



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Richard Empey, Chairman Roger Coutu and David Morin, Selectmen Liaisons

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Minutes

June 7, 2018 – 7:00pm

HCTV Center, 19 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, NH 03051
Downstairs Meeting Room

1. **Call to Order** at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Richard Empey

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Ann Desrosiers.

3. **Attendance:**

Richard Empey, Chairman	Present
Ralph Alio, Vice-Chairman	Present
Jack Madden, Clerk/Secretary	Present
Mark Boulger, Member	Excused
Paula Hubert, Member	Present
Ann Desrosiers, Member	Present
John Leone, Member	Present
James Weaver, Member	Excused
Nancie Caron, Alternate	Excused
<u> Vacant </u> , Alternate	<u> Vacant </u>
Roger Coutu, Primary Selectman Rep.	Present
Dave Morin, Secondary Selectman Rep.	Present

4. **Public Input**

Selectmen Representatives Roger Coutu and Dave Morin asked to speak. They are meeting with all boards, committees, etc. Dave noted that the Board of Selectmen wants to do better to assist boards & committees, better planning for budgets, etc. Also, we acknowledge that you are private citizens, all volunteers, putting in countless hours and unselfishly give of yourselves. Roger thanked us for helping our community; they are immensely grateful.

Roger wanted to bring us up to date concerning a discussion about Benson Park which took place during the non-public session of the recent BOS meeting. The BOS recognizes that we have a jewel in Benson Park. It is a safe place for children, families and pets. The citizens just voted this spring about a quarter of a million dollars for a restroom facility in the Park. The BOS wants the Committee to step back, see a vision for the park, a 5-year plan, where we can go and what we can do with the Park.

5. Approval of Minutes

Ann Desrosiers made a motion to accept the minutes of May 17, 2018; Paula Hubert seconded the motion. Aye 7, Nay 0, Abstain 1-Roger

6. Old Business

- a. **Dog Park Update:** Richard Empey reported that the rules changes are completed. There are funds in the Benson Park Budget for new signs. In response to Paula Hubert's question as to who takes care of the Dog Park, Richard noted there is one man, Joe, with two people who assist. Richard incorrectly thought that the Dog Park Committee had been reconstituted. The Dog Park management is a separate group of volunteers from Benson Park. The original Dog Park committee which raised funds and got the Dog Park constructed has disbanded. Richard suggested that we should try to reinstate. Paula volunteered to work as a liaison from the Benson Park Committee to the Dog Park Committee.

Roger noted that the original Dog Park Committee approached the BOS to raise funds for the Dog Park, seed it, fence it and take care of it. He suggested that the Dog Park Committee work with the Benson Park Committee to select a parcel of land for the Dog Park, get it built, and then the Dog Park Committee remain independent of the Benson Park Committee. The Dog Park users need to manage the Dog Park on their own. Recommend that the Dog Park Committee solicit volunteers to work on the Dog Park. Someone on the Benson Park Committee can serve as a liaison to the Dog Park Committee, but that person is a liaison only and does not take part in the decisions of the Dog Park Committee.

- b. **Restroom Update:** The Purchase Order has been issued to Brian Mason Electric for the electrical work starting after July 1. The Town Engineer, DPW, & Brian Mason did a site visit. When the actual ditching begins will depend upon the specific workloads of the Highway Department. The Purchase Order has also been issued to SFC Engineering for the engineering services for the design & construction of the restroom facility in the Gorilla House at Benson Park.
- c. **Artists in the Park Day Update:** The attendance at the event was lower than expected. The weather forecast for that day was not good. Dave Morin noted that the artists he spoke to were very happy and they found a number of places. Twelve artists did set-ups and they plan to come back next year.
- d. **Liberty Utilities Volunteer Day Update:** This was held on May 21. Considerable work was done, but the volunteers were not happy that they did not finish. A follow up date of June 14 was selected to finish up and clean up the remains down near Swan Lake.
- e. **Last Cast Fishing Derby:** This was held on June 2. It was a good day with a reasonable turnout. The kids had a good time. Bass Pro Shops helped support the event. Attendance was down from last year, but not sure why. They plan to be back in the park next year. Roger noted that he did not see any advertising. Roger suggested that the Benson Park Committee appoint a member as a publicist to work with those running the events and publicize them. John Leone noted that next year the Friends of Benson Park can promote this event on their Facebook Page.

- f. **Master Plan/Haselton Barn:** The Purchase Order has been issued to Steve Bedard for the structural evaluation of Haselton Barn. Jack Madden noted that he will follow up again with the Hudson Historical Society as to the history of the barn and potential uses for it in the context of the Draft Master Plan.

7. New Business

- a. **Transportation Alternative Program Grant:** Richard Empey indicated that he thinks that we should not pursue this grant as it is a minimum of \$400,000 and would require a 20% match from the town. There is simply not \$400,000 worth of trail work to be done and there are other higher priorities.
- b. **Fiscal Year End Projects:**
 - i. **Asbestos Inspection interior of Train Station:** Jack Madden made a motion that we authorize up to \$1,000 for the inspection of the interior of the Train Station for Asbestos. Some of the flooring and wall coverings installed as part of the conversion of the interior into apartment are of the type which may have asbestos. Ralph seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative, with Selectmen representative Roger Coutu abstaining, as he would be the person responsible for approval of the expenditure after approval by the Town Manager.
 - ii. **Picnic Tables:** We have the legs but have not yet purchased the wood to install.
 - iii. **Installation of additional Dog Pots:** Paula Hubert asked if the DPW could buy and install another Dog Pot. Chairman Empey advised that he will ask Kevin Burns Highway Agent if they could install another one.
- c. **Educational Day:** Paula Hurbet suggested that a State Educational Board (?) wanted to have some type of an educational day in the park this summer for students. Roger suggested to fold this into the Summer Youth Program and to arrange this with the Director. Dave Morin moved for Paula to be the Point of Contact for the State Person and the Town Recreational Department. _____ Seconded and the members voted "aye".
- d. **Power to Gazebo:** Roger Coutu noted that the BOS has a bid for the installation of power to the Gazebo. Roger stressed that this is totally separate from the project for the installation of power for the restroom. It is about 650 feet to the Gazebo. The intent is to install 100 amp service, with four 20 amp plugs at the Gazebo. LED lighting will be installed in the roof of the Gazebo. The cost of the project is anticipated to be \$14,750 plus the cost of trenching from the restroom project to the Gazebo. The additional cost of trenching may bring the Gazebo Electrification project up to about \$20,000. The main shut-off for the Gazebo power will be in the restroom facility.

8. Calendar

- a. **Volunteer Clean-Up Day – June 16:** The cleanup teams will plan to take lunch about 1130am so that they can watch the Cage Concert.
- b. **Alvirne High School Cage Concert – June 16:** The B-Naturals Singing Group and the Alvirne High School Jazz Band will be performing 1130am to about 130pm. The event is free.
- c. **Committee Meeting – June 21:** The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21.

9. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

- a. Richard Empey noted that the Elephant Barn still only has 60 amps of power coming to it, even though the new power lines run from the Office Building to the Elephant Barn have the capacity for 200-amp service. The Office Building is the weak link. Roger Coutu suggests that the Friends of Benson Park go to the Town (as their landlord) to ask for the last connection from the Train Station transformer to connect to 200-amp service at the Office Building and to the 200-amp conduit to the Elephant Barn.
- b. Paula Hubert asked about Ms. McKinny's Solar Sustainability project in the town and might solar panels be installed on the Elephant Barn? Roger noted that the Elephant Barn is a lower priority than Fire and Police Department buildings and the Town is waiting for suggestions from Ms. McKinney.
- c. Dave Morin noted that the Town is looking at the issue of power tools operated by various committees. They are looking at having an on-line training class, followed up by a hands-on training class.

10. Adjournment

- a. Ann Desrosiers made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Paula Hubert seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.