

HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – December 4, 2023
BUSINESS AGENDA
Town Hall, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833

**NOTICE
HYBRID MEETING BEING HELD IN PERSON AND REMOTE**

Understanding the people have a vested interest in the operation of their government, the Hopkinton Town Council intends to include the public on December 4, 2023. However, due to the COVID-19 virus, the Council wants to be sure that everyone can do so safely from their own homes. Therefore, this hybrid meeting will be held in person and remotely using Zoom.

To get the most out of the hybrid meeting technology, participants can join by computer when possible. Joining by computer allows you to see the Town Council members on-screen and makes it easier to use the functions for indicating you wish to speak and muting/un-muting yourself.

To attend the meeting remotely, please connect in by 7:00 PM. **Note:** Participants will not be able to connect before the host begins the session, and anyone trying to connect who are unable to do so should try again after 7:00 PM.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: December 4, 2023, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Town Council Meeting – December 4, 2023 - Hybrid

REMOTE MEETING ACCESS:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86995188352?pwd=cWVDdWc1UWpEaG9UdDNFeVNLencwZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 9518 8352

Passcode: 854640

Dial-In: 1-309-205-3325

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@HopkintonRI/streams>

****Citizens wishing to speak during public forum:**

Any participants wishing to speak during the public forum should indicate so as early as possible. The Zoom meeting has a 'Raise your hand' indicator that you enable to let the host know you wish to speak.

To 'Raise your hand' in Zoom:

By Computer:

Click "raise hand" from the Zoom menu bar and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, press "unmute" to unmute and speak.

By Phone:

Dial *9 to "raise your hand" and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, dial *6 to unmute and speak.

"Please remember when making a public comment to state your name and address before speaking."

Please note: Because of ever-changing regulations due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be cancelled. Please check the Town of Hopkinton website www.hopkintonri.gov for updates on these meetings and other important Town or COVID-19 information.

Marita D. Murray, CMC
Council Clerk/Town Clerk

"Please remember when making comments to state your name before speaking."

7:00 P.M. Call to Order – Moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023; Approve Town Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023; Set January 2, 2024 as the first Town Council meeting in January due to the New Year's Day holiday; Set January 2, 2024 as the hearing date for renewals of Campground Licenses; Set January 16, 2024 as the second Town Council Meeting in January due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; Set January 16, 2024 as the hearing date for renewals of Commercial Haulers Licenses; Set February 20, 2024 as the second Town Council Meeting in February due to President's Day Holiday.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

HEARING:

2024 RIDEM LARGE RECREATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Open a hearing to consider an application for a 2024 RIDEM Large Recreation Development Grant for improvements and modifications to Crandall Field located at 22 Ashaway Road identified as AP 2, Lot 3A, 188 Main Street, identified as AP 24, Lot 5 and 190 Main Street identified as AP 24, Lot 4 and to entertain public comment on the rehabilitation of the Crandall Field basketball and tennis courts, through DEM's Green Space Grant Program.

Discuss, consider and vote to approve the submission of a 2024 RIDEM large Recreation Development Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for the rehabilitation of the basketball and tennis courts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to send a letter to Chariho regarding a review of the proposed school budget by the regional school district finance committee.
2. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to award the bid for the Security Camera Systems for Langworthy and Crandall Fields.
3. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to sign a Resolution in Support of Maintaining the Water Level of the Pawcatuck River, see below.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote on a motion to either approve or reject the repealing of Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 “Animals”, Article 1, Sec. 4 and to replace it with a new Chapter 4, Article 1, Sec. 4, sponsored by Councilors Hirst and Burns.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- Pavement Management Plan/Municipal Road & Bridge Fund

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation by any person, please contact the Town Clerk’s Office at 377-7777 (V) or 377-7773 (TDD) at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Posting Details: Town Hall, Hopkinton Post Office, Hopkinton Website, Secretary of State Website.
Posting date: November 30, 2023

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HOPKINTON IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE WATER LEVEL OF THE PAWCATUCK RIVER

WHEREAS, the Town of Westerly has taken ownership of the Potter Hill Mill Site, including the Potter Hill Dam; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westerly and its partners, including engineers, scientists, and community members, are evaluating various options for the Potter Hill Dam that may impact the upstream water levels including removal or lowering of the dam; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton has heard from many concerned homeowners and residents of the Town of Hopkinton regarding the negative impacts that could be caused by a drop in the water level upstream from the dam; and

WHEREAS, the Pawcatuck River, in its current state, is a valuable economic and recreational resource that provides substantial benefits to the people of Hopkinton and the owners of riverfront property; and

WHEREAS, lowering the river level could negatively impact the drinking water wells for between 60-100 Hopkinton residents and homeowners; and

WHEREAS, removing or lowering the dam would substantially decrease the width and depth of the river which would increase the size of mudflats, generate foul odor, and decrease the property values of riverfront properties located in Hopkinton; and

WHEREAS, lowering the water level would encourage the spread of undesirable invasive species, would increase the land area conducive to mosquito habitat and breeding, and could cause other ecological harms; and

WHEREAS, lower water levels would make it more difficult for emergency personnel to respond to life safety incidents on the river and would make boating conditions near the Route 3 bridge more dangerous; and

WHEREAS, the Potter Hill Dam is not at risk of failure and its removal would not decrease flood risks as found in the Fuss & O’Neill “Flood Resiliency Management Plan” from 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Pawcatuck River, in its current state, is designated by the U.S. National Park Service for inclusion in the “National Wild and Scenic Rivers System” and alteration of the water level and changes to the ecosystem could put that designation at risk; and

WHEREAS, two upstream dam replacements (Bradford and Kenyon) were implemented without any change to the river water levels;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council is opposed to any and all proposals for the Potter Hill Dam that would result in lowered water levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that the Town of Westerly decline to pursue any options for the dam that could result in lower water levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect upon passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Westerly Town Council, to the Clerks of all other cities and towns in Washington County, Rhode Island, and to Hopkinton's members of the RI General Assembly, the Speaker of the RI House of Representatives, President of the RI Senate and the Governor of the State of RI.