



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison

12 School Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6000 • Fax: 603-598-648

Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes September 5, 2013

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:06 pm September 5, 2013, Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall. J. Leone led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

Pamela Berube asked the committee if a Tree and Bench could be placed in the park in memory of her 16 year old son who passed away on August 30, 2013. This was a request from her son before he passed. P. Berube said that Country Brook Farms would donate a tree and help plant it, and a bench in honor of Joshua Berube is also requested. Chair H. Schibanoff said there were two sub committee members who would handle this. N. Undercofler is in charge of plantings and she will work with P. Berube to select a spot that would be suitable to plant a tree and place a bench. J. Leone will give P. Berube his contact information in regards to the purchase of a bench.

4. Presentation

A. Beth Baker – Shoe Issues

B. Baker was made aware that the Shoe had been broken into while she was on vacation. The Girl Scouts went to view the damage and according to one Girl Scout she was very disappointed and she found it was only messed up and only two things were stolen. Her idea to prevent this from happening again is to put a camera on top of the shoe or lighting in the area. B. Baker also passed around digital pictures of the slab that the Girl Scout's want to erect in the area with the 'Old Woman in the Shoe' poem printed on it. The Troop has changed the area where they want to place the slab and pictures of this were also available for viewing. B. Baker said the stone would be etched on both sides for viewing if approached by different paths. Discussion followed on the location.

J. Leone made a Motion to allow the Girl Scouts to place the marker with the nursery rhyme: 'Old Woman in the Shoe' at the designated location with the expertise of the installer.

N. Undercofler - Second the Motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

Chair H. Schibanoff apologized to the Scouts and B. Baker for the damage done to the Shoe. This safety issue will be addressed later in the meeting. B. Baker said the Scouts will be available to clean up and make repairs until all Safety Issues are resolved. Chair H. Schibanoff also asked if the roof was still leaking and B. Baker said she has not noticed this.

B. Peter Dibble – Art

P. Dibble has been interested in renovation of Benson Park for many years. He thought it would be a great idea for this commission he has been working on for some time to be exhibited in the Park. It is a steel Giraffe that is easily transported. It is currently unfinished and once it is done it will have a coat of Golden paint and he would like to display it at the Park for one day. He passed out pictures and a map of locations he would like to erect this Giraffe. The Giraffe would be secured to the ground with metal stakes with posted 'Do Not Touch' signs. P. Dibble will be with the sculpture most, if not all of the day. D. Empey said if it is agreed to allow Mr. Dibble to set up the sculpture, a written and signed agreement taking all responsibility on this should be forthcoming, and someone should be with the Giraffe at all times. D. Empey also suggested the area where the amphitheatre is going to be would be an ideal spot with a lot of view area.

P. Nichols made a motion to allow P. Dibble to erect a Giraffe Sculpture on the amphitheatre site in Benson Park subject to a written agreement to this committee stating that all responsibility of the Sculpture and some one be with this are work at all times.

D. Briand - Second the Motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

C. Mike Gagnon – Eagle Scout Project

M. Gagnon is a member of Troop 21 in Hudson, NH. He is here this evening to present his Eagle Scout Project to the Benson Committee with hopes this will be allowed at Benson Park. He has been working with J. Undercofler and D. Empey looking for a project and it was decided that another Wild Life Blind would be a welcome addition to the Park. Building this would be straight forward starting with a pressure treated deck for the base and the three walls would be 2 X 4 framed with ship lap rough pine exterior. On top would be a peaked roof with cedar shingles, similar to the kiosk roof in the parking lot. The building will be complete after a bench is put in a few feet behind the front wall for viewers to sit and rest on. J. Leone asked where this building would be constructed and M. Gagnon handed out pictures to show the area where the Wild Life Blind would be constructed. D. Empey was in agreement with the area and said that a trail would have to be cleared to reach this new Wild Life Blind. Questions were asked and answered to all satisfaction. M. Gagnon will meet with the Eagle Board for permission to do this project and will have a Spaghetti Supper Fund Raiser as soon as possible. If all goes well he will start the project in October or November and if weather is against him the building would be complete in the spring. N. Undercofler said she thought this would be a wonderful addition.

N. Undercofler made a Motion to accept M. Gagnon' Eagle Scout Project to be constructed at Benson Par and that Chair H. Schibanoff sign any forms to proceed with this.

A. Desrosiers - Second the Motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of August 1, 2013

N. Undercofler made a Motion to accept Minutes

A. Desrosiers – Second the Motion

All in favor - Motion Carries

6. Old Business

A. Amplification Policy

Chair H. Schibanoff also stated the C. Gagnon is not in attendance tonight but he looked into the Amplification Policy on his own and this seems to be covered under a Town Ordinance. Anyone wanting to have a concert or musical event would have to go to the town for permission. Chair H. Schibanoff said he would send an email to C. Gagnon on what he has found out at this time.

7. New Business

A. Shoe Issues

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke of the recent vandalism at the Old Shoe and said it is not the first time this has happened. He called on the committee for suggestions on how this could be prevented in the future. J. Leone said he was under the impression that B. Baker was going to replace the door with a bigger window, and he said the lock that was there was ok but not the best. Chair H. Schibanoff said he did hear from B. Baker that they intend to change the door to a more permanent one. J. Leone said that this along with a more secure lock would make a difference. A. Desrosiers asked if there are bushes surrounding the Shoe that could be trimmed or removed. This would enable the HPD to view anyone on or around the area after hours. D. Empey said it would not be too visible from the road. Chair H. Schibanoff said at this time there is a camera at the Gorilla House, and the 9/11 Memorial that is tied into the HPD station. He thought it would be to our advantage to look into a camera for the Shoe and if necessary pay for it with committee funds and work with the HPD because more damage could result in the loss of this fragile Historical Building. D. Empey approved Chair H. Schibanoff's idea but he thinks we should back up a bit about what we said we were going to do and what we have done. A year ago a permanent door was supposed to be installed and a new roof was to be done. There was also a permanent sign stating that this was a fragile Historical Building and no climbing, etc. was allowed. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that these things should be done but he does not want to delay placing a camera to protect the Shoe. J. Leone said he would get in touch with B. Baker and see about getting the door and roof done. Chair H. Schibanoff said our Liaison was going to take care of the sign. N. Undercofler asked if there would be glass in the door and J. Leone said he thought it would be heavy duty Plexiglas. J. Leone will inform the committee when he knows anything more. P. Nichols said she still liked the idea of the camera but did not know how this would work. Battery power seemed to be the answer and she would like to know what it would cost the committee to install one. A. Desrosiers said if a camera was going to be connected to the HPD they should be contacted. Chair H. Schibanoff agreed with this. He will investigate more and get back to the committee at the next meeting.

B. “Friends” Projects Request

J. Leone presented the committee with projects that FoBP would like to incorporate into