



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Jim Barnes, Chairman

Patricia Nichols, Selectman Liaison



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Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 1, 2015

1. Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair J. Barnes at 7:04 PM, October 1, 2015 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall. H. Schibanoff led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Attendance:

Chair J. Barnes, Selectman Liaison P. Nichols, R. Alio, D. Empey, J. Griffus (substitute clerk) J. Leone, H. Schibanoff, M. McQueeney, S. Jasper

Excused: A. Desrosiers

Abscent: S. Kancharla

3. Public Input:

Gordon Osgood - attended workshop on New England Cottontail Rabbits. Not federally endangered animal but they are endangered in NH. Gordon pointed out Hudson is in the middle of population area. Presenter wasn't aware of Benson Park. Gordon suggests being cautious about removing shrubs.

D. Empey aware of heavy population of rabbits. Suggests someone take on the project of identifying the population of rabbits that are currently on site.

4. Old Business:

Utilities Project -

Dan Floores with SFC Engineering - proposal for routing suggested utilities (water, sewer, electric) to improvements in the park. Dan reviewed existing lines and where to tap into to bring into park. Identified existing sewer line and easement. Priority to connect to the elephant barn. Dan suggests bring utilities around the historic easement to avoid additional permits and delays. All utilities to be trenched under ground.

R. Alio raises question of no plan to run utilities to office building. Why? Due to the historic easement, that project isn't feasible at this time. S. Jasper did suggest the utilities will support that project in the future.

Dan, an additional survey will be conducted (focussing on Benson Blvd.)

P. Nichols raises question of possibly effecting the playground area. The area won't be effected or impacted in any way.

Chair Barnes raises question of timeline. Dan, responds with a start to finish time of approx. 8 weeks.

S. Jasper, motion to approve design proposal as presented for the purpose of forwarding to the BOS. J. Leone Seconded the motion.

Motion of the floor: Discussion, D. Empey raises question of how much this project will cost? Dan can't give an estimate at this time.

J. Leone would still like to see the office utility project in this plan. S. Jasper, suggests not to move forward in that way at this phase.

Vote to approve: Unanimous vote in favor

George Fredette with SFC bring utilities into the train station will impact the master plan. Utilities will be capped outside the station.

Budget Review -

Chair Barnes made adjustments to budget spreadsheet to reflect changes and discussion choices made at last meeting.

H. Schibanoff account 5063 clarification on dollar amount spent. Funds were pulled from various accounts. Fund accountability appeared to be drawn incorrectly from finance dept or rec. dept. Difficult to track.

D. Empey suggests adding line item account to PO. This ensures no confusion to which account to withdraw.

D. Empey asks where extra funds are to be withdrawn from for the increase in ports-toilets.

S. Jasper, most electricity is being used by Friends of Benson's. Should they start paying for electricity.

J. Leone, once the barn is hooked up with utilities, the organization will set up a meter to pay for what is used in the barn.

D. Empey, suggests taking increase from ports-toilets and subtract from park operating maintenance budget in order to have no increase for this budget.

H. Schibanoff asks approximately how many Highway Dept. hours were used in the park. Committee doesn't have number of hours yet. Due to this being a new resource offered to the Benson Park Committee, suggested to leave current number of Highway Dept. hours as is.

M. McQueeney question about estimate from engineers / Discovery and concept plan claims to be completed. Where does the money come from? When do they get paid?

S. Jasper Motion to move forward budget of \$47,122.00 J. Leone second.
7 votes in favor of motion / 1 vote opposed

Next meeting November 5, 2015.

Comments:

H. Schibanoff reminds group that one year ago today was TD Bank Tree day.
Trees doing well.

Clean up day - Oct. 10th List of project with be drawn up and coordinating that day.

J. Leone reminder of spaghetti supper fund raiser for Friends of Benson Park.
Tickets still available

Motion to adjourn by S. Jasper Second by J. Leone (unanimous)