



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison



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### Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes October 3, 2013

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:07 pm October 3, 2013, Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall. D. Briand led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### 2. Attendance:

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

#### 3. Public Input

None

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of September 19, 2013

**N. Undercofler made a Motion to accept Minutes**

**Jim Barnes– Second the Motion**

**All in favor - Motion Carries**

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Office Update

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked Vice Chair Jim Barnes what progress has been made on the Office Building repairs. The building committee is not able to move ahead at this point and Vice Chair J. Barnes discussed what would have to be done to move the rain water away from the building and walkway. Vice Chair J. Barnes spoke with Road Agent, K. Burns about helping with the Office Building drainage issue and Road Agent K. Burns is reluctant to agree to this project without action from the committee to request his help with the BOS. He also said he has many projects in the Park at this time, the largest being the Senior Center.

**J. Leone made a motion to request from the BOS permission to have Road Agent K. Burns help with the drainage issue at the Office Building.**

**N. Undercofler Second the Motion**

**Discussion Followed;**

D. Empey asking if a design has been approved. We cannot ask Road Agent K. Burns to do this work without a design. After discussion, Vice Chair J. Barnes said he would talk to G. Webster and D. Empey gave his suggestions on the design.

**Chair H. Schibanoff asked J. Leone and N. Undercofler to withdraw the motion and they agreed. There is no Motion**

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** spoke about the sills at this time. He has had a few contractors look at this project but has not heard back at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff asked about windows being put in. J. Leone said that nothing has been done due to the drainage and the sills. Vice Chair J. Barnes said that two (2) windows in the back of the building could be done. There is money in this budget to cover this. D. Empey asked when the sill and the beams issue are resolved does this have to be presented to the Historical Society. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he was not sure because his last email from Peter Michaud approved his latest Historic Structure report. D. Empey raised many issues regarding beams, etc. A heavy discussion followed on the above issues. Vice Chair J. Barnes reported on the Grant for new window restoration and we were denied. There were a few things not included in the application but will help us next year when we apply again. P. Nichols had a question on what was happening near the Hazleton Barn. Chair H. Schibanoff had the same question and D. Empey gave a quick version of this project. When the Town purchased the land for the dual HCTV/Senior Center the Town did not want to pay this amount but would do service in this amount. There is a dump area from the old park near the Hazelton Barn that the State was supposed to clean up and they agreed to let the Town clean this area as part of the purchase of the land. The Town has been working in this area to comply.

**B. Budget**

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** gave his report on the meeting with N. Undercofler and R. Alio (Benson Park Budget Committee). This report does not differ on what the committee discussed at the last meeting. Some line items have not changed. Under park maintenance: A-frame roof repairs have been added to the budget and money for Office Building projects has been added. Budget requests for Portable Toilets are also included in the budget. D. Empey stated that Portable Toilets are filled to the brim and have not been empties. Calls were made but they are still full. D. Empey requested that money be taken out of the bill due to this breach of contract. Chair H. Schibanoff will speak to D. Yates about this oversight. D. Empey also suggested that we ask K. Burns to bring a bucket truck over and nail the loose shingles. This could save us money for at least a couple of years. In depth discussion on this project and the Office Building projects followed. The next large item to discuss is the option for labor during the summer months due to volunteers getting tired or less volunteers than in the past few years. One option was hiring Interns for summer months, but Road Agent K. Burns was not in favor of this because the Interns could not use town equipment. He said during summer months the Town Crew worked Monday thru Thursday with Friday's off. He felt that asking one or two town workers to work in the park on Friday's would be more than adequate because they could utilize Town equipment. This was also discussed in depth due to money concerns. D. Empey also talked about the playground at the park and stated that the slide sticks, handicap swings have broken latches and the biggest problem is a liability issue; there is supposed to be at least a foot of wood chips under every swing, this is not the case. Chair H. Schibanoff asked who was responsible for the playground and Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said it was D. Yates. There was supposed to be someone at the playground twice a week to clean up candy wrappers, coffee cups, water bottles, etc. this has not happened. Discussion followed.

**P. Nichols made a Motion to take this Budget of \$44, 220 to the BOS**

**J. Leone Second the Motion**

**All in Favor – Motion Passes**

**C. Policy and Procedural Matters**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** spoke with D. Yates about reserving areas of the park for more than 15 people. D. Yates said he does this on a first come, first serve basis, and Chair H. Schibanoff asked the committee if this policy was good or does it need to be changed. R. Alio and N. Undercofler said this policy needed to be changed. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau also agreed and would like to see the permit changed to allow certain sites reserved and this should be added to the sign up sheets. Vice Chair J. Barnes suggested a calendar be sent to the Police Department at least once a week. D. Empey also wants Schools to register to use the park. Question on charging admission to groups using the park was also discussed. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau asked the Attorney if admission or user fee could be required and was told it would be acceptable if money was only used for Park use.

**D. Community Service**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** received an email on a Court Ordered Community Service request. The request was to work during the week at an area within the park. Chair H. Schibanoff said this was not possible and he wanted feedback from the committee on having Court Ordered Community Service only be allowed on clean-up weekends. The Committee agreed with this policy.

**E. Location of Portable Toilet**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** was at the park looking for a spot for the Portable Toilet for the winter months. The only feasible spot he found was near the rear of the Office Building. J. Leone disagreed and said the area near the Elephant Barn where the big log was located seemed to be a good area for the winter and then it could be moved in the spring. Discussion followed.

**6. New Business**

**A. Request from Liberty Utilities**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** received an email from Liberty Utilities and they would like to have their “Make a Difference Day” at Benson Park. They would send some of their employees into the park to clean up. Chair H. Schibanoff said he would act as supervisor for the group (possibly 20) but he needs areas that they could work in. Chair H. Schibanoff will work with D. Empey to find areas for clean up.

**B. Telegraph Award**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** announced that Benson Park received an Honorable Mention Award from The Nashua Telegraph. Two complimentary dinner tickets are available on October 24, 2013, 5:50 pm to 7:30 pm at the Crown Plaza in Nashua. J. Leone will go with Chair H. Schibanoff.

**C. Clean up**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said, after discussion, that October 19, 2013 will be the next volunteer clean up. Rain date is October 20, 2013.

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

**A. N. Undercofler** said that a tree would be planted in an area of the park at the request of a family that lost a son. This area will also accommodate a bench at a later date. The family does not want any service to be conducted

- B. P. Nichols** explained why the Ann Seabury Room at the Police Station will be used at our next meeting. The old Library meeting room is in use every third Thursday of the month and the new Library larger rooms are also booked on Thursdays.

**Next Meeting: October 17, 2013 – Ann Seabury Room, Police Department at 7:00 pm**

**8. Adjournment 8:54 pm**

**N. Undercofler** made a Motion to Adjourn

**D. Briand** Second the Motion

**All in favor-Motion Carries**