



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Jim Barnes, Chairman

Roger Coutu, Selectmen- Liaison



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January 26, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present	James Barnes, Richard Empey, Ann Kinneen-Desrosiers, Margaret McQueeney, Jeremy Griffus, Joe Undercofler, Harry Schibanoff, John Leone (late), Ralph Alio, Roger Coutu, Shawn Jasper. Harry was seated in John's place until John arrived.
Special Guest	Mr. Kevin Burns, Town of Hudson, Highway Department.
Absent	None.
Call to Order	Jim Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance	Ann was the leader of the pledge.
Approval of Minutes	Roger moved to accept the minutes of January 5, 2017. Ann seconded. Joe noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes included an incorrect statement on negativity which needs to be removed. • Jim noted the minutes were dated January 4, 2017, rather than January 5, 2017. • A motion was made by Shawn to amend the minutes as noted. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved with all in favor.
Public Input	No public input.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Size Limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim discussed the 50 per group limit and the impact of it on the park. ○ Shawn welcomed Kevin. Shawn then spoke about the vision he had of the Benson Animal Farm turning into Benson Park. He always thought, "build it and they will come." ○ Kevin said last summer (2016) the park was overused and abused. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He is in the park every day. ▪ He moves the trash bins for trash pick up. ▪ He goes into the park, prior to the public, to be certain everything is in order. ▪ There were bus loads of summer groups which did not register to use the park. ▪ The people of Hudson take care of the park then outsiders force Hudson residents to leave the park. ▪ Mothers of small kids call and complain. ▪ Groups wear out the park.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They make excessive trash, water bottles are thrown around and then his department or volunteers clean. ▪ The park needs to be cleaned every day. ▪ These visitors just leave a mess and go. ▪ Some groups are ok. ▪ The fact the park is free has spread. ▪ Park cannot sustain this amount of people. ▪ In August the park looked old. ▪ Something needs to be done to keep it under control. ▪ He receives calls regarding weddings. One JP stated he was ruining her business because he would not allow a reservation to be made. ▪ The park was not meant to be a wedding facility. ▪ Unregistered groups come to the park, but none have been turned away. ▪ Last fall there was a group from a Junior High School in Nashua. They took over the play area. A call was placed to the superintendent of Nashua Public Schools; he did not know the group was at the park. The question of why Benson Park and not Greeley Park was asked; the superintendent could not answer it. ▪ There was a request to film a horror movie in the park; it was denied. ▪ The park is not being managed on a day to day basis. ▪ The town needs to get a handle on it. ▪ The investment of the people of Hudson should be protected. ▪ The warrant article should be supported. ▪ A ban prohibiting others, Massachusetts, would take care of a lot of problems. ▪ The entry at the gate should be regulated. ▪ It's important to know who is registering and not registering. The rules need to be known by possible visitors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harry asked Kevin his opinion of group usage fees, and Harry also mentioned the park only offers portable toilets. Kevin said fees could control crowds. Harry stated with fees come labor costs. A subcommittee has worked on fee structures for the park. A parking fee would be a better way to go. ○ Kevin sees the main problem is there is no fee to enter the park. ○ The town could impose a capacity limit of 75 people. ○ Margaret asked if there was an age limit to using the
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	<p>playground equipment. It is posted. She also mentioned Hudson third graders go on a field trip to the park to study the history of Hudson. Buses hold more than 50 children. Kevin said he would make an exception for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dick stated Derry places limits on their splash pad. ○ Obtaining an insurance certificate by groups was mentioned. ○ Public events will be allowed; there will be no limit. ○ There was a motion to accept the plan as is, to limit the size of groups to 50. Two were not in favor. ○ Roger reminded the board, Mr. Burns has the authority over the park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He has done an outstanding job. ▪ He has simply put the capacity limit to 50 to take control of the park. ▪ Kevin had not had to hire additional staff. ○ The park could be open unrestricted to all residents of New Hampshire, any number at a any time. ○ Things banded by the state won't be allowed. ○ All New Hampshire residents must pay the same fee; all others can be charged a different fee. ○ The motion to allow only 50 per group, passed five in favor; two opposed. ○ Shawn stated we should follow the policy the Road Agent, Kevin Burns, put into place. Let the Road Agent manage it. No official should sanction the policy because it is against the deed to do so and legal action could be taken. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vandalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were two episodes of vandalism in the park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benches were moved onto the ice for ice skating. ▪ Then in another instance, benches were turned over and placed at the edge of the water. ▪ Dick suggested nailing down the benches. ▪ Another option is not to allow ice skating. ▪ These acts were deliberately done. The benches were placed into the water outlet and on the water edge. ▪ The benches could be pickup for the winter, but it was decided to leave them in place. ▪ John stated he thought someone may have placed a posting of the second event on SnapChat. The Hudson Police received a tip. This is likely an isolated incident. ▪ Dick suggested riding it out. It would be a big task moving the benches. ▪ If this happens again, the Hudson Police need to be notified and photos should be
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	<p>taken, and a report filed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shawn said moving benches on the ice is not vandalism. If there is no damage, it isn't vandalism.
<p>Old Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Toddler equipment has a one year warranty ○ Large structure has a fifteen-year warranty. ○ Repairs will cost \$765.71. Funding for this could come from the donation account which has \$800 in it. Shawn does not want to use this money for this reason. He stated money should be budgeted for repairs; this should come out of an operational account. A motion was made by Shawn and seconded by John to have this repair cost come out of the Rec. Departments budget. This motion passed with all in favor. Jim will work with Dave Yates and Kevin Burns on this. • Office Building Repair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve Bedar's quote was for \$13,000. Steve Malizia, Town Administrator, will assist Jim with the preparation of the RFP for the work on the building. Peter Michaud informed us we are not limited to the contractors on the historical list. The Department of Historical Resources needs to approve of our decision before work begins. ○ Jeremy asked if we have thought about removing the building from the historic register. The question was presented to DOT; an attorney stated, based on the deed, it needs to remain on the register. It was placed on the register in 2002. ○ There are no funds in fiscal 2018 to cover the \$13,000 repair. The RFP needs to be done before July. Peter Michaud suggested applying for a Moose Plate Grant. A letter of intent should be sent by March to the State of NH. The state makes decisions in the middle of the summer. Moose Plate Grants do not require matching funding. Dick suggested we still work on the RFP just in case we do not receive the grant. Shawn said construction on the building won't start until September. Ralph asked about the funds. They will be encumbered. If the State awards us with the grant, the funds will go back to the town. • Restrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back of the Gorilla House ▪ Stand alone structure – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prebuilt • Build from scratch ▪ Dick presented a handout drawn up by an architect for placing the restrooms in the back of the Gorilla House. If we go with this

