



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
June 4, 2015

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair J. Barnes at 7:01.P.M, June 4, 2015 in the Buxton Community Development Room, Town Hall.

J. Griffus led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Attendance:

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

Excused: J. Leone

Absent: C. Cummings and S. Kancharla

3. Public Input - None

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 16, 2015

P. Nichols made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 16, 2015.

R. Alio second the motion

Six (6) Ayes

One (1) Abstention

Minutes of May 7, 2015

R. Alio made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 7, 2015.

P. Nichols second the motion

Six (6) Ayes

One (1) Abstention

5. Old Business

A. Recap – 5th Anniversary Celebration

Committee members concurred that the event was a great success and offered congratulations to all for providing a fun day to families and children.

B. Project Review

1. Clean area behind race track (Volunteers)
2. Place picnic table on foundation at Elephant Barn (Trails Sub-committee)
3. Move Dave Cunningham's arborvitaes (Volunteers)
4. Replace dead spruces (Highway Dept.)
5. Repair picnic table at A Frame; clean trough by Old Shoe (Building Sub-committee)
6. Pave path by Umbrella Beech (Highway Dept.)
7. Secure picnic tables (Trails Sub-comm/Volunteers)
8. Clean brush & rocks in lower North Field and put rock on wall; improve rocks and paving at Swan Lake outlet (Highway Dept./Trails Sub-comm.)
9. Remove dead spruces (Highway Dept.)
10. Cement sign posts – to repair those pulled out (Trails Sub-comm.)
11. Prune, clean trees (Highway Dept./Trails Sub-comm.)
12. Fence by Gorilla House (to be contracted out)
13. Remove stumps in picnic area (Completed)
14. Put bases under 4-5 benches where missing (Friends of Benson Park)
15. Drainage in front of office building (Highway Dept.)

Four hundred (400) hours have been budgeted toward the Highway Department for labor in the park. D. Empey will contact the Highway Dept. regarding park projects which Kevin Burns may be able to schedule work crews as time makes itself available.

C. Spending recommendations for remainder of FY 2015

After expenses for the porta-potties, electricity, and the newly installed fence in front of the Gorilla House have been covered, there should be approximately \$9000 remaining in the Park Operations Budget. A recommendation was suggested to have these funds lapse and go towards the Train Station Project.

6. New Business

A. Last Cast Fishing Derby – Saturday, June 6

Jamie Doherty will be stocking Swan Lake with brook trout on Friday evening.

B. Recommendations for additional portable toilets

Complaints have arrived regarding the fairly messy and overflowing conditions at the Porta-potties. School groups have been visiting the park recently, and the customary cleaning services on Tuesdays and Fridays at the 2 Porta-potties at the A Frame area and the 1 Porta-potty near the Elephant Barn have not been accommodating to visitors. Selectman Liaison P. Nichols has accepted the task of researching the most cost effective solution of remedying the situation. Should we add 2 more Porta-potties and remain on the 2 day cleaning service or should we continue using the original 3 porta-potties and increase the cleaning services to 3 days – possibly Sundays, Tuesday/Wednesdays, and Fridays. A decision will be forth coming.

C. New Bench Location

Deferred until next meeting

D. Signage at Old Shoe

While signs have been previously in place at the red Old Shoe to discourage and deter visitors from climbing atop the fragile, historical structure, it has become apparent that a more substantial sign needs to be in place to curb guests from climbing over the deck railing and shoelaces to mount the delicate fiberglass structure. D. Empey has agreed to meet with K. Burns to determine the best way to place signage and preserve the Old Shoe.

E. Petting Zoos in the Park

It has been brought to the committee's attention that the Recreation Department has sanctioned usage of the park for some guests to bring grazing animals. Committee members deemed these grazing animals to be a liability issue and requested that the Recreation Department cease in allowing such permits.

F. Dog Park Complaint

Recently a letter had been sent to the editor of the HL News pertaining to a dog being attacked by other dogs at the Hudson Dog Park. The Dog Park Subcommittee has rules and regulations posted at the fenced-in enclosure. Dog owners are directed to contact the Animal Officer if such incidents have taken place. A suggestion was also made to get the license number of the owner of a belligerent dog.

G. FY2016 Projects – Office/A Frame

S. Jasper reminded the committee that it the town's responsibility (via the deed) to maintain the repairs on the Office building which needs work on the sill drainage. The A-Frame structure is not on the required list and only needs repair on the shingles.

H. Committee Membership Update

Keith Bowen's resignation has been accepted by the Board of Selectmen. Emails have been sent out to earlier candidates to re-apply for positions on the Benson Park Committee regarding.

Our committee was also informed that the Chair of the Benson Park Committee can **recommend** to the Board of Selectmen for the removal of a committee member who has had numerous unexcused absences.

I. Election of Committee Vice Chair

D. Empey has reconsidered his Vice Chair position. At this point in time – no one has come forward to fulfill the role.

J. Clean-up Day – Saturday, June 13, 2015

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

S. Jasper offered his apologies for his absences over the past many months. Due to his Speaker of the House calendar responsibilities he suggested that he would be willing to step down from his position on the Benson Park Committee. His suggestion was quickly dismissed. He did make a recommendation for this committee to reach out to the Town Administrator, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Road Agent, and Town Engineer to compile numbers/costs for utilities to be brought into the park. What expenses would be incurred? Would we need to petition for a Warrant Article?

Next Meeting

June 18, 2015

Adjournment 8:50PM

J. Barnes made a Motion to Adjourn

R. Alio Second the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries