



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Jim Barnes, Chairman

Patricia Nichols, Selectmen Liaison



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

Town of Hudson Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes June 18, 2015

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair J. Barnes at 7:02 P.M., June 18, 2015 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall.

R. Alio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Attendance:

R. Alio, Chair J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, S. Kancharls, J. Leone, Selectman Liaison P. Nichols, and J. Griffus

Excused: S. Jasper

Absent:

Resigned: C. Cummings

3. Public Input - None

4. Old Business

A. Fence Project at Gorilla House

To deter public traffic from walking directly in front of the Gorilla House and to redevelop the lawn in that area -

D. Empey made a motion for the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to approve the expenditure of \$1,490 for the installation of a fence around the perimeter of the Gorilla House.

Selectman Liaison P. Nichols Second the Motion

8 (Eight) Ayes

Motion passes Unanimously

B. Additional Portable Toilets

After much discussion and lack of information regarding the rental and cleaning services fees for the portable toilets, the committee passed on the decision to acquire additional units or increase cleaning services until actual costs could be provided. J. Griffus also added future thoughts for a 3 sided stockade fence to make the area more aesthetic to its surroundings.

C. Utilities Project

One of the prime concerns was to determine what the committee had actually purchased two years ago as we prepared for the future installation of utilities for the park. The committee needs to take inventory of the crushed stone, sand, RAP, and piping which had been purchased in June of 2013.

Other questions and concerns brought to the forefront were our lack of knowledge and expertise about what kinds of services such as electricity, water, sewerage, gas, etc. should be brought into the park, how far apart trenches should be separated, and how can we afford to extend services throughout the park,

The consensus was to contact the Town Engineer and Road Agent to discuss the cost of such utilities and how we might fund the project. With the authorization from the Board of Selectmen – J. Barnes will contact the town staff to arrive at a proposal to determine a feasible plan to install utilities. A future meeting in the park with the Town Engineer and Road Agent will be scheduled to address the committee's concerns.

5. New Business

A. Signs

i. Gorilla House

The Friends of Benson Park have become recent recipients of the original signs for the Gorilla House and the Elephant Barn which had been purchased at the 1987 auction for New England Playworld/Benson's Wild Animal Farm. The FOBP will be keeping the Elephant Barn sign and offered the Gorilla House sign to the Benson Park Committee.

R. Alio made a motion for the Benson Park Committee to accept the former Gorilla House sign from the FOBP.

P. Nichols Second the Motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

ii. Non-potable Water

A request was presented to issue signage on the water pump at Serenity Garden and the rain barrel near the Elephant Barn. The water is designated for watering plants and should not be consumed by the public.

R. Alio made a motion to spend \$25 for signage on water vessels (which should not be intended for human consumption.)

P. Nichols Second the Motion.

The Motion passes unanimously.

B. Office Project

One of the main projects which needs to be addressed is shoring up the Office Building with support beams. The project has been identified as a safety issue. Previously the DOT and a preservation group have suggested recommendations to remedy the problem. Our committee would like to revisit a new list of guidelines from the state so that we may be able to obtain quotes for the restoration project.

5. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

The Vice Chair position for the committee remains unfilled and has been deferred until a later date.

D. Empey reported that 4-5 picnic tables have been repaired and anchored. The path by the umbrella Beech tree has been paved, and the newly seeded grassy area at the Mallory Gray Amphitheater has been disregarded as visitors have walked into the roped-off area.

R. Alio made a request to obtain monies to purchase signs for the Adopt-a-Spots.

J. Leone made a motion authorize \$200 to be used to purchase signs for the Adopt-a-Spot areas.

J. Griffus Second the Motion.

The Motion passes unanimously.

J. Leone expressed his thanks to everyone involved with the Friends' of Benson Park successful 5th year anniversary celebration. He also presented ideas to have a booth at Old Home Days to recruit volunteers and to approach high school students ----- He also mentioned that a family with a 12 ft. tree would like to relocate and transplant it at the park

D. Kancharla confirmed that Clean-up Days would remain as the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Chair J. Barnes remarked that there is a lot of energy for park projects, but not too many people.

Clean-up Day will be July 11, 2015

Next Meeting

July 16, 2015

Adjournment 8:29PM

J. Leone made a Motion to Adjourn

P. Nichols Second the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries