



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison

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Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes September 19, 2013

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:04 pm September 19, 2013, Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall. C. Gagnon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Attendance:

J. Barnes, (late), A. Desrosiers (left sick), C. Gagnon, John Leone, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternates: R. Alio, (Alternate will vote for absent members this evening)

Excused: D. Empey, D. Briand

3. Public Input

Crista Gagnon said after 4 years on the Benson Committee it is with regret that she must resign. She has moved out of Town but she will still be an active volunteer at the Park. C. Gagnon presented her letter of resignation to Chair H. Schibanoff and he will send it to the BOS. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if anyone would like to speak and P. Nichols said that her heart is broken and Crista would be missed fiercely. She has contributed so much to the Park, the Committee and Clean-up weekends. She does not know if the Committee will ever be able to replace her. Chair H. Schibanoff also said that he does not think people realize how much Crista has contributed to this committee and the park. She worked on the playground set-up every day, on the new picnic area, setting up the clean-up dates and projects with others and even has an adopt-a-spot. Crista has truly been an asset to the committee, the town and the park. Chair H. Schibanoff related a funny story that when he met Crista for the first time it was his first clean-up and being not sure of what he was supposed to be doing, Crista took over and told him where he should be and what he should be doing. This is when she inherited the clean-up committee. She did make one faux pas in the identity of one person that will not be mentioned at this time. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he would speak for every one of the BOS that they would be sorry to see you go. When Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau and J. Desrosiers set up the first clean-up at the park it went along so smoothly with Crista's organizational abilities. When ever she moves back to Hudson, he is sure a spot on the Committee will be found.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of September 5, 2013

J. Leone made a Motion to accept Minutes

N. Undercofler – Second the Motion

All in favor - Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. The Old Shoe

Chair H. Schibanoff said a discussion on vandalism at the Old Shoe was held last meeting and unfortunately Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau was absent. He asked Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau if he had any updated that could be discussed with the committee. He said the Police Department has been looking into what could be done. Chair H. Schibanoff also asked about signage. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau thought this was ordered but he will follow up with K. Burns in the morning. J. Leone has been trying to get in touch with B. Baker and will try again.

B. Benches

J. Leone was mapping out locations for the benches that are in the park now and where more could be placed in the future. He sent a scan of the map to committee members, blue marks indicate benches already in park, pink marks indicate future benches. Discussion on placement of benches were discussed and proposed.

P. Nichols made a Motion to accept the map on placement of benches

A. Desrosiers Second the Motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

6. New Business

A. Budget

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke on reviewing the budget to give ideas to the committee budget members as soon as possible. Vice Chair J. Barnes is attending a Town Budget Meeting at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff would like input on where this committee would like to increase or decrease spending. Taking items one at a time the first four will remain the same: Meals in Town, Printing & Signs, and Office Supplies. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau was asked if the BOS had any rules pertaining to budgets this year and he said they would hope there would not be many increases. The BOS understand that Portable Toilets prices could increase or we might want to keep one year round due to people using the park in the winter for snow shoeing, sledding, or cross country skiing. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested moving one Portable Toilet up near the Elephant Barn. The Town plows around this area and lower parking lot can get very muddy.

J. Leone made a Motion that when Portable Toilets are being moved in November, the handicap Portable Toilet be moved up near the Elephant Barn or TBD.

P. Nichols Second the Motion

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Chair H. Schibanoff said he would contact D. Yates and suggested we return to the Budget and possibly keep the bottom line the same as last year. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested that the committee should look into Park Interns for the future. Many of the volunteers are getting tired and the need for extra help during the busy season should be planned for. This park is being used more than anyone thought it would and upkeep is going to be a problem in the future. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau thinks that the Road Agent should supervise these interns because of the tools that will be required and he can use them for Town projects too, but the salaries would be charged to the Benson Budget. He spoke in depth about this recommendation. A campaign to bring in volunteers was

discussed and it was decided to advertise in the fall and spring on HCTV and see what this brings in. Speaking of the Professional Services budget would be used to bring electricity, water, sewage; etc into the park in the future was discussed at this time. P. Nichols and J. Leone asked if money should be allotted to this. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said this will be done in stages and working with the State for the years 2015 and 2016 should be started soon. Chair H. Schibanoff announced that Vice Chair J. Barnes has now joined the Benson Committee meeting; he was attending the Budget Committee meeting earlier. Chair H. Schibanoff brought him up to date on our budget discussion. Vice Chair J. Barnes mentioned the Office Building and has contact with Peter Michaud and he gave him information on projects we had been talking about. One is the external project to help with keeping water from getting into the cellar and moving it away from the foundation, getting the sill replaced and getting the beams in the cellar repaired. He has not been given approval on those projects to date. Vice Chair J. Barnes is hoping the Road Department could help on the outside work. He will need to talk to K. Burns about this. He has been trying to get a cost on the Sill Replacement but with no luck from contractors at this time. He will try working with Gary Webster to see what can be done with putting this out to bid. Chair H. Schibanoff said our budget committee would have to come back with a proposal that can be discussed at the next committee meeting and presented to the BOS and Budget Committee for consideration.

B. 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. **Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau** said he wanted to let the committee know he gets a lot of remarks about the Park and he received a phone call this week from a resident of Hudson who took his family to the park for a day and visited a second day. He also hears from people who love the park and utilize it just about every weekend. They comment on how beautiful it is and Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau wanted the Committee to know that all the work has not gone unnoticed.
- B. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said he has a problem because the Budget Committee will be using our meeting room on October 17, 2013. P. Nichols was asked to find a meeting room for that evening. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested the Library. The Old Library has HCTV cameras that would be good for us. P. Nichols will check if this room is available.

Next Meeting: October 3, 2013 – Buxton Community Development Room at 7:00 pm

8. Adjournment 8:05 pm

Vice Chair J. Barnes made a Motion to Adjourn
N. Undercofler second the Motion
All in favor-Motion Carries