



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Jim Barnes, Chairman

Roger Coutu, Selectmen Liaison



12 School Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6000 • Fax: 603-598-648

Meeting Minutes July 7, 2016

Present	James Barnes, Shawn Jasper, Richard Empey, Ann Kinneen-Desrosiers, Margaret McQueeney, John Leone, Roger Coutu, Jeremy Griffus, Joe Undercofler
Absent	Ralph Alio, Harry Schibanoff,
Public Guests	None
Call to Order	Jim Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance	The Pledge was led by Ann.
Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no public input.
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John motioned to approve the minutes of June, 2016; Ann seconded it. All approved.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim stated there are two public input hearings. ○ John thanked Roger for making the amendments to the ordinance. ○ Roger stated there is no dissent among the BOS regarding the passing of the ordinance. Parking permits can be made in house. ○ Vote on the ordinance will take place this coming Tuesday at the BOS's meeting. ○ A procedure for assigning permits will need to be documented. ○ There was a question on how to get the placards printer. John and Jim will talk with Ken Burns about this. The Committee would like hanging signs. ○ Roger stated Staples has the lowest printing price around.
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim stated there are several items which should be looked at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gorilla House – work on this could be done on Volunteer Day – needs to be painted. ▪ Jeremy – doesn't remember painting being on the project list. Jim replied it is a short-term project. ▪ John stated his family has been brushing paint off the cage. It needs to be brushed and scraped prior to painting. He also questioned what will be done to the back of the Gorilla House. A comprehensive plan is needed. ▪ Jim stated the Gorilla House is a top priority and the Committee needs to create a plan for it. ▪ Another item Jim discussed was the bathrooms. Planning is required; a location needs to be determined. ▪ Dick suggested putting the two projects together

	<p>(the Gorilla House and the bathrooms). There is room behind the Gorilla Cage which is large enough for both a men's and women's bathroom. Doors could be cut for the entrance way. He does not think a lot of work would need to be done to convert this space into the bathrooms. The location is convenient to sewage and where the water will be brought in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jim noted this will add to expenses. ▪ Ann asked what is being housed there. John replied he did not know. Joe stated three mowers and maintenance tools. It is very dark; no electricity is in the building. ▪ John noted that we should not invest a lot of time working on the back of the building if it will eventually be repurposed into restrooms. ▪ Dick stated using the back of the Gorilla House is a good candidate for the restrooms; expense wise the Town won't have to build a new building; it is a solid building. The Gorilla House is close to where the utilities will be located, and this area is close to the main attractions of the park. ▪ Jeremy would like to consider using the backroom of the Gorilla House for restrooms. There could be four stalls for women and two for men. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving along Jim discussed the Office Building Project – engineering advice is required before anything is done on this. Jim will talk with Steve M. or Elvis to see who might be able to give us some free advice. There is a need to get started on this. ○ Another item Jim brought up was the signage for the upper parking lot. He suggested placing a sign on the electric gate. John questioned if it was possible to place a sign up near the upper parking lot closer to the road. ○ Dick mention since the parking lot has been paved, fewer people are interested in parking there. It doesn't seem to be such a problem now. ○ Roger doesn't think spending money on a sign is a good idea. Doesn't like the idea of placing a sign on the fence. If one is place it should be placed on Kimball Hill Road. Jim stated we should look at how much need there still is for a sign directing people to the lower main parking area. ○ John stated the signs Jeremy made need to be repainted. Jim asked Jeremy if he could let the Committee know what is required for paint. Jeremy will get back to the Committee on this. ○ Volunteer cleanup is on Saturday. ○ The next meeting will be the third Thursday of the month of July. ○ Roger will be meeting with the Chairman of the BOS to setup a meeting for the workshop with the Committee to
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	<p>discuss the proposed projects for the park. Selected priorities must have a master plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roger stated that items such as maintenance, man power for the restroom facilities need to be determined, who will lock and unlock the facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He stated he thought the Office Building was a priority; it could be made into living quarters for a permanent caretaker. ▪ This caretaker would live rent free. ▪ A warrant article will need to be presented to the town voters if this is the route the Committee suggests. ▪ The Committee's thoughts need to be shared with the BOS. ▪ The cost of the projects need to be determined and which project should come first. ▪ The Town Engineer may be able to work on the projects and provide some estimates and what steps need to be taken to accomplish the Committee's/Town's goals. ○ Dick advised against using the Office Building for the caretaker's living quarters for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The building needs too much work. ▪ Needs to be brought up to code. ▪ The railroad station was a residence at one time; it is structurally solid and larger than the Office Building. In addition, it would be a more comfortable area in which to live. ○ John said the Committee should bring this up at the BOS workshop. ○ Roger again stated a master plan is needed. BOS need to see what the vision is for the Park. The Committee need to learn how to interact with town employees. ○ Roger also stated the Office Building needs to be made sound. ○ Jeremy said the Committee is one or two meetings away from deciding on priorities. He asked Roger if the meeting could be scheduled sometime during the month of September. ● Jim said the Committee will meet in two weeks to discuss the permits for parking and the projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was decided that valid driver licenses will be required; a database will be maintained which will keep track of those with permits. There will only be one permit per person. ○ Dick stated he would like to know how a person qualifies to obtain a permit. Not all Adopt-A-Spot volunteers actually volunteer on a regular basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is important that the number of permits is limited. ▪ Prior to giving the permits out, a decision needs to be made based on who is asking and what is their need. ○ Ralph will tell the Adopt-A-Spot volunteers they are no
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ longer allowed to drive into the park. ○ The permits should hang from the vehicle's mirror.
Adjournments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roger motioned to close the meeting, seconded by John, all agreed. ● The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.
Action Items – Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeremy – paint – let the Committee know what kind is needed for the signs. ○ Roger – setup workshop with the BOS for some time in September. ○ John and Jim – contact Kevin Burns regarding signage for upper parking lot and printing of placards for permitted parking. ○ Margaret – minutes.