



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison



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### Meeting Minutes December 5, 2013

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:02 pm, December 5, 2013, Buxton Community Development room, Town Hall. N. Undercofler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### 2. Attendance:

Vice Chair, J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, John Leone, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternates: R. Alio, D. Briand (Alternate will vote for absent member this evening)

Excused: Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau,

#### 3. Public Input

None

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of November 7, 2013

**No minutes done at this time.**

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Budget

**Chair H. Schibanoff** reported on his meeting with the Budget Committee and he thought it went very well. They seemed to understand the reduced number of volunteers and were not opposed to utilizing the hiring of Road Agent K. Burns town workers to fill in this short fall. Vice Chair J. Barnes also said he thought it went well and that Road Agent K. Burns was instrumental in helping the Budget Committee understand the need for extra help during the summer months.

#### 6. New Business

##### A. Shoe Damage

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said he was at the Park and noticed some shingles missing or damaged on the Old Shoe. It appeared that they had been ripped off in some areas and he asked if anyone else was aware of this damage. D. Empey said it has been noted and he thought a Police Report was submitted. P. Nichols said she thought Chair H. Schibanoff's idea of fencing the Shoe would be an option. The Shoe is not made of cement or any other material that would protect it from damage. P. Nichols said she does not see what can be done to protect it for future generations. Chair H. Schibanoff said a Security Camera was discussed at an earlier meeting and he has not heard the status on this. N. Undercofler does not know about the security camera but asked if

the. Building Committee was aware of roof shingles damage, etc. J. Leone said he knew of the Police Report and shingles damaged on the front of the building but not the roof. D. Empey thought the shingles on the front of the building had been repaired but if there is more damage he is unaware of it.

## **B. Scout Project List**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** gave a copy of Scout Projects and asked the Committee to review them at this time:

1. Identify tree and plant species with markers inside the park  
**(This project has not be completed – needs to be researched)**
2. Refurbish and/or build and install picnic tables. **Done**
3. Build bird houses and/or Duck Nesting houses. **Done**
4. A project on “leave no trace” principles and how to incorporate them in the park.
5. Update and install permanent signs to replace the temporary signs on the buildings **Done**
6. Design a self guided nature trail brochure  
**N. Undercofler asked if this would be necessary due to trail signage. P. Nichols thought this was an expensive project and now with the Trail signs, smart phones, and ability to print out a trail map this would not be necessary.**
7. Non-native plant removal and replace with trees and shrubs.
8. Investigate, recreate and install the totem pole from the old park.  
**(Totem Pole discussion – possible Troop Project. This could stay on list and when the time comes this could be constructed.)**
9. Construct wildlife blinds in the wetlands to observe animals in the park **Done**
10. Create tree barrier between Route 111 and the Haselton Farm trail. **Done**
11. Volleyball court, horseshoe courts and any other similar passive recreation activity.  
**(This was discussed and should be taken off the list at this time due to Maintenance issues)**
12. Refurbish Remote Control  
**J. Leone thought that the Remote Control area has not been addressed. Many came forward to try to take this project on but all seemed to fall through. A. Desrosiers asked if J. Leone wanted it to be a remote control car area or just a cleaned up area.**

**This should be tabled until a future meeting.**

**C. Winter Meeting Schedule and Issues**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** mentioned the Committee usually meets twice a month but it is very quiet during the Winter months so we might want to consider meeting only once a month. **P. Nichols** said meeting once a month during January and February would be fine but March is the beginning of the Spring season so meetings should resume to the twice a month schedule. **A. Desrosiers** said people who wanted special winter activities would have to come before the Committee and then we could set up meeting to accommodate this requests. (i.e. Dog Sled Races/Cardboard Sled Races, etc.) **D. Empey** suggested eliminating the January 2, 2014 meeting due to it being the day after a holiday and there would not be much to discuss. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said we won't have a room for January 2, 2014 due to the Budget Committee using this room. Consensus was to postpone the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and schedule a meeting on January 16, 2014.

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

**P. Nichols** welcomed **A. Desrosiers** and **R. Alio** as newly re-elected members of the Committee. The BOS re-instated them at their last meeting. Another new member to the Benson Park Committee will be **Keith Bowen**. He will join us at our January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. **P. Nichols** said her heart will be broken with **N. Undercofler** leaving the Committee and with **C. Gagnon** also gone. She does not know what will happen to the Trees, bushes and flowers. **N. Undercofler** had such an eye for what looked beautiful in the park, and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

**D. Empey** mentioned that we will have a wake up call when the spring comes and **Natalie** is not doing the work she has done. Those will be hard shoes to fill. He will miss her more than she realizes.

**R. Alio** said he has been talking to **N. Undercofler** and he has agreed to Chair the landscaping Committee. It will not be an easy task but he will do his very best not to let her down.

**N. Undercofler** said it is with mixed emotions that she is leaving the Committee. She is not leaving the park and plans to be a part of this for many years to come. It is just at this time she needs some personal time and plans to return in the future if possible. She said it has been a pleasure and extremely enjoyable. She is proud of what this Committee has accomplished in the three (3) years she has been involved. There are outstanding **Gardner's** volunteering at there Adopt-a-spots and we should all be proud of them.

**A. Desrosiers** thanked **N. Undercofler** for being with us and being willing to still be a part of the park. There are so many wonderful **Undercofler's** that have donated so much of their time to the park and she thanks you all.

**D. Empey** asked if we should formally appoint **R. Alio** as Chair of the Landscaping Committee. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if anyone would make a motion.

**D. Empey made a Motion to elect R. Alio as Chair of the Landscaping Committee**

**P. Nichols Second the Motion**

**All in favor – Motion Carries**

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** thanked N. Undercofler and looks forward to seeing her in the park and good luck to R. Alio with the landscaping committee. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said he attended the Court of Honor for Dan Teague and N. Undercofler spoke and thanked Dan for his contribution to the park. Dan did the pavers in front of the Gorilla House. This is on HCTV web site. Chair H. Schibanoff thanked N. Undercofler for her significant contribution to the park and said she should be proud of what she has done. You will be missed and Thank you for everything you have done for this committee.

**Next Meeting:**

**January 16, 2014 – Buxton Community Development Room, Town Hall at 7:00 pm**

**Adjournment 7:37 pm**

**P. Nichols made a Motion to Adjourn**

**A. Desrosiers Second the Motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**