

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Workshop Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Coutu at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Maddox.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, Ken Massey, Shawn Jasper, Rick Maddox and Ben Nadeau

Staff/Others: Mark Pearson, Assistant Town Administrator; Jerry Desrosiers, Benson's Committee; Gina Votour, HLN

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Votes taken following Nonpublic Session on July 28, 2009**

- 1) Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire Steve Porter as the 2009 Soccer Director for the fee of \$1,275, effective August 1, 2009, as recommended by the Recreation Director, carried 3-2. Selectmen Coutu and Maddox voted in opposition.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire Blake Miller as part-time Building Inspector, effective August 2, 2009, at \$21.65 per hour, Step 1 of the Building Inspector salary scale, in accordance with the Administrative and Support Staff AFSCME Local 1801 contract, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion to adjourn at 11:46 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper, carried 4-0. Selectman Massey was out of the room.

B. **Vehicle Replacement Schedule**

Selectman Massey said this was two years old now. He met with the Police Department today and none of the Crown Vics are with the department. They have all been replaced with Impalas. By the time they get ready to do the Fiscal 11 budget, they should see an update on these. This was a document put together four years ago and doesn't reflect the current inventory. The reason he thought it was important for them to do this is they need to update this every year. The purpose was to see for some period of time what the expected replacement cost for each year was going to be, knowing that it's just a plan and things change, but it gives them a sense of the town's financial exposure on any given fiscal year.

Selectman Jasper said the problem with a schedule going out to 2025 is a little too aggressive in terms of trying to figure out what they are going to replace. Perhaps five years is more appropriate, updated each year by department. It's important to have the document, but should be updated by the budget that comes in. The Fire Ladder 2 is on for Fiscal 2011. That truck has had major work done to it, so there's no plan to try to replace that this year. Four of the dump trucks from the Highway Department is probably not necessary at this point. They have to work on their capital reserve funds and build some of those up. For the most part, they are talking about Highway and Fire because what they've been doing with the motor pool for Town Hall, as they start to break down, they plan for it in that one year's budget and hold one back one good police cruiser in that budget to give that money to the Police Department so they can buy their new cruisers. If it's a specialty vehicle, they talk about it at that particular time. What they have before them has no value to him, in this form.

Selectman Maddox said he was on the same page. Instead of calling the police vehicles by Crown Vic or Impala, just say cruisers, which would make the document smaller and then they could see if there was a jump from one year to the next, rather than try to count them. You could see they wanted five in 2020, five in 2021, but only three in FY-22. Fire and Highway have the big dollar items. It's good to know for any future Board, in 2022, if you're looking to replace all the dump trucks, you'd have some idea of what those dollars are, or the grader, the ladder. How they are going to fund those pieces when they come due. When he saw this on the agenda, he had questions mostly for the Fire Department. He wanted to know if there was a difference in maintenance costs between the KME and the higher grade vehicle. With Highway getting 20 years out of a plow, what are they doing? Do they look at putting on a full time mechanic to do the other town vehicles? Would that extend their lives? Those are the kinds of questions he was hoping some of this would revolve around. This is a great guide and any Selectman in years to come saw that they had some idea, but it's going to change with the town's needs. For FY-11 and FY-12, they need to look at where they are going to be.

Selectman Nadeau said if this is brought forward for the budget season, it would be helpful if they had the years of the vehicles, the mileage and any major repairs lists. They are easier to track and maintain that way and see if some vehicles are costing them more than others.

Selectman Maddox asked that staff also put on the FY-06, 07 and 08 which ones were actually done because it's going to be confusing in years to come. While they are tracking this, it would be helpful to see what they did in the past, as well as what the future projections are.

Selectman Massey said that could be accomplished if they saw the vehicles and the purchase date. Selectman Maddox said that won't be there with the 2020. Selectman Massey said every time a vehicle is replaced, you replace it with the year it was replaced. (Talking back and forth.) Chairman Coutu said that would be taken under advisement. Selectman Massey said the whole document has to be moved forward five years, and it hasn't been. It was left as the FY-06 plan, but they've made four purchases since then. It needs to be updated to reflect today.

Chairman Coutu asked who prepared the document. Selectman Massey said the Town Administrator, in consultation with the department heads. He will talk to the Town Administrator to express what the Board wants.

C. 8 Pine Road Auction

Chairman Coutu said he was the only Selectman at the auction and would answer any questions before turning the floor over to Assistant Town Administrator Mark Pearson. Mr. Pearson said St. Jean Auctioneers received a bid of \$150,000 on Saturday, August 1 for the aforementioned property. The Board had copies of the sales agreement and deposit receipt that was prepared by Town Counsel and signed by the perspective buyer, subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen and School Board. He received an email from the School Superintendent that the School Board met and approved the bid, subject to the Board of Selectmen's approval.

Chairman Coutu said the auction was one of the most painful he's ever attended and there were only three registered bidders. The opening bid was \$225,000 and went down to \$50,000 and then it increased, with that bidder dropping out, leaving two bidders. In increments of \$10,000 they worked up to \$130,000 and then the increments dropped to \$500. It took 45 minutes to the \$150,000. If the Board refuses to accept the bid, they would have to re-auction it, but would still have to pay the auctioneers for this auction. The property was acquired by the town by tax deed and, therefore, has to be auctioned off. He supported accepting this bid for \$150,000.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept a bid of \$150,000 from Ron Sanders of Wilton, NH for the sale of the property located at 8 Pine Road that was received on Saturday, 8/1/09, during the auction by St. Jean Auctioneers, which was also accepted by the Hudson School Board at its meeting of 8/3/09.

Selectman Jasper asked how much of the \$150,000 he was receiving for the land. Mr. Pearson said \$75,000. Selectman Jasper said this was an 'I told you so' moment. He always thought this was a bad idea from the beginning. The School District has lost something like \$50,000 on the house. They have roughly \$125,000 into the house, itself. The town is receiving \$75,000 for the land, which is well under market value for a lot without a house on it. When the town took the land, the Board of Selectmen had not wanted to see this built on because of the wetlands and the size of the lot and other issues. It has been a long, painful and poor process and hopes they never will enter another agreement such as this. This was a very bad gamble all the way around.

Selectman Massey said because this was a tax deeded property, they had to go to auction. They never had an option to get someone lined up to buy it at a price they wanted. In today's real estate market, people who go to auctions are looking for properties they can flip, so they are not going to pay market value. They saw that with the Ferry Street properties. The \$150,000 is a good price in view of the fact they had to go to auction. Had they sold this two years ago, there might be a different result. They are where they are and it goes on to the tax rolls at a substantial number. He asked about the occupancy permit and was told there was one that went with the house, obtained by the school.