	<p>plan, we will have the architect \$700. The plan assumes we will have transformers to get electricity to the Gorilla House. It needs to be constructed so there will be a heat source. Need to have block walls for hosing down. Hot water will be required for this. A center drain is a requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jim presented plans on prebuilt restrooms. There may be an issue with the tractor trailer getting them into the park because of the low clearance issue of the trailer. The town's engineer could provide his opinion on this. ▪ Dick thinks the Gorilla House cost would be in the \$45,000 range. Decisions need to be made on what types of faucets, etc. will meet our needs. ▪ The plan Dick set forth has a roll up door. Shaw thinks it will be costly having it open if we decide to heat the restroom. ▪ Long Range Plan for Gorilla House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim stated it is unknown how far the lines for the utilities will go and how many extensions need to be made. • Dick said he doesn't know the costs of these extensions. • Jim thinks it will be worthwhile to speak with Gary Thomas regarding the Gorilla House. • There is no historic easement problem with placing the restrooms in the Gorilla House. An archeologist will be needed, though, if land is disturbed. Staying away from the historic district is advantageous. • Next action would be to contact a general contractor to obtain a general idea of the expense.
Other Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation Commission offered solar powered lights for the parking lot. There is a light at the top of the hill. It was decided because we do not have parking lot lights now, we are not in need of solar power. • Dick asked people to review the restroom plans for the Gorilla House and to provide him with suggestions.
Adjournments	<p>Shawn motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Ann, all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.</p>
Action Items – Assignments	<p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret – minutes; correct minutes from January 5, 2017. • Jim - contact Steve M. regarding RFP. • All – review plans for restrooms.

