



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison



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Town of Hudson Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes April 3, 2014

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:08 pm, April 3, 2014, Buxton Community Development Room, Town Hall. J. Leone led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. Attendance:

R. Alio, K. Bowen (late), A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, John Leone, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau (late), P. Nichols (letter of resignation) Alternate S. Jasper (S. Jasper will vote as a regular member for the Benson Park Committee.)

Excused: Vice Chair J. Barnes, Alternate D. Briand (letter of resignation)

- A. Chair H. Schibanoff read a letter of resignation from D. Briand, and it was accepted.
- B. Patricia Nichols came before the committee with her letter of resignation due to her newly elected position as Selectman. She expressed her appreciation and thanks for being involved with this committee and working with all the dedicated volunteers at the park. Pat hopes to continue with her participation in park activities. Her letter of resignation was accepted.
- C. S. Jasper to be appointed as a regular member of the Benson Park Committee.
- D. J. Leone made a motion to nominate A. Desrosiers for the position of Clerk.
D. Empey seconded the motion.
A. Desrosiers was unanimously voted in for the Clerk position and accepted the role.

3. Public Input – none

4. Presentations

Jessica Barker, Vice President of the Hudson Dog Park Committee, came before the Benson Park Committee to clarify and make an announcement regarding the present status of the dog park. The Dog Park Committee is presently in the process of dissolving. Their intent is 1.) to be absorbed by the Friend of Benson Park for financial and legal affairs and 2.) to be accepted as the Dog Park Sub-Committee under the Benson Park Committee.

D. Empey made a motion to accept the Dog Park Committee as a sub-committee to the Benson Park Committee. Second by J. Leone

All in favor – motion carries.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of February 6, 2014

J. Leone made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 6, 2014

R. Alio - second the motion

Six (6) Ayes One (1) Abstention

B. Minutes of March 6, 2014

R. Alio made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 6, 2014

J. Leone – second the motion

Five (5) Ayes Two (2) Abstentions

6. Old Business

- A. Dog Park Resolution (discussed in Presentations section)
- B. RFP for Shoe – S. Jasper reported that this is pending and will be coming together shortly.
- C. Kitchen Door – D. Empey reported that the door project has been successfully completed. The door has been substantially widened by 4 inches.
- D. Red Barn Area – from our March 2014 meeting the committee approved improvements to the Red Barn Hill which include removal of the fence at the bottom of the hill, removal of brush and old cement, regrading, and the purchase of loam and seed. S. Jasper reported that Kevin Burns may be able to send in a work crew possibly in early June.
- E. Gazebo Gift – the consensus of the committee is to accept the donation of the gazebo as a most welcomed addition to the park. The donation will be pending upon approval of the Board of Selectmen. The committee members will hold a Walk Through of the Park in mid April to determine its possible placement/location in the park.
- F. The **American Community Tree Grant** (\$12,100.00/ 40-50 trees) application has been received and acknowledged. The proposals for suggested areas of planting are the dump area near the Haselton Barn and the sparse area adjacent to the Dog Park.
- G. **Other Business**
 - 1. **Train Station** – questions were raised for any updates on the Train Station status. No new information was provided.
 - 2. **John T. Benson** photo – Chair H. Schibanoff has been working with Ruth Parker of the Hudson Historical Society to locate additional photos of the first owner of the park which could be used for the laser etched memorial donation offered by Dan Caouette.
 - 3. **Engraved marker** near the Old Shoe – the granite marker is ready to be installed. D. Empey suggested that we revisit the proposed area and take measurements. There have been concerns about its closeness to the fragile, historical structure and safety issues. The suggestion was made to contact the Girl Scout group to discuss their plans for moving the heavy marker to the park, its possible location, and an approval for a final decision on its installation.

7. New Business

A. April Clean-up Day for first Saturday of the month

R. Alio mentioned that a notification to volunteers for a Clean-up Day in just two short days was not enough time to organize a work force. D. Empey stated that the park was very wet and muddy and did not recommend a Clean-up Day for this month due to the thawing conditions underway at the park. It was suggested that the Committee pre-plan projects during this month and conduct their annual spring Walk Through to recommend future projects.

K. Bowen has contacted Jon Maltz for assistance in establishing an email account to contact our volunteer force. (This will be coming soon.)

B. Arbor Day (Friday, April 25th)

D. Empey reminded all that Arbor Day will be taking place at the end of April. He suggested that we contact McGuinness Tree Service to inquire if they would be available to offer their volunteer services on Arbor Day. (The Highway Department has recommended the removal of the large maple tree below the playground area.) Our Walk Through the Park in mid April would also provide an opportunity to inspect other areas which should be addressed.

C. The Landscaping Sub-Committee (Chair R. Alio) requested \$65 to purchase 75 seedlings to plant in the vicinity of the old dump site. D. Empey explained that the seedlings would not conflict with the ACT Grant and would be complimentary to reforesting the area. The project is experimental and intended to enhance this section of the park.

J. Leone made a motion to accept the expenditure.

R. Alio - second the motion

All in favor – Motion Carried

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

J. Leone extended thanks to all those who came to the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Friends of Benson Park. Having acquired a build permit – The Friends will begin refurbishing the Elephant Barn by tearing down the remnant ceiling, framing walls, and installing the new ceiling in the front part of the Elephant Barn. (Phase 1) The work should be completed in one year. The additional Phases for the renovation will depend upon the arrival of utilities in the park.

A. Desrosiers remarked on the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt scheduled at the park on April 18th. Due to the heavy and congested traffic entering and exiting the park during this event, it was suggested that Dave Yates should be contacted to ensure the Hudson Police Department presence.

Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau was unable to report any updates on the Train Station, and yielded to J. Jasper. Currently the Train Station is scheduled to be moved this summer. He will also check with Dave Yate on police presence at the Easter Egg Hunt.

D. Empey reported that there has been significant rain damage to the outlet along Swan Lake, a collapsed and rusted-out 24 in. culvert in the north end, washouts on trails near Moose Pond, and improvements needed at the sewer easement area. The good news – Beaver Pond is in wonderful shape, and the wooden bridge had little damage. He would be meeting with his sub-committee on Friday to address small projects and report back to the committee on any estimated costs for repairs.

R. Alio reminded all those interested that the Landscaping Sub-committee would be holding its meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesday in the Board of Selectmen Room.

Chair H. Schibanoff recommended that the port-potties needed to be in place before the April 18th annual Easter Egg Hunt at the park. April 13th was highlighted as the target date for the installation of one regular and one handicap porta-potties near the A Frame while a third regular unit would be located adjacent to the Elephant Barn. He had also received an inquiry about the return of the barrels to the park. B. Nadeau informed the committee that Pinard does not charge the town for trash disposal at the park, and a date would be indefinite at this time. D. Empey expressed concern about the trucks riding over the eroded area at the Swan Lake culvert.

Next Meeting

April 17, 2014 at Benson Park for a Walk Through at 6:30 pm

Adjournment 8:00 pm

S. Jasper made a Motion to Adjourn

J. Leone - Second the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries