



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Patricia Nichols, Selectmen Liaison



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Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2015

### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:00 P.M., April 16, 2015 in the Board of Selectmen Room, Town Hall. D. Empey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### 2. Attendance:

J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, J. Leone, and Selectman Liaison P. Nichols

Excused: R. Alio, S. Kancharla, and C. Cummings

Absent: S. Jasper, and K. Bowen

### 3. Public Input - None

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 5, 2015

**J. Barnes made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 5, 2015.**

**J. Leone second the motion**

**Five (5) Ayes                      (1) Abstention**

### 5. Old Business

#### A. Fifth Year Anniversary Update

The plans for the celebration are coming together with the help of generous sponsors for the raffles, free pop corn and water, face painting, and several musical groups. Presently the Friends of Benson Park are looking for additional amateur musicians. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. with a rain date on Sunday. Formal advertising will be forthcoming. The Recreation Department will be contacted to relocate the Porta-Potty adjacent to the Elephant Barn.

#### B. BOS Presentation

A summary of future concerns regarding the park was presented to the Board of Selectmen. The Benson Park Committee's prime concern has been the relocation of the Train Station. Also mentioned was the Office Building which is experiencing structural disrepair and must be abide by guidelines established for historical buildings. The costs would be astronomical in complying to the desired codes. Volunteerism at the park has declined over the last several years, and there

will be a definite need in the future for paid personnel to maintain and preserve the property. The park has become too big and popular for a committee of volunteers to maintain. Besides monthly clean-ups – maintenance, such as painting is needed at the Gorilla House and the green entry signs to the park.

### **C. Little Free Library**

The library in the park will be returning this year. The consensus is that it was well received last year.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. New Development Adjacent to Park**

A new development is in the planning stages about 900 feet along the lot line to the park's trails. Cobblestone Village will be accessible via Belknap Road. The committee's concern is that a natural buffer should be established since one of the units will be approximately 15 feet from the park property. The concern discussed on this topic was the unfavorable interaction of hikers on the trails walking within several feet of the new residents' back yards. Selectman Liaison P. Nichols will mention our concern to the Board of Selectmen. Our committee would like to be informed of any future developments abutting the park so that we may work with a developer in providing a natural buffer for hiking enthusiasts on the trails and the new neighbors living in close proximity to the park's property line.

### **B. Request by Friends of Benson Park to Remove Wall**

The friends of Benson Park have requested the removal of the wall adjacent to the Elephant Barn so that they may be able to make the area accessible as a picnic area for those guests using strollers or wheelchairs.

**D. Empey made a motion to allow the Friends of Benson Park to remove a section of the wall near the Elephant Barn.**

**J. Barnes Second the Motion.**

**All in favor – the Motion Carried.**

### **C. Shoe Vandalism**

Last Wednesday the Hudson Police Department received a report that the Old Shoe had been broken into and did not notify the committee about the vandalism. The vandalism was discovered by R. Alio on the following Saturday.

Vandals had broken the plexiglass on the door to enter the premises and damaged the doll display which had been a Girl Scout project. While the site is under surveillance with Hudson Police Department, photos will probably not be available to view since the camera's batteries had expired during the winter. The BOS Liaison to HPD will be notified and keep our committee informed about park surveillance.

#### **D. Senior Center Exterior Improvements**

Discussion was brought up revolving around our committee's role in determining outside projects for the Senior Center. Some of the projects mentioned were a Patio area, Bocce Ball area, Victory Garden, etc. Selectman Liaison P. Nichols explained that she was unsure of where these areas were planned. She did stated that the Seniors would come before the Benson Park Committee and the Board of Selectmen if the intended plans were beyond the parameters if the Senior Center.

#### **E. Future Clean-up Scheduling and Projects**

The next scheduled meeting for the Benson Park Committee will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the park for a Walk Through so that committee members can determine areas which need maintenance, repairs, and renovations.

The May Clean-up at the park will be scheduled on the second Saturday of the month - May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Empey made a motion to move clean-ups at Benson Park from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.**

**J. Barnes Second the Motion**

**1 (One) Aye**

**5 (Five) Nays**

**Motion fails.**

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

Selectman Liaison P. Nichols expressed her thanks as being liaison to the Benson Park Committee. She has a great love for the park and thanked H. Schibanoff and J. Barnes for their invaluable efforts in all areas of park maintenance.

D. Empey inquired about an updated contact information sheet for committee members.

He also reported the Haselton Barn is "wide open" and the town is putting itself at risk.

**D. Empey made a motion to contact the Board of Selectmen to post No Trespassing signs at the Haselton Barn and to ask the Highway Department to resecure it.**

**J. Leone second the Motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously– All in Favor**

With the clean-up scheduled in the next couple of weeks – R. Alio and D. Empey would like to seek authorization to contact Kevin Burns in acquiring 2 loads of mulch and 1 load of loam

**D. Empey made a motion to spend up to/under \$1,500 for gardening supplies.**

**J. Leone Second the Motion**

**Motion carries unanimously – All in favor**

D. Empey made a request to have Porta-Potties returned to the park. One standard Porta-Potty will be near the Elephant Barn while one standard unit and one handicap unit will be situated near the A Frame structure. The cleaning services should be scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays. If additional cleanings are needed, the cleaning services would be called in. Trash barrels also should be returned to the park as the arrival of nice weather is attracting more visitors.

J. Leone inquired about usage of the lower parking lot to handle any overflow parking which could result from the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Depending on the condition of the lot, the committee agreed that the area could be used if parking became scarce.

A. Desrosiers and J. Barnes thanked Chair H. Schibanoff for his years of dedicated service to the committee and park.

Chair H. Schibanoff remarked that it has been a fun experience and “quite a ride” during his terms on the Benson Park Committee. He will also be around and make himself available as a park volunteer.

### **Next Meeting**

May 7, 2015 at Benson Park  
Clean-up May 9, 2015

### **Adjournment 8:14 P.M.**

**Chair H. Schibanoff made a Motion to Adjourn**  
**J. Barnes Second the Motion**  
**All in favor-Motion Carries**