



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison



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Meeting Minutes May 17, 2012

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:02 p.m. May 17, 2012 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance led by visitor, Chair of Recycling Committee, Leo Bernard.

2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, late, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, late, John Leone, late, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau, late, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, Alternate, R. Alio, D. Briand
Excused: C Gagnon, N. Undercofler,

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentation

A. Chairman of the Recycling Committee, L. Bernard said that for many years the Recycling Committee sells compost bins, water containers, and kitchen bins. Selectman Liaison, B. Nadeau of the Recycling Committee suggested that the committee might want to purchase two (2) extra compost bins and donate them to Benson Park. The committee agreed and purchased the two (2) compost bins and Chair L. Bernard presented them to the Benson Park Committee tonight. The compost bins come with directions and hooks, etc. Chair H. Schibanoff asked where the bins would be placed and Chair L. Bernard said he thought this would be up to the Benson Park Committee to designate an area. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested a few areas, the butterfly garden and where materials for the park are kept. Chair H. Schibanoff said that Crista and Natalie could help with this decision, J. Leone spoke to Chair L. Bernard regarding another problem that the park has been having with the disposal of trash. J. Leone asked Chair L. Bernard if his committee could come up with a suggestion for recycling bottles and cans in the park. Chair L. Bernard said it was another group that could handle this. This group goes through all the barrels in Greeley Park and he said that they may be interested in doing this at Benson Park in the future, but not at this time. Discussion followed

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 3, 2012

A. Desrosiers made a motion to accept Minutes

**J. Leone second the Motion
All in favor- Motion Carried**

6. Old Business

A. Trash Update

A. Desrosiers let the viewing public know that she has been checking the trash barrels for fullness in areas of the park. There is a barrel near the porta-potties that does not get emptied due to the truck not being able to get to this area. A. Desrosiers is looking for the barrel with the least amount of trash to swap with the barrel at the porta-potties. She found one barrel that has the least amount of trash, it is the barrel at the end of Benson Boulevard near Swan Lake. She thinks this barrel would be the one to swap. She did this swap and stated the barrels at the A-Frame were the most used and filled, along with Serenity Gardens. A. Desrosiers determined that these barrels were 90% capacity. D. Empey asked A. Desrosiers if she noticed trash in the park other than the barrels. A. Desrosiers said a few papers were seen on the ground but with the volunteers and visitors to the park picking up trash, it did not look bad. What she did notice was a lot of lost shirts, jackets, hats, etc. left in the park. Chair H. Schibanoff asked A. Desrosiers if she noticed dog waste. She does not go out on the trails so she has not noticed any waste. J. Leone asked if the lost shirts, etc. should have a lost and found area. P. Nichols said she noticed that most of these lost items end up at the Kiosk. This will be monitored for a while to determine if a lost and found box would be feasible in this area.

B. Building Signs

Chair H. Schibanoff said the sub-committee met for about three hours to work on the signs and another review is needed to complete them.

7. New Business

A. Committee Reports

D. Briand said that the Dog Park Committee is planning a motorcycle poker run for a fund raiser on June 30, 2012. They are also working on the agreement with the town at this time,

B. Revision of Park Rules

Vice Chair J. Barnes spoke about the need to revise the changes to the park rules. Extra copies were available for those who did not have them. Vice Chair J. Barnes said that the red text gave the latest changes. Vice Chair J. Barnes explained the outline and asked for corrections and changes. D. Empey found an error on park hours. He also felt that somewhere on the rules there should be something to the effect **no climbing on the Red Shoe**. It is not that strong and will not hold up to abuse. A. Desrosiers thought that maybe signs at the Old Shoe instead of the Rules would better. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau felt that a sign at the Shoe would be a better option, with a brief description and no climbing. D. Empey agreed with the signage to preserve something we do not want to lose through neglect. D. Empey also would like it to be included in the rules also. Chair H. Schibanoff said the C. Gagnon had suggested two (2) signs at the Shoe, one at the top and one at the bottom. Chair H. Schibanoff wanted to know if a rule of no dogs allowed in the playground be added. Consensus on this was 100%. He also wanted to know

if new signs would be needed. Everyone agreed on this. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he would get the white one for the Kiosk. A. Desrosiers said that one of the rules said no touching or catching of turtles or frogs in park. She felt that the thrill of trying to catch a turtle or frog was fun for some of the children. D. Empey said we should really leave this in the rules in the event that some child received a bite from a snapping turtle, etc. The park would be covered because of the rule. P. Nichols thought this was a good idea, and while she would not stop a child from trying to catch a frog, she would do her best to politely stop the removal of a wild animal from the park. R. Alio and J. Leone also voiced their opinion on this subject. D. Empey wanted to move these rules as quickly as possible. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau stated the if the committee agreed to the changes tonight and Vice Chair J. Barnes could get a hard copy to his mailbox at Town Hall, he would see that copies were distributed to other members of the Board of Selectmen, and he would have it put on the agenda under Other Business at the meeting on Tuesday night. D. Empey said that the last time the metal signs were made, he thought they were done by the State Prison. He wanted to have the production of these signs brought up at the BOS meeting on Tuesday.

P. Nichols made a motion to recommend to the BOS, changes made by Vice Chair J. Barnes, to the proposed rules be adopted and five (5) new signs be ordered.

Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested that the Committee come up with wording for the sign at the Old Shoe at this time so all signs could be ordered together. Chair H. Schibanoff said that D. Yates would order this sign for us. He did not think we had to go through the BOS. Before a vote was taken on the Rules and Signs, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau made a suggestion that another rules sign be placed at the A-Frame. Many of the visitors to the park have lunch in this area, and the possibility of reading the sign is greater than other areas of the park. Discussion followed and consensus was to add a sixth sign.

P. Nichols amended her motion to recommend to the BOS that the proposed rules be adopted and six (6) new signs be ordered.

A. Desrosiers seconded the Motion

All in favor – Motion Carried

C. Library Event

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke of a letter he received about a month ago from the Hudson Library Board of Trustees. The Benson Park Committee is invited to join others in an Open-House to showcase working within the park through volunteerism. This event will be held at Hills Memorial Library Building on June 21, 2012, from 6-8pm. P. Nichols and A. Desrosiers volunteered to attend and have a table. Chair H. Schibanoff said if he was around he would attend.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- A. A. Desrosiers** said she has been to the park after Hydro-seeding. She does not know how much of the seeding had taken and she found the yellow tape to be unsightly but it seems to be working to keep people on the regular pathways. A. Desrosiers asked when the tape is removed, could it be possible to use yellow or red rope to direct people for the summer, in order to give the grass a

chance to take. P. Nichols said there was rope coming down the hill to the Main Parking lot and that seem to work. She felt it would not be that expensive. Chair H. Schibanoff said he was at the park on Sunday and everyone he saw was honoring the yellow tape and staying on the Paths. D. Empey was a little negative about this. He witnessed a man break the tape, escort two children across the new lawn and come out the other side. D. Empey said he spoke to the man about the new lawn and received a comment and a look that was not pleasant. He thinks we should monitor this and be ready with a plan when the yellow tape is removed. P. Nichols said she thought the fastest solution at this time would be the rope around the area until we can find something else that would work. We cannot watch everyone but maybe we could educate them with the rope. J. Leone wanted to know if the stakes that are used for the yellow tape are sturdy enough to support the rope. D. Empey said he did not think so, and asked Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau if he knew the plans of the Highway Department in regards to removing the yellow tape. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he did not know, it would depend on the quality of hydro-seeding used. Some hydro-seed blends can be walked on in a matter of days, other blends could be a few weeks to a month or more. D. Empey said that this should be the start of deciding what we need to do. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he would talk to the Highway Department this week.

D. Empey said he had a few things he wanted to speak of. The Trail Signs that were made are now up throughout the park. He is waiting for the pressure treated wood to dry out so he can stain them. He also said there is a considerable amount of money left in the Trail Grant. He thinks we are going to get an extension on this for a year. Instead of it running out on June 30, 2012, it could be extended until June 30, 2013. D. Empey said he is looking for ideas on how to best utilize this money. He has some ideas for putting RAP on a path below the overlook but it is a bit more than volunteers could do. He wanted to know if he could get a contractor to do this with monies from the trail grant. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau spoke on this subject extensively and advised D. Empey to speak to Town Engineer G. Webster on how to plan this. P. Nichols suggested fixing the bridge below the Overlook. D. Empey asked P. Nichols what she thought should be done to this bridge and she said she felt it was only being held up by a few rocks. D. Empey said that the bridge was more then sturdy, it was very safe. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau was not sure if repairing the paved paths that tree roots are breaking through came under the Trail Grant. He thought that someone could be contracted to remove the old broken paving and repave these areas to get a better flow through the park and make it a little easier for wheel chairs and walkers to maneuver. He said that this was something we might be able to do or use for new grants in the future. It was a welcoming idea; D. Empey asked Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau if it would be alright with the BOS for him to consult Town Engineer G. Webster on his own. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he would check with the BOS at the next meeting

J. Leone asked if anything is being done on the Train Station. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he would let us know when he heard anything regarding this.

P. Nichols asked all bikers to sign up for the Poker Run to benefit the Dog Park. She has her ride, and A. Desrosiers is working on hers

Next meeting will be held on June 7, 2012 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: 8:20 pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

A. Desrosiers second the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries