



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Jim Barnes, Chairman

Patricia Nichols, Selectmen Liaison



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Town of Hudson Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes November 5, 2015

- Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair J. Barnes at 7:05 PM, November 5, 2015 in the Buxton Community Development Room, Town Hall. New Alternate Member Richard Ingram led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Welcome to R. Ingram by Chair J. Barnes and thank you for your interest in serving on the committee.

Acknowledgement of the passing of Jerry Desrosiers: Chair J. Barnes acknowledged Jerry's passing, and spoke about how he was a good friend to all, and a great advocate for Benson Park, past and present. He will be missed by all who knew him.
- Attendance: All members are present--Chair J. Barnes, Selectman Liaison P. Nichols, R. Alio, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, J. Griffus, R. Ingram, S. Jasper, J. Leone, M. McQueeney, H. Schibanoff.
- Public Input: None
- Approval of Minutes for October 1, 2015: Motion by J. Leone to approve the minutes, seconded by D. Empey. Motion passed.
- Old Business:

Utilities Project: Chair J. Barnes states that the Utility Project is underway. Engineers have been onsite doing surveys and studies. No proposal prepared by the firms available to present to the committee at tonight's meeting. Chair J. Barnes will work with them to have a proposal to review in two weeks time. J. Leone raised the issue of the deadline for submitting a warrant article. S. Jasper reviewed two ways that a warrant article can be submitted, and indicated the best timeframe for submission would be in December.
- New Business:

Wildlife Survey: Reviewed by J. Griffus. New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (NHCE)/Matt Tart, Wildlife Expert, met with J. Griffus, D. Empey, and R. Alio. NHCE impressed with the topography/habitat and possibility of New England Cottontail rabbits being onsite. Recommendation to proceed with the collection and identification/DNA testing of fresh rabbit pellets. We are under no further obligation at this time. Funding for

the survey is available. Once the survey is completed, NHCE can make recommendations to the committee, and the committee can then decide what steps/actions to take based on those recommendations. D. Empey thinks that we should go forward with the survey and then decide what to do based on their recommendations.

Liberty Utilities Volunteer Days: H. Schibanoff states that 8 volunteers were here and 10 are coming back on November 17 for a follow-up day of work. They are doing a good job, and D. Empey and others were pleased with their efforts. D. Empey addressed Richard's question about trail clearing and the rationale for continued leaf removal from the trails.

November Cleanup Day: Will be held on Saturday, November 14. Information about the day will be distributed, and other usual planning will take place.

Committee Clerk Election: A. Desrosiers wishes to step down as Committee Clerk. J. Leone nominated J. Griffus and S. Jasper seconded the nomination. J. Griffus was elected 8-1 to serve as Committee Clerk, and will receive assistance with notes and committee minutes from Richard Ingram. Next scheduled elections will be in April 2016.

7. Other Business:

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Benson Park Committee will be on November 19, 2015. Whether the committee meets on December 3, 2015 will be determined at the November 19 meeting.

Benson Park Committee/Friends of Benson Park Relationship: R. Ingram asked for an explanation about the relationship between the committee and the Friends, and the explanation was provided by Chair J. Barnes and J. Leone. The committee and the Friends have established a good working relationship with each other for the betterment of the park and to work on specific projects.

Spaghetti Dinner: P. Nichols and others in attendance praised the event and its success for all who attended.

Letter to the Editor/Signage Issue: H. Schibanoff asked about the signs referenced in the letter to the editor. D. Empey stated that the DOT placed numerous signs around the wetlands area, and someone removed the signs and placed them in the water control area. The signs have been removed and placed in storage and DOT has been notified. DOT is not finished with the

HCTV: H. Schibanoff raised the issue of whether the committee should meet at the park in the HCTV facilities, which are fully equipped for meetings.

Railroad Station: D. Empey states that progress is underway, though the project is behind schedule for a variety of reasons. Paving will be done soon. Painting is dependent on the weather. Seeding is questionable given the time of year. There is much work involved in the project, including doors and windows and other restoration work on freight doors, platforms, etc. Some concerns about the choice of colors were expressed, but will move forward to avoid further delays.

Housing Development/Rerouting Portion of Trail: J. Griffus expressed concerns about the proximity of the housing development to the park and whether the trail should be rerouted. D. Empey states that the plan is to take a wait-and-see approach to see what will

be proposed and done by the developers. There will be several units from 15-30 feet from the stone wall, and close proximity to the trail. So far, there is no specific developer's plan to review, so wait and see how the project evolves and then assess the impact on the park and decide what action might need to be taken next season.

8. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by S. Jasper, seconded by J. Leone, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.