



# 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 July 16, 2015

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair J. Barnes at 7:00 P.M., July 16, 2015 in the Board of Selectmen Room, Town Hall. R. Alio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### 2. Attendance:

R. Alio, Chair J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, J. Griffus, S. Jasper, Alternate S. Kancharla, J. Leone, Selectman Liaison P. Nichols, and M. McQueeney

Excused: 0

Absent: 0

#### 3. Public Input - None

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of June 4, 2015

**R. Alio made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 4, 2015.**

**D. Empey second the motion**

**9 (Nine) Ayes**

Minutes of June 18, 2015

**J. Leone made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 18, 2015.**

**R. Alio second the motion**

**9 (Nine) Ayes**

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Additional portable toilets

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July approaching Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Rick Maddox, made an executive decision and informed his fellow Selectmen that he had ordered 5 portable toilet units (4 regular and 1 handicap accessible) in preparation for the holiday weekend at Benson Park. The 5 units will remain at the park for a month to determine if the extra units might remedy the complaints

regarding unsanitary conditions. The 5 units will be cleaned on Tuesdays and Fridays with a monthly fee of \$795.00. The Police Department will also monitor the units during their drive-throughs.

## **B. Utilities Project**

The committee reviewed the estimated costs for the utilities to be installed in the park. Several questions arose such as estimates for a “complete package” which would also include gas, the boundaries for the Historic District, implementation of the utilities as a town project versus hiring a contractor, firming up exactly what utilities should be installed, and the possibility of installing certain utilities and “stubbing” them for completion at a future date. Chair Jim Barnes will contact the Town Engineer to relay the committee’s questions and concerns so that a park meeting may be arranged to review the scope of the project and eventually to schedule a formal presentation at a Benson Park Committee meeting. A request was made for the 2013 itemized list of materials which are housed at the Town Barn.

## **C. Vice Chair Election**

**J. Leone made a motion to nominate S. Jasper as Vice Chair.**

**A. Desrosiers second the motion.**

**All in favor – Motion Carries.**

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Mallory Gray Amphitheater**

Committeeman J. Griffus, representing the Mals’ Pals organization, relinquished his voting opportunity to Alternate S. Kancharla as he presented his proposal for the Mallory Gray Amphitheater Plaques Design and Placement. He was seeking approval to move forward with the installation of the name banner and the embedded plaque at the amphitheater. Mal’s Pals will cover the expenses for the plaques and installation. Questions arose about the durability of the plaques due to the natural elements, but J. Griffus stated that he had faith and trust in his consultations with the representative from Granite State Foundry. He also provided the reasons for the placement of the name banner so that audiences attending functions in the large grassy area would be able to view the banner. The embedded plaque displaying Mallory’s favorite book would be sealed to protect the etching. J. Griffus will return to the committee for a future proposal regarding landscaping around the amphitheater which will be elegant and subtle.

### **B. Increasing Volunteer Participation in Monthly Projects**

Several committee members surmised that some of our previous volunteers may have lost interest in contributing services since the early major overhaul tasks of 2009-2010 have been completed, and we are now at the stage of basically maintaining. M. McQueeney’s thought was that some of the prospective volunteers might not grasp how they could contribute. A. Desrosiers asked if Alvirne High School students were still required to acquire community service hours and who might be the person to contact at the high school. She also

mentioned that several businesses in the past had sent their staff to volunteer at the park and suggested that we reach out to businesses in our community and surrounding areas.

## **7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

**M. McQueeney** asked if the Main Entrance would be considered the parking lot adjacent to the eventually relocated Train Station. Many newcomers to the park often pull into the Handicap Lot inquiring about parking. It was decided that a sign indicating the direction to the Main Parking area should be installed in the Handicap Lot.

**Selectman Liaison P. Nichols** said that she was able to take a short walk into the park and appreciated the newly installed bench on the path to the Gorilla House. (“Sit and Rest your Bones.”) She also had much praise for the newly installed fence near the Gorilla House and the landscaped area at the amphitheater.

**D. Empey** reported that the Haselton Barn has been secured for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, and mowing has been done in that area. The sign at the Shoe to discourage climbing on the fragile, historical structure is in place, and more picnic tables have been anchored.

**S. Jasper** received a text from Selectman R. Coutu to contact Planet Earth for volunteers on Clean-up Days.

**J. Griffus** had visited the park on Tuesday with a summer camp and commented that the portable toilets were in fine condition. It was a successful day for all.

**Chair J. Barnes** offered his thanks to all who continue to make our park looking great.

**J. Leone** displayed the sign to be attached to the water pump.

**Clean-up August 8, 2015 (rescheduled for Aug. 15, 2015)**

### **Next Meeting**

August 20, 2015

### **Adjournment 8:18PM**

**S. Jasper made a Motion to Adjourn**

**Selectman Liaison P. Nichols Second the Motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**