st to the 21st.

**- Motion made by Don, seconded by Rob – MSDV Unanimous**

Walter Swift - FOHH asked to get involved regarding two trees contaminated, filled with carpenter ants, near banks of the pond where old trolley crossing used to be. Carpenter ants are flooding down to little red shop. Tree Warden getting quotes for removal of tree.

Mr. Swift also received a call from a family member of a native Hopedale citizen who would like to donate a tree to be planted behind the granite bench by the bath house. The bench itself was donated by another family member. Would like permission to donate the tree. The board would like to make sure that the town is advising caution person donating the tree that this has been done before, and vandals have desecrated previous donations. Walter to provide information and we can write a letter of thanks

Action ->> Secretary to write letter of thanks to family donating the tree

Sandra Biagetti - Driving down town park, concern over leveling trunk. We know we have to do something with it. Highway is concerned about taking down the tree due to concrete currently in the tree. Concrete was removed today. Should be able to cut down the length of the trunk.

ESS report - add that to the files. CD version of documents to go on the website.

Action ->> Secretary to post docs.

The way we set the agenda needs tweaking. A preliminary agenda is sent out, but we need a method for additions/subtractions. Request to send out a draft agenda well in advance and identify which items can be delayed to another meeting. We should set up a document to throw ideas on for agenda items, something like a Google doc to share agenda items.

Action ->> Secretary to create a system to post agenda items.

Discussion regarding Moroney's Grove, 3rd or 4th fireplace. Stone structure hut on the pink trail. There is some exposed rebar and concerns over structure. Don obtained prices from Varney Brothers for 6 concrete barrier blocks, stacked into openings. We can stack blocks to prevent people from entering the structure. \$30 x 6. Purchase ~\$100 pressure treated timbers.

**Motion to use up to \$300 made by Don, seconded by Rob, MSDV Unanimous**

**Don motion to adjourn, Rob seconded. 20:55**

**Adjourn**