



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Jim Barnes, Chairman

David Morin, Selectmen Liaison



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Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2017

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

1. **Call to Order** at 7:02 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Dick Empey.
3. **Attendance** – Ralph Alio, Jim Barnes, Dick Empey, Jeremy Griffus, Paula Hubert, Ann Desrosiers, John Leone, and Dave Morin
Excused – Joe Undercofler and Ben Nadeau
Absent – Shawn Jasper
4. **Public Input** – None
5. **Approval of May 18, 2017 Minutes** – will be presented at June 15, 2017 Meeting

6. Old Business

Project Updates

***Race Track Restoral**

Kevin Burns, Town Road Agent, will be able to support the Committee for this project. Unfortunately, he is tightly scheduled and will not be available to help us until the end of the summer. Mr. Burns does view the project as a workable plan. Discussions will take place as to how many trees will need to be removed which directly affect the track.

***Office Building**

There is not much to report since the Committee will need to wait until August for the processing of the grant.
Meetings will be scheduled with the Contractor to view the scope of the building renovations.

***Restroom Facility**

The project was presented to the Board of Selectmen for their review and support. While the project is not quite ready for a Warrant Article, recommendations were issued, and another proposal will be presented before the Board of Selectmen at the end of July.

A request was made for Kevin Burns to come back with a plan for staffing the facility. Chairman Barnes' new proposal should include estimates for the renovation, connection to utilities, One Year operational costs, supplies, and utilities. Jim and Dave will be visiting the Nashua Parks and Recreation Dept. to learn about their maintenance costs and equipment/apparatus which deters vandalism at their facilities. Pricing is crucial as the Committee gathers data for what we want and eventually submit in our proposal in July.

There was discussion on the terminology for "Parks and Recreation." Benson Park is a division of the Highway Department.

A request was made by a Board of Selectmen member inquiring about the usage of the buildings and the cost to maintain them. Currently the buildings are the Elephant Barn (with the Friends of Benson Park,) the Gorilla House as a future restroom facility, the Train Station as a possible museum, the Office Building & Kitchen for future staffing, and The Shoe.

A concern was mentioned about the upkeep and maintenance of the decking at the Train Station. The deck will have issues in the future. Who would be responsible?

Updates

The Sewer is almost 99% complete and will be connected to the Elephant Barn. The Water connection will be made very shortly. Landscaping will be done as timely as possible.

7. New Business

***Correspondence**

Dog waste, visitors leaving trash, and abuse to wildlife in the park were some of the issues brought up for discussion. Direct Patrol was mentioned as a means of having police presence in the park and assistance in deterring problems. The Committee would also like to hear from the Animal Control Officer about any problematic issues of which we are not aware.

A suggestion was offered to use the State of NH marking system for trails – by using painted colored arrows for various trails on trees and boulders – thus reducing vandalism to trail markers throughout the park. Other sign markers will be in consideration for the Shoe and wildlife from the park.

A Volunteerism Activity will be taking place in the Fall. Several family groups will be assigned projects beyond our usual scheduled Clean-up days.

8. Other Business

Kevin Burns has provided the Committee a breakdown of the visiting groups to the park.

June 3 will be the annual Fishing Derby sponsored by The Last Cast Fishing Club. (10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.)

The Friends of Benson Park will sponsor their first concert of the season in the caged area at the Elephant Barn on June 9th. The Alvirne High School Jazz Band will be performing - 6-7:30 P.M.

9. Adjournment 7:59 P.M.

John made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Dick; All in favor.

Next Meeting is June 15, 2017.

Clean-up Day June 17, 2017