Selectman Maddox said they can't predict the real estate market. It was an interesting idea to give the trade school students at Alvirne a chance to build a house. When it sold when this project was first proposed, they'd have probably broken even, but he didn't want to say they wouldn't do this again. It would be something they'd have to consider on a case by case basis.

Selectman Jasper said he could see an appeal coming on the assessed valuation on this, given it's \$279,000 and it sold for \$150,000. That's nowhere within the ratio and will be interesting if it is appealed. The other members were right in it having to be auctioned, but this was a bad way of doing this. It would be better to find suitable pieces of property, some of which may not have restrictions on them. The town could put the pieces of land out to bid and the School District could bid on them and they could have better control over the marketing of the house. Generally speaking, they are not going to get market value in an auction like this. Under any circumstances, it would be a bad idea to do things the way they did them in this case. This should be a lesson learned.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Jasper voted in opposition.

D. Oath of Office

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, that members of each committee, board or commission, created or authorized by vote of Town Meeting, be considered town officers and be required to take the oath of office, as prescribed by RSA 42:1 and this directive be added to the Town Code: as of this date the following committee members shall be required to take the Oath of Office—Conservation Commission, Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Sewer Utility Committee, Water Utility Committee, Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Selectman Nadeau asked if the Benson's Committee, the Recycling Committee and the Green Team were included. Selectman Jasper said no; anything the Board creates is not included. Selectman Massey said RSA 669:9 says all elected town officers must also take the Oath of Office and thought the motion should refer to that statute. Chairman Coutu said not all of those listed were elected positions. Selectman Jasper said the definition of elected officers includes Budget Committee members and they have to.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

5. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Interviews for Executive Assistant Chairman Coutu said he, the Town Administrator and Executive Assistant, went through 28 applications to fill Priscilla's position, narrowed the field down and interviewed several candidates. They tried to get it down to three, but ended up with four good candidates. They'd like the Board to interview them on August 11 and he'd like to allocate at least 15 minutes for each candidate. Since he sat in on the interviews, he'd prefer the other members do the questioning and then they can compare notes after the interviews. They could conduct the interviews either at the beginning or the end of the meeting and suggested they start at 6:00.

Selectman Jasper was OK with that. Selectman Massey said 6:00 and before the meeting sounded good to him. Selectman Maddox was in agreement. Selectman Nadeau thought 6:00 might be tight for him. The decision was to start at 6:30 and move the start of the regular meeting to 7:30. Selectman Jasper thought the interviews would be done in open session and the Board's deliberations in nonpublic. Selectman Nadeau reminded him that the last set of interviews were done in nonpublic session. Selectman Jasper said he was watching the School Board meeting last night and the interviews were in public.

Benson's Issues:

Appraisal of Mr. Provencher's Memorabilia Selectman Jasper said he's had conversation with Mr. Provencher about the future of his memorabilia collection. The Library Trustees have agreed to allow it to stay there at least until the 18th and there's no reason it can't perhaps stay there longer. If the town purchases it or if something is worked out with fundraising or whatever, they need to know the value of that. He wasn't asking for any funds to be allocated to appraise it, but to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to see if there are people out there who are qualified to appraise it and what that price would be so they can make an intelligent decision going forward and see if there's any interest in having it appraised. If there is, how it would be paid, but until they have a number, nothing can be done.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the Town Administrator to investigate having the Benson's memorabilia collection appraised.

Selectman Maddox said they are becoming more Benson's all the time. Unless Mr. Provencher wants to sell the memorabilia right now, they need to step back from that. Selectman Jasper said there's time to decide, but once that's packed up and put in a tractor trailer, how do you appraise it? It's there and ready to be appraised, and there's no commitment. He didn't know if there was anyone in that market to have the expertise to appraise that. They are close to Boston and it's circus-type memorabilia, so there probably are some people in the Boston market with the expertise to do that. They won't have the opportunity again, where everything is spread out and every item can be looked at. It seemed like the opportune time to investigate the possibility of having it appraised.

Selectman Massey asked what the Benson's Committee's position was on this. Selectman Jasper said he didn't talk with the committee about it. Perhaps he should have, but he didn't see it as part of their charge, which was getting the park up and running. This was separate from that, but he could certainly bring it forward to them. Selectman Massey said they are not going to recreate Benson's Animal Park. It's the park at Benson's, as Selectman Maddox has said on several occasions. He's not prepared to make a commitment to this and didn't see it fitting into the park. He'd like to hear what the Benson's Committee felt about it and how they feel it will fit into the overall scheme of the park and isn't prepared to support the motion.

Selectman Jasper appreciated that and wasn't asking for any commitment. He was asking for information gathering. There may not be anyone out there who can appraise it and, if there is, it may not be at a reasonable price. It has always been the plan to have a museum out there and the Board of Selectmen has committed funds because they went to auctions and purchased a number of items. They have been taking memorabilia for that museum, primarily through the Hudson Historical Society. The thing that put Hudson on the map for four decades was Benson's Wild Animal Farm. Once the stuff is gone or disbursed, it's gone forever. This is an integral part of what Hudson was. He understands some people don't care and the appraisal could come back...but at this point, he was just asking to research getting an appraisal done and that number could come back and the Board could decide it's not worth it. At that point, and he hasn't shared that with Mr. Provencher, his feeling is if it's going to be appraised, the price of the appraisal ought to be split so it's not an appraisal for the town or for Mr. Provencher, that it's an appraisal and the person doing the appraisal has no allegiance to either because the bill is being paid by both—but he didn't know if that would be acceptable to Mr. Provencher. That gives the Benson Park Committee—and that's another thing on his list—he opportunity to weigh in on that and apologized for not bringing that up. The meetings have been a little difficult and he really has not wanted to bring another thing into the fray but, obviously, he is going to have to do that. The members of the committee were supportive of the display being there. Jerry, in particular, was there almost as much as Mr. Provencher, helping with that. There certainly is a lot of interest. In his perfect world, they'd have an appraisal and then go out and have a fundraiser, but they have to have a starting point and he didn't know if there was the will to do that. He asked them to allow this research to be done and there is no commitment. It's simply a fishing expedition, at this point.

Chairman Coutu said he had some concerns about the memorabilia being displayed by Mr. Provencher—and he has already had conversations with Selectman Jasper about this. The bulk of the memorabilia is not hard goods, it's paper goods, and there are books. They may have some historical value, but they are not displayable except behind glass cases, and who wants to go look at that? The model is there and a few hats and shirts and a couple of bumper stickers that's of significant value. Not the belittle the value the benefit Benson's Wild Animal Farm brought to Hudson and the significance of putting Hudson on the map. It was a major tourist attraction in the northeast. Even if the town was to acquire the memorabilia, what significance would it be for the town to display it when nobody could really look at the books and there are so little hard goods, other than the horse barn and he didn't know if Mr. Provencher was willing to part with that. He understands there are some other hard goods at Mr. Provencher's home, but he didn't know what they are. There are a lot of other people who have hard good that may be willing to donate them to the town.

Selectman Jasper said he appreciated that and, to some degree, shared the concern. There are a lot of fantastic photos that can never be obtained any place else, some of which don't exist any place else in town. That's the purpose of an appraisal. They can't display photo albums for everybody to see, but there's the opportunity for books to be done, which can be used as fundraisers, coffee table books where you take pictures, and they can do a series of books...there's a lot of people with the technical expertise to turn things into DVD's that can either be displayed at the park or various places, or reproduced and sold for a nominal fee for people who want to relive those memories. It's an opportunity that if they don't explore, will be a shortsighted decision. They should find out what an appraisal will cost, then discuss if it's worth having it done, which would give them an inventory of the items that are there and the value on each of them. There's a lot of stuff out there. He had a call last week from a resident who has the original sign for the Gorilla House and for the Elephant Barn. Those pictures have a value. Somebody may look at them and say they're \$20 apiece for the album; great deal, buy them. He didn't know. If they have an appraisal done, at least they will know and the town can say they are not interested in doing that, but he can go out and try to find five people who want to throw in money for the appraisal and have it done and then they move on from there.

Selectman Maddox asked if the Historical Society had monies to do the appraisal. Selectman Nadeau didn't know what monies they do have, but they could be asked. They also might know names of people who do appraisals. They should be asked before sending town staff out looking for someone. Selectman Jasper doubted if anyone in the Historical Society knows people who appraise circus memorabilia. He (Selectman Nadeau) was the president, so if he didn't know, he didn't know who was going to know. Selectman Nadeau said a lot of people in the Society go to a lot of conferences, so there could be someone. Selectman Jasper said that could be a resource for Mark to talk to. If by the 18th they haven't come to the point of agreeing to seek out a person to do the appraisal, then the Trustees are going to say the Board has made no commitment and this is going to go away—a lost opportunity. He was perfectly happy that if at the end of the day, the Board didn't want to put any money into it, but for the Historical Society to do an appraisal, it has to have someone to do it. Mark may talk to Ben tomorrow and Ben can call a couple people, or whoever, and come up with a name, and they're done, but if they don't get the ball rolling, they've dropped the ball and that's the end of it.

Chairman Coutu said in all fairness, that was Selectman Jasper's assumption. Mr. Provencher isn't going to put all of his stuff in the dumpster. He'll go house it somewhere. Sooner or later, he wants to get rid of it and he'll put it up for sale. He understands the thrust of Selectman Jasper's argument—it's there, it's exposed and available for someone to come in and look at, but it's just as easy to look at pictures and photos in a barn. Selectman Jasper said there are hundreds of items beyond books. There's a lot of things that were for sale over there and a lot of other little things. He was just baffled as to why they are hesitant to even ask the question of what it would cost and who can appraise it.

Selectman Maddox could see what's going to happen. They'll send the Assistant Town Administrator off on this mission and then at the next meeting, they'll have to make a decision to hire this person because it's going to close on the 18th. They'll be right back into the June 29th scenario of 'we gotta do it today.' In his estimation, this can wait. Selectman Jasper didn't know what it would be waiting for. He guaranteed he would not, If Mr. Pearson is authorized to look for an appraiser, he (Selectman Jasper) can go to the Trustees and say they've found somebody who can do the appraisal. He's not going to ask the Board to spend any money on the appraisal. He sees where that is going; he won't do that. He doesn't have the time or ability to do this on his own. He didn't know who can. He didn't see this as taking a lot of time and he will make the effort to raise the money to have it appraised, if the Board gives him the ability to at least find out who can appraise it. He won't say it's an emergency. He can go to the Trustees and say they're in the process and can they leave it there for another month while this is going on.

Selectman Maddox said in the spirit of cooperating, he would modify his second to say Mr. Pearson should spend no more than six hours on this mission. He has been made aware that they should at least try to do this, but he didn't want him working on this for the next six days. Selectman Jasper said he was fine with that and didn't think it would take six hours.

Selectman Massey said he sees no harm in finding out what an appraisal would cost, but he didn't want to do it under any time pressure. They also have to temper their enthusiasm a little bit. He didn't think they'd have a stamped trying to buy any memorabilia books they could put together. For example, there's still a significant amount of hats and T-shirts and when they first put those on the market, Benson's was a very active topic in town. When they were for sale at the Old Home Days of 2003, they didn't sell more than 75 of either one. They shouldn't be under any illusions that the group of people who would see this as an interesting look back on the future is a dwindling amount of people. They shouldn't ever pin their hopes on being able to fund anything with this memorabilia.

Chairman Coutu said if you can't find someone in one hour, maybe two, you haven't done your work well—never six. Put a call in to someone relative to Ringling's Barnum and Bailey's Circus and find out who appraises circus items for sale. He hates to

add up the amount of hours Mr. Pearson has already spent on Benson's, which is taxpayer money, and they should be aware of how much money is going towards this project now. When using in-house support staff, it all adds up. If staff is doing only Benson's, there's definitely too many staff. There's no harm in finding an appraiser. Perhaps Selectman Nadeau can come in much quicker with a name for the Assistant Town Administrator. It's a unique set of memorabilia and there may not be too many people who can do this; they may not even find anybody. Then, if the Board is interested, it's a matter of negotiating. The committee should become active in ascertaining if it's viable for the plan they have for the Benson's park. At that point, the committee can make a recommendation to the Board. If it's going to cost money, the Selectmen need to be in the loop. He will support the motion on the premise Mr. Pearson can get this done in a couple of hours, but not six. He's sure Mark will work diligently to get the answer as quickly as possible. Mr. Pearson said he'd stay after work so it's not on town time.

Selectman Nadeau said the Antiques Road Show on Channel 2 always does circus memorabilia. The other day, they were doing memorabilia from Ringling Brothers. He'd support the motion if it doesn't take long to do it.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Renaming Benson's Selectman Jasper said his wife, who is an English major, and at the meeting the other night, it is no longer Benson's Park. Mr. Benson has been dead a long time, but the name carried on as a corporation. It's not appropriate to be referring to Benson's, apostrophe 's' Park. The committee has unanimously recommended the name of the park be Benson Park and the committee be the Benson Park Committee, much like Greeley Park, Merrifield Park, Merrill Park, Hammond Park. Chairman Coutu said his wife thought it should be the Park at Benson's would be more appropriate, so that's another name.

Selectman Massey asked if the name was in the Board's purview to perpetuate. They own the land, but may not own the name. They want to make sure they don't run afoul of any estate issues. Selectman Jasper said at any rate, you can't own the name Benson. You could own the name Benson's Wild Animal Farm, which was the name of the park. It's not a copyrighted name and any claims the Benson's heirs had on that name went when they sold the park, and that went to Mr. Provencher, which was Benson's Animal Park, but he was removing 'Animal' and the apostrophe 's.' With all due respect to Chairman Coutu's wife, it's not Benson's any more. Benson does not own it, so even saying the Park at Benson's, which is possessive, is correct. Benson's no longer exists.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to accept the Benson Committee's recommendation to formally name the facility Benson Park and to constitute the committee as the Benson Park Committee.

Chairman Coutu said at the Benson's Committee meeting, Selectman Jasper came up with the name Benson Park, not the committee. Selectman Massey said that was OK; it was still a unanimous vote. Selectman Maddox said it is a part the town of Hudson bought for passive recreation. He'd like to call it Passive Recreation Park. They are getting into this whole thing with Benson's so deep that they can't see the forest for the trees, but he could see where this was going, so he'd just smile and say sure—Benson Park is a wonderful name. Selectman Massey said he thought he was going to get his head taken off when three months ago, he suggested that very idea. He was summarily shot down by everyone present. Everybody in the world knows it as Benson's. Benson Park will honor the man who owned the park at the very beginning, and that's appropriate. Chairman Coutu agreed wholeheartedly, but he wants his wife to know she got shot down.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Security at Benson Park While some of them were there on Sunday, a gentleman was walking his dog through the park and he got in from Route 111. Later, Selectman Jasper found a gate that wasn't chained tightly. He walked the perimeter and the fence is pretty much complete. One set of gates is no longer there that probably should be replaced, but as you go out on to the perimeter, there are paths and the state has put up gates, but people can still walk in. One other path is a long walk in, but people can walk in. Every other place, you'd have to use a machete to get through. All they ought to do is post on the gates and on the two other paths where you can walk in, signs that say, "Benson Park Closed to the Public. No Trespassing." That's one of the things he hears from people going in there, there's nothing that tells them they can't go in, so they fit in through the gate or do something and get in there and what do you say. They should be concerned about the security. They've told people to keep out of there, so they should just post it, even if it's just No Trespassing signs on all gates and entrances.

Chairman Coutu didn't want to get into all this minutia at every meeting talking about Benson's and thought the committee could have addressed this. Selectman Jasper said the committee didn't have the authority to do that. They would only make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. He didn't want to get into this minutia, either. He could go back to the committee to get its recommendation, but this was something that occurred to him on Sunday. That has been the intent, anyway. There used to be No Trespassing signs up. Selectman Nadeau said they could put up the signs, but people will still go in from various locations. The other night, there were four guys on mountain bikes, and they didn't slip through the gate. There was a kid on a 4-wheeler, and he didn't slip through the gate. If the signs are put up and they're enforced...he'd like to see them let people in sooner rather than later.

Selectman Maddox said he disagreed with Selectman Jasper. They need to secure the historic area because they are still doing construction in there, but open the rest of Benson's. If the Gorilla House and A-Frame are done, put up signs that say "Pass at Your Own Risk," like any other park in town. People can go into Musquash, Merrill Park, and whatever else they have. They were holding off opening it because of the construction. Secure the historic area and open the rest of it up, dawn to dusk, and get moving.

Selectman Jasper said this was a long discussion, but not a unanimous view of the committee, but a vast majority of it. This isn't just a nature trail, it's a park that is supposed to have some fields, some playing areas. Right now, it's a totally overgrown thing. They can let people in there, but there are roadways they need to figure out what to do with and they're talking about the idea of adopt areas and having families come in and adopt an area to cut down the brush. Businesses may come in and do a section as a project. If they hired it all out, it would be \$7 million. That's not going to happen. For the paved areas, they have so many paving companies around, adopt a section of road and let people put up signs and come in and pave. They are going to have these things happen. They can't then open the park and then have paving machines in there and have people in there with chain saws and have people create all these fields. If all they want to do is walk, there is Musquash and other areas where they can do in and walk. They need to build a park, and during the time they are building a park, where people can come in and they have places like they do in Greeley Park, where you can bring your charcoal in and have a cookout, you've got picnic tables and a horseshoe pit and volleyball courts and a place where you can have some pickup ball. There's a lot of work to do. The Benson Park Committee does believe they need to go slowly with this and let them develop the plan and look at a later hard opening. They want soft openings where people can come in and walk around and see what's there, but they want to do some work to get rid of some of the attractive nuisances that are still there, some of the problems that do exist. When they open it, have a park they can be proud of, not just a mess and what they have out there, generally, is a mess right now and there's so much to do. People have said it's Benson's all the time and they're in a hurry to get this done, and there were some things that needed to get done in a hurry, but now it's time to sit back and plan. As Selectman Massey is always correctly saying they need to have a plan. Well, they need to have a plan for what Benson Park will be when they open it. He hoped none of them want it to be what it is right now. It's a very sad place right now, but they can make it a wonderful place to be, with a lot of things to do. They're not going to do the whole 65 acres right now, but they've got a core place with some beautiful areas for ball fields and everything he talked about. There is nothing there now. Slow down, have a plan, and plan on having a hard opening next year and stop fighting about how soon they are going to get it open. They are wasting time fighting about that and then they are going to fight about when...once they open the park, they don't have the ability to close it. They can't close it for days. Once the Board of Selectmen declares the park open, they can close it at sunset but they cannot close the park for one single day. They wanted to have Hudson days only, but were told no. Once that park is open, that's it. No closing.

Chairman Coutu said he'd have to reread that portion of the deed. Selectman Jasper said that was a fight, and they lost.

Selectman Maddox said they can close any section of the park that's under construction. At the rate they are going, Benson's will be open right after they get the new street sweeper in FY-17. This is a park just like Merrill Park. They were all excited, they put in benches and now it's overgrown and gone to seed. Selectman Jasper said nobody did anything with it. Selectman Maddox said at some point, the enthusiasm will wane. Open the thing.

Selectman Nadeau said instead of No Trespassing signs, they should put up Enter at Your Own Risk signs or Working on Cleanup Today, Enter at your Own Risk, and open it up. At the rate they are going, they are getting nowhere fast. Once the roofing projects are done, there's no reason to keep anyone out. He didn't understand why they were trying to make this so hard on people. They should just open it up. Chairman Coutu said even if they do open the park, he can't see them opening up the historical area at all with just new roofs because those buildings are hazardous and they need to protect the integrity of the buildings. He didn't want people to torch them or hack them or do any more damage. The historical district is a separate, integral part of the whole project and he didn't want people roaming in and out. It's a small parcel of land, down to the Old Lady in the Shoe. If that got done, they could open up that section and pull the fencing back. He didn't want people to think they were going to open up the historical district right away.

Selectman Massey said three weeks ago, they were going to get the roofs on to stabilize the buildings and then open it up for general use, knowing full well they'd have to continue working on all of the buildings. If Chairman Coutu was suggesting they wait until all of the buildings are buttoned up and not a hazard to anybody, then they're not going to be looking at a hard opening even next year. Selectman Maddox and Selectmen are Nadeau are right; they should be posting signs that say, "Park Open. Construction in Progress. Proceed at Your Own Risk," or whatever the lawyers tell them to say. They should still look at opening in September. It doesn't matter if they open it this year or in 2017 after they get the sweeper, people are going to be going in there and it will be very difficult to police it. When people walk in, they are going to see it's no longer Benson's Wild Animal Farm. They will see a park with a lot of wild vegetation, that it is in the rough and that's not such a bad thing. They want people to walk in the mitigation area and be able to enjoy it. The town's not going to touch those areas at all. It's swampy and people will have to wear their boots to get in there. They should plan on an opening in September for general use.

Selectman Jasper said the three historic buildings can't be secured. Even if they put up a section of fence, there's a whole other section that never existed, so they are talking about a lot of money for fencing. What is there has already been snipped in several places, so forget that idea. The best thing to do is take the interior fence down. They need to do whatever they want to secure the buildings. He said all along they couldn't open the park with the buildings in that condition. He never suggested they would be ready to open because this isn't just walking trails; it's a park with a lot going on. He understands the Board will do what it wants to do, but it's a shame...remember, this is a state park they are creating. They don't even have a parking area. That was next on his agenda, to authorize the Road Agent to create the parking area. They don't have any rules and regulations, which every park has to have. The Fire Department would like to restore the kiosk, the ticket booth, which would be the entryway for giving people maps. They have nothing done. If they don't want to do anything and they don't want to post anything and just let the people continue to find a way in, but this place isn't ready to be opened for general use. Everyone is hurry, hurry, hurry. Once they put in the parking and open the gates, they're not going to have just a few people in there, there will be a lot of people going in there. He didn't think that's what they want. They want to concentrate their efforts into getting something ready there. There's nothing for anybody to do there right now but walk. There's no restroom facilities or any plans for any. They don't have anything in there. They haven't done anything and that's just a shame. When they do this, they ought

to be proud of it and something they can say they've done. It won't be done 100%, but at least they should have one area done where people can go in and have a cookout and throw a couple of balls around. They don't even have 10 feet of grass, expect under the apple tree.

Selectman Maddox asked when Selectman Jasper thought that would be. Selectman Jasper said he didn't know. They got the property in January, but did not appoint a committee until May. This Board didn't appoint a committee for over four months, and now suddenly, at the beginning of August, and 'you' are expecting 'us' to have everything ready. It took 'you' four months to get a committee done. Now, the Board wants everything ready to go. Selectman Maddox said all he asked was when Selectman Jasper thought they'd be ready. Selectman Jasper said he didn't know. He was trying to get subcommittees set up and people are coming in. They were all about getting the buildings taken care of, which was a major undertaking. They've been out there doing cleanup. The committee has been out there looking at things. They're trying to get volunteers to do this and everybody says everybody is in a rush. Well, go on the website, see what you want to volunteer for. There will be more cleanups. This has got to be a community project. They can't expect nine people to do this. They don't want to spend any money on anything, first of all. They want it done free. That's fine, but that means volunteers. Don't expect nine people to do this. This is very frustrating. It took them four months to get the committee going, but 'you' ought to have plans when it can open, when they are just getting there. They're just starting. Give them four months to get organized. It took them four months to appoint a committee. There's a lot going on because this town is not all about Benson's. He didn't know what they expect. First he's going too fast, then he's going too slow. This is bizarre.

Selectman Maddox said he would ask again when Selectman Jasper thought the park would be opened. Selectman Jasper asked when was he going to have all the committees... Chairman Coutu said he let this discussion continue a little bit, but objected to "I" and "my committee." He thought it was a Benson's Committee and he's had this discussion with Selectman Jasper before, that he treats it as a committee that belongs to him. Selectman Jasper apologized. It's a bad habit he has. It's like department heads come in and say, "I'm spending this money," but it's 'our' money.

Selectman Maddox said this Board makes the mistake of fire and forget. They shoot the missal and off it goes. The Benson's Committee and the Cable Committee kind of fall under that. This Board needs to give guidance to the Benson's Committee, through its liaison. He's always been on the mindset to open sooner rather than later. Maybe they need to sit down with them again and say now that they've had it for awhile, it's bigger than they thought, come back to the Board, whatever. If they want 14 committees... the US Interior Department of the US Government doesn't have that many subcommittees. The Board has probably sent mixed messages to the committee. If Selectman Jasper doesn't want it to open until next year to give them time to facilitate coming up with a plan, then maybe the Board needs to back up. If there's a rationale for keeping it closed for the next year, so be it. If the committee comes in with that recommendation, the Board has to look at it. He didn't agree with that, but he could understand it. He has watched bits and pieces of the Benson's Committee on television and he sees people that are very frustrated for any number of reasons. If Selectman Jasper comes back and says the target date is May 15, 2010, so be it, and take the pressure off that committee. There should be drawings from the Benson's Master Plan they could tap into to get maps of this thing.

Chairman Coutu agreed with the frustration in watching the meetings. There's more internal problems than some people are willing to admit, and that needs to be addressed. Some committee members have expressed their frustration to him in that they don't feel they have in much of the way of latitude to do anything expect volunteerism. He feels the committee lacks direction, a concrete plan, a plan of attack, how to proceed. Some people who volunteers have a lot more time to put into it and they get a lot more enthused and they are anxious to get it open and to show some productivity to the general public. He is torn between giving the committee any latitude they need, with the exception of spending money, and opening the park. There's an overwhelming feeling of Board members who want to see the park opened immediately. If the public sees the potential for something they can do, it may increase the volunteerism. The concern he has is that the trails are not marked and people can get lost easily; it's not someone's back yard. There's no maps and no trail guides. He didn't want to have to spend a lot of time by service-oriented staff looking for someone who was lost on that property consisting of over 160 acres. They need to give the committee some viability and latitude to do some of the things they want to get done. The Selectmen, however, are the guardians of the dollars. He didn't like to see people going in all kinds of different directions. They need to come together as one with a concrete plan. That's the direction Selectman Jasper is trying to get them to go in, but there lacks leadership or a commitment to do that. He's addressed that to several members, including the chair.

Selectman Massey said this is a much bigger task than any of them imagined because the devil is in the details. If they want the committee to function, the Board needs to cut them a little slack and come back to the Board with a plan for an opening, whether hard or soft. There's no parking, so there's a natural constraint for the number of people that can go to the park. He agreed people could easily get lost in there. However, in the last eight years, no one has gotten lost in there. Even if it was going to open next month, they wouldn't see 1,000 people in there. He agreed with Selectman Maddox to ask the committee for a plan to get people into the park as early as possible.

Selectman Jasper said he was only speaking for himself, but he believes that the Board and the Benson Park Committee are probably turning a lot of people away because all they do is battle about the project. There's not much agreement on anything. It all turns into an argument. A lot of people who might like to participate don't want to get involved in that hornet's nest. The Board formed a committee, but now they are constantly trying to tell the committee what to do. The committee is trying to think about rules and regulations. There are a lot of water hazards in that area. Some people may feel that because the park is open, it is safe and they can just let their kids go. There are bridges to fall off, water to fall into, so they have to be careful on how they handle this. They have to tell parents what the rules and regulations are. The list of committees is a result of Curt Laffin's presentation on the management units that he sees. They probably won't have all of the committees, but people will

have interest in all of them. Once they see how many people they have, they can then look to see where the synergy is and combine them into a couple of committees. But without knowing who is interested in what, they don't have the ability to do that. Five of the management units may be combined into one or two subcommittees. Maybe everyone didn't understand that and maybe it hasn't been well articulated, but instead of having a conversation with him, or the committee, it contributes to this ongoing argument. Everything is contentious and they've got to stop doing that. Let the committee get its feet wet and ahead of the game. They are behind the eight ball on this and have been behind right from the beginning. They are going to start interviewing people for the subcommittees at the next meeting to try to get it done. There's just too much for them to do and there's so many things that have to be thought of. He agreed with the Chairman that people need to get in there to see what needs to be done so they can volunteer. The committee is heading in that direction with a potential three year or more soft opening, where there will be people in key locations and let people come in to see what's going on, but they've got to get information together to give them when they come into the park. They need time to plan this. One time when they were out there, Lynne Ober said she'd love to take on the project of planters. There's going to be plenty of areas that people want to take on, but people have got to see what's out there. Then they have to be given the opportunity to get in to do the work. He hoped they would back off and give the committee breathing room to get its feet wet and get moving. Right now, the hammer is coming down in every different direction and nothing is going to happen because nobody is getting along.

Selectman Maddox said he'd ask Selectman Jasper again when he thought...if he made a motion to say the park wouldn't be opened until June 15, 2010, is that a realistic date...or no sooner than? Selectman Jasper said he had no worldly idea, and that's the point. This is a project where things have to be done and if they get a ton of volunteers, that target date could move. He can't give a target date. The committee hasn't even established the things they want to see done before they open. If he didn't know what his job is, how can he say when it will get done? They haven't defined those things they want to have done before an opening.

Selectman Maddox said many of them wanted it to open, but they've been bowing to his [Selectman Jasper's] knowledge and position as the liaison. The Board says they are not going to push for that, but they need to set some sort of date. He asked if Selectman Jasper was saying the Board should go back to the committee to ask them when they think the opening should be. Selectman Massey said the question is not when it is going to open. The question is when can the committee have a list of things that have to be done in order to have a real opening? Once they open the park, it's open to the world. They've already talking about some of the things tonight—parking, rules and regulations, hours of operation, etc. The question is when can the committee come back with that plan, which would include those items? They are talking about two dates—one, to have the plan for what they are going to do, then the date when that plan would talk about a formal opening.

Chairman Coutu said this has gone on a long time. He suggested giving the committee a little latitude, let them go off on their own and reorganize, if necessary, let them put a plan together and the Board doesn't discuss this until the committee comes back with a plan and are allowed two or three weekends of soft openings so people can get in this fall, let them make that decision and set the dates, let them do whatever it takes to get them in and out. When the committee comes back with a plan, that's when the Board continues this discussion. They can talk about this ad infinitum and not get anywhere.

Selectman Maddox said that's where he started. They made the appointments and sent them off with mixed signals. He hoped they could give the committee some better direction. If the Board waits until the committee comes back with a plan, so be it. If that takes two months or six months, so be it. They put Selectman Jasper under the gun to make things happen, and he is pushing that to the best of his ability—that's why he was appointed Whip—he is driving that committee and is making people unhappy. The Board needs to back up and wait for the committee's plan, much like with the Cable Committee. If it doesn't open, it doesn't open.

Chairman Coutu said he's had conversations with Selectman Jasper about his manner of conduct at the Benson's Committee. After watching the meetings, he knows why Selectman Jasper was giving direction because that's what the committee lacks. Somebody needs to stay focused and try to get people going in one direction—and he applauded Selectman Jasper for his efforts in trying to do that. He thought the leadership was going to be better than it has. His wife, after watching the Benson's Committee, was ready to blow her brains out. It was frustrating. The best approach at this point is to decide to vote on the motion or have it withdrawn and let the committee make the decision. Selectman Jasper said he'd withdraw his motion. Chairman Coutu said they've had a healthy discussion. Both Selectman Maddox and Massey contributed significantly in allowing the committee to put together a plan—they wanted to have two or three soft openings this fall. The Board will follow the meetings and if they think there's something critical, they will depend on the liaison to bring it before them, but let the Benson's Committee be and get the park open in some fashion; let them set the timeframe and move from there. He asked if that made sense to everyone.

Selectman Nadeau disagreed, saying it should be opened sooner rather than later. Chairman Coutu said he wasn't disagreeing with that, he was saying that should be up to the committee. Selectman Nadeau said the people in town want to see it opened sooner rather than later so they can use it, walk through it and get ideas of what can be done. If they don't let anyone in there, they won't see what's out there. Chairman Coutu said he understood and didn't disagree, but didn't want to get into another long discussion. Selectman Nadeau has the right to go before the Benson's Committee to interject his thoughts, just as he [Chairman Coutu] did at the last meeting. This is not something the Board of Selectmen should be mandating; it should come from the committee. If they aren't allowed to make some decisions, they will quit and the Selectmen will be left holding the bag, unless they, along with Jerry, can organize a few people to go in there and continue with the work they've already begun. He was appreciative of the work Selectmen Nadeau and Jerry have put in. If not for those two men, they wouldn't be where they are now. But as a governing body, they are spending too much time on. This is a piece of land that belongs to the people of Hudson and not what he envisioned when he fought with the Governor to get the land. He thought

everyone would be on board and enthused about it, with the exception of Selectman Maddox. It seems that Selectman Nadeau is upset and he had hoped they would all be in accord. The Benson's Committee will be given the latitude to get it done.

Selectman Nadeau said they were going to let the Benson's Committee pick a date when they want to open it. If they did some soft openings on the weekends to let people in to look at it. If they keep it locked up, there will be more vandalism. They can't keep people out of there. Open it dawn to dusk. If they keep the gates chained, people aren't going to know what's in there. If they let people in to look around, there will be enough volunteers to fill all of the openings, to do the flower beds, the bathrooms, etc. They can't put up No Trespassing signs, as much as people might want to do that. Chairman Coutu said the No Trespassing signs motion has been withdrawn. He didn't see where his suggestion differed with anything Selectman Nadeau was saying.

Selectman Jasper said Selectman Nadeau hadn't listened to anything he said. Both he and Selectman Coutu have said they want soft openings, but they don't have any parking or anything there now. There are piles of debris. They've got to finish cleaning things up. There will be more work weekends. All of this arguing has got to stop. They've got to come together and stop saying, "If I don't get my way, I'm going to be mad about it," and not let it go. Nobody is letting the committee make a decision. They just did a site walk. They are dealing with the buildings. They are constantly dealing with things. They got meetings that are going late, meeting every other week. They are really trying, but all of this conflict and all of these people all over the place, snipping and sniping, causing problems, creating absolute chaos instead of supporting the committee. Some people tell him he's too strong, but he's only one vote out of nine. What the committee votes is what happens. He will advocate on the committee like he always does, but if people don't like what he says, they're going to vote against him. He's not going to stop advocating. That's what he does and why he's been doing this for 30 years. People have got to stop behind the scenes bashing other people and creating chaos. They've got to come together and say, "That's not the way I'd prefer it to be, but I'll do my best so we can make it happen as soon as possible," and work towards those soft openings and to get the little maps and adopt an area. Let's come together. They all want to have the park open. The question is what is the park going to be and see what the committee wants it to be, then work towards those goals of having those things done. At some point, even though everything won't be done, they will have enough done to have it open on a regular basis. They've just got too few people, too much work and right now, too much bickering.

Chairman Coutu said his understanding of a committee is an organization you delegate work to because the Board is involved in the governance and can't be hands on with everything. He expects the committee to set the tone and the agenda and the plan. He's not interested in discussing this here ever again until the committee comes back with a plan of action, and that's the way it should go. If, however, they are going to spend money, the Board should know about it.

Selectman Maddox disagreed saying they already fired and forget. The Board sent the committee off, and they all thought the Board wanted the park opened as soon as possible and 'you' drove them towards that; 'you' were pushing to get certain things done to accomplish that mission. The committee should come in periodically, or through their liaison, and see where they are headed because the Board members may not agree. And almost everything that needs to be done involved spending money. It's one of those startup issues they are going to have for awhile. The committee will have to spend money and the Board will be kicking it around.

Chairman Coutu said they were certainly giving the committee a mixed message and he was losing faith in the whole process.

Selectman Massey said you start off by putting together a plan for accomplishing something. This project, at the front end, didn't require any money to be spent because it's a question of identifying all the tasks that are necessary to open the park to the public. The real question is how long they think it would take to put that kind of a plan together. They could talk about that their next meeting and give the Board some idea of how long it would take to do that. It shouldn't be open ended and Selectman Maddox was right. The Board should have some idea of when they can put a plan together and have it brought to the Board for review and approval. It's a project plan that needs to have all the tasks that Selectman Jasper has identified, and some they may not even know about right now, and a date by which that plan could be implemented.

Selectman Jasper said that sounds reasonable and he didn't disagree, but the problem is that there are so many tasks they haven't identified. An area he hasn't even talked about is the utilities in the park. They have to establish where they want to have bath houses. They already know they are going to have the train station and office building, a sewer line run through the park. They have to identify how they are going to get that done and when there's equipment in there trenching for that...they've got to establish where they're bringing water in from. He and Selectman Nadeau found the artesian well, which may be a better source than trying to go all the way back out to Bush Hill Road and bring in town water. They've got to clean up that area and test that water to see if it's usable and they've got to run a line from there to the buildings where the restrooms are going to be. They also have to bring...

Selectman Massey interrupted to say Selectman Jasper was going through the project plan right now, but he may not identify all of them. They will be arguing all night... Selectman Jasper interrupted to say he was telling them until they go through these things, they haven't even got there yet. He can't come back to the Board any time soon with a date because they haven't even sat down to talk about those things as a committee. They haven't looking into how to make those things happened. Everybody keeps coming back saying a date, a date, a date...Selectman Massey said he wasn't talking about a date when they open, but a date when the committee would come back with a plan, knowing the plan is not cast in concrete and may not have identified all the things. No plan will ever do that. He was just thinking that the project plan is what they need and all the Board needs to know is when the Benson Park Committee will have that plan to be reviewed.

Selectman Jasper said first of all, they don't have any resources at their disposal. Mark has been great, but the Chairman has been right in saying it seems like he's been spending all of his time on this project. At some point, they will need some consulting money to develop the utility plans, but they've got to talk about that and figure it out. He didn't know because he hasn't talked to the committee about these things. He hears they want a plan, but it's overwhelming. It's truly overwhelming because he years open the park, open the park, but there's all these underlying issues that nobody is really addressing that you have to have in order to open the park to run all the lines. Are they going to go underground with the electrical? Overhead? It's going to take awhile to even get there and start talking about them because they are so far behind the eight ball just trying to take care of things like the Train Station. That's a grant with a limited time. They've got to get that moving forward so the grant doesn't run out. That will be a focus. It will be piecemeal.

Chairman Coutu said these are all things that should be taken up at the committee level and the committee should set the tone and direction. It took eight years to get the park and everybody wants it open in eight days. They are not God. It will take time. They need to step back and get the plan in motion, have it approved by the Board, whatever it takes, whatever makes everybody happy. They are always taking one step forward and three back. They'll never get this thing opened.

Selectman Maddox hoped the Board of Selectmen would ask the DOT for an extension on the Train Station for the fact they're going to put themselves in the very same position as they were with all the other buildings. If they have an extension for another year, if they get it done earlier, fine, but don't wait until the last minute. They just got the property and all of these issues are happening, the utilities and where they are going to go. They are putting themselves up against another deadline.

Chairman Coutu said that's a matter for the committee to decide. Selectman Maddox disagreed, saying it was this Board that would have to write that letter. Chairman Coutu said he understood that, but the plan the committee brings forward would include a plan for the Train Station. If it's within the timeframe, OK; if not, the committee will have to ask the Board to get an extension, but that recommendation should come from the committee to the Board. Why don't they dissolve the committee and the Board can meet separately just on Benson's? This is just taking up too much time from their regular meetings. Selectman Maddox said that's the price you pay for a startup business just acquired. There's headaches and transitions and he sees them putting themselves in the same position as they were with the other buildings, that the money is going to run out. Find out in the near future if the state will give them an extension, based on where they are right now.

Selectman Jasper didn't see any reason to hold that up, but the problem is that building needs a roof. They made a decision a month ago to not waste \$6,000 putting on a temporary roof, but get it on a foundation and roof it. It goes back and forth here. He agreed with the Chairman. They can't get involved on this level in all of this stuff. Let the committee move forward, but accept that there are priorities that are going to come to the head of the line and that's going to delay the final opening. There are so many things in there that need to be done. They can have more soft openings and as things move along, but let the committee do it. They're spending too much time on this and it's too contentious. The only reason it becomes so contentious, at this point, is because the desire to get it opened quickly and the reality of the things that need to be done. They just have to let the committee deal with it.

Selectman Maddox asked if they didn't just fix that. Selectman Jasper said no. Selectman Massey thought they did by saying the committee would come back to the Board with a plan. He agreed with the Chairman. They fall into the trap of micromanaging if they start off by saying one of the first things you have to do is look at the Train Station and get an extension because that presupposes on the Board's part that the committee can't decide when and how that should happen. They know it's a high priority and will be at the top of the committee's list of things to look at. The Board needs to let the committee ask for an extension, not the other way around.

Chairman Coutu said Jerry Desrosiers had his hand up and asked for the will of the body in recognizing him to speak. The consensus was to not allow it.

Parking at Benson's Selectman Jasper in the long term, there's 120 parking spaces that were approved as part of the Master Plan. They'd like to have one area grubbed out by the Road Agent, who already said he guys could do it. He asked for a consensus of the Board to have Kevin work it into his schedule to get that parking opened up.

Chairman Coutu said he was out there on Sunday from 4:00 - 7:00, along with Selectman Jasper, for a walk-through of the park. Several members of the committee were there, too. The area being designated for parking is the original parking area. There's also an adjunct directly across the street. With a little grubbing, about 10-15 cars can park there. If they go up to the tree line in the original parking lot, they can probably put 100 cars in there. There's an overflow which is already level and you can put in another 200-300 cars without doing anything to it. People just have to walk up the trail, into the main entrance. It's minimal work. He [the Road Agent] can go in with a grader and have it done in a day or two, if he can fit it into his schedule. It's not a big deal and won't cost any materials, just gas and the use of the equipment.

Selectman Jasper said it will probably entail a couple loads of crushed gravel, once the roots are pulled up. Chairman Coutu said it may be very minimal if they can grade what's there. Where he's going to be pulling a lot of that out is on the slope. It's his call.

There was no objection by Board members. Selectman Maddox abstained because he didn't know what they were talking about.

Cable Committee Questions Selectman Maddox said once they send a board or committee off, they need to come back and find out what's going on. He asked that of the Cable Committee, the status of the studio. How many more programs are on now than before? They need some follow up on those kinds of questions. He forgot who the liaison was. Chairman Coutu said he was, but the committee hasn't met for awhile. Selectman Maddox asked how many hours the facilitator was using, as opposed to before. They fire and forget and don't deal with it until it's a problem and then it's contentious. Is the studio up and running? They've had it for some time.

Electronic Signs Selectman Maddox said the handout that was given to the Board was what the Planning Board last saw for the draft for the signage. It was an exciting meeting that he and Selectman Massey lived. It will probably be a ballot question next March. As the Board's representative to the Planning Board, he will be asking where the Selectmen want to go with this. It started out as a 2 X 2 square and it is now a 5 x 5 yard. They've gone from business districts to...it just keeps expanding. Every 100' you could have a lit sign that was originally proposed to change once per hour to four times an hour. He asked the Board to look at this and decide what they want to have. They didn't need to talk about it, but he wanted the members to have it to think about where they want to go with this in order to give him some guidance.

Selectman Massey said the most contentious items for the Planning Board to deal with are Items C-8, 9 & 10. Guidance on that would be most helpful.

Police Officer Graduation Selectman Massey congratulated the latest police officer, Chris Manning, that went through the academy, who graduated on Friday Night. He will now be out on the street, serving the town.

Governor's Visit to Benson's Selectman Massey, while at the graduation, talked with the Governor and mentioned to him it would be nice for him to come down to the town to see the park, coordinated through the Chairman. It would be nice if he brought the Governor's Council with him. However, in light of the previous discussion tonight, it may be premature to do that sooner rather than later.

Old Home Days/Benson's Memorabilia Selectman Nadeau reminded everyone that Benson's display will be open this weekend during Old Home Days, which starts Thursday and runs through Sunday. There's a list of events in last week's HLN and an article in today's Telegraph. Selectman Maddox clarified that the Benson's memorabilia will be at the Hills Memorial Library. Selectman Jasper said after conversations with the Superintendent and Road Agent, there will be signage from Library Street, there will be one way traffic into the Library parking lot and one way out, behind the SAU building on School Street to help facilitate traffic because there are three different things going on, including a book sale.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, at 9:10 p.m. carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Kenneth J. Massey, Vice-Chairman

Shawn N. Jasper, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman