



Town of Hopkinton New Hampshire

Hopkinton Select Board
Hopkinton School Board

Joint Public Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2018

5:30pm

Hopkinton Town Hall



Above All, Care

APPROVED November 5, 2018 by Select Board

Select Board Present: Jim O'Brien, Chair; Ken Traum, Vice Chair; Sara Persechino, Sabrina Dunlap, and Steven Whitley.

School Board Present: Liz Durant, Chair; Aviva Nestler, Vice Chair; Dave Luneau, Matt Belanger, and Jim O'Brien.

Staff Present: Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent; Neal Cass, Town Administrator; Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assistant; Paula Simpkins, Recreation Director and Dan Blanchette, Director of Public Works

Public Present: Michelle Clark, Tammy Clay, Bonnie Christie, Don Houston, and Deb Norris

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. O'Brien opened the meeting at 5:30pm and Steve Chamberlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Additions/Deletions from Agenda – None

3. Public Comment (1) : Bonnie Christie commented that she attended an open house for the After-School Program and the children were involved in an event to lower and/or eliminate the use of plastic bags. Ms. Christie stated that it is also a goal of the Recycling Committee. The program is petitioning to stop the use of plastic straws in school.

4. Comments from the Hopkinton School Board and Hopkinton Select Board:

Ms. Neslter wanted to thank both Boards for their time and for collaborating on as many things as we can. Ms. Durant stated the two groups have an invaluable commitment to work together. She also thanked Mr. Cass and Mr. Chamberlin for continuing to meet, discuss and work on issues which concern both the Town and the School. Mr. Luneau and Mr. Belanger expressed similar comments with regards to the regular meetings between Mr. Cass and Mr. Chamberlin. Mr. Whitley stated that this is his first joint meeting and he is encouraged that both boards are willing get together to prepare and address the issues. Ms. Dunlap and Ms. Persechino both thanked the School Board for their work. Mr. Traum also thanked everyone for their participation in these joint meetings and also thanked Mr. Cass, the Highway Department and the Town employees during the recent move. Mr. Luneau also wanted to note the opening of a new trail and stated he was privileged to be a landowner that allows trails through his property. Chairman O'Brien thanked Mr. Cass and Mr. Chamberlin for the work that they do, stating we are lucky to have them, and they both do an amazing job.

5. Presentations and Staff Reports

George Park – Renovation and Refurbishment – Paula Simpkins

Ms. Simpkins gave a brief history as to how the conceptual plan for George Park came together. She noted that the Select Board wanted to identify areas of concern at George Park. The Board also asked for a conceptual plan to address those areas of concern. The following is a prioritized list of the areas of concern. Ms. Simpkins also stated that the report is on-line.

Immediate Concerns:

- Sanitation and hygiene issues in bathroom/snack shack
- Parking lot drainage
- Track timbers
- Baseball Field lip
- Skateboard Park users dragging items inside
- Parking on Rt. 103

Areas Deteriorating:

- Tennis courts
- Blood Field dugout
- Electrical
- Utility poles
- Nets on Blood Field
- Chain link fence
- Track

Committee Suggestions:

- Spruce up tennis courts
- Replace Blood Field dugouts/add storage

- Update electrical
- Remove utility poles
- Remove/replace Blood Field nets
- Replace chain link fence, as needed

Committee would like:

- New tennis courts and add 1 to 2 more courts
- Add new field lighting (if it can be fundraised)
- Replace entire chain link fence
- Build a 6-lane track with multi-purpose grass playing field inside

Discussions ensued, with regards to phases of the project, costs, time line, the need for the school to fix the drainage issue on the school property in order for the project to move forward, the track and fundraising. It was noted that the Town owns George Park, not the School.

Update HSD Facilities –Renovation/Performance Contract

Superintendent Chamberlin introduced Mr. Jay Burgess, Facility Chair to give an update on the facility project. Mr. Burgess stated after last year’s School District meeting the charge changed and the focus is now on the Middle/High School. Mr. Burgess outlined the areas of focus being deferred maintenance, security, accessibility and educational space. Mr. Luneau reminded everyone that there is currently no proposal on the table, however, there is the issue of overcrowding at the elementary level. Discussions ensued, regarding the cost of the project being close to the amount proposed last year for the three schools, the implication of moving the 6th grade to the Middle/High School, how it will be presented to the Town, what the community told the School Board last year, and the need to have alternative plans, and how some improvements depend on other improvements.

6. Items for Discussion

a. New Town-School District Initiatives

- i. Health Insurance/Wellness: Mr. Chamberlin stated as health insurance increases, the school has partnered with a wellness advisory, financial wellness and worked to improve the wellness of its employees. Mr. Cass stated we will also be looking at health insurance options.

b. Annual Meeting Schedules

- ii. School District Meeting Date – Saturday, March 10, 2019
- iii. Town Meeting Date – Saturday, March 17, 2018

c. Town Initiatives: Economic Development Update: Steven Whitley explained that due to Bob Gerseny stepping down, Mr. Whitley is now the Chair

and he is also, the Select Board's representative. He thanked all the EDC members and noted that they meet the 3rd Thursday of the month beginning at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. Mr. Whitley explained about creation of the TIFF Districts and how a MTAG (Municipal Technology Assistance Grant) offered by PlanNH may help us with housing and land use regulations. Mr. Whitley spoke about the rail trail opportunities to connect the trails in the CVP. He stated they have a long-term vision with access and pedestrian friendly, upgrading sidewalks and to help retail and professional businesses.

d. School Initiatives: Mr. Chamberlin stated "Trauma" and how it affects the student body. He stated the staff is relearning how to handle kids with trauma, by bringing the discussion front and center. Mr. Chamberlin noted that 20% of one grade is now being raised by grandparents.

e. Possible FY20 Budget Drivers

i. School District: Enrollment is up, the maintenance and facilities project, special education and health insurance.

ii. Town: Operating Budget, maintenance of buildings, and CIP issues.

f. Next meeting: Spring if necessary, otherwise Fall, 2019

7. Public Comment (2)

Dave Feller was in on behalf of Men's Softball and stated that they feel that the Men's Softball Team was left out of the conceptual plan for George Park. He states the reconfiguration of the fields leaves the softball field 35ft short of the size that they need. He would like the Board to consider the addition of 35 ft and give the Men's Softball team a seat on the committee.

8. Adjournment

There being no further comments, Chairman O'Brien thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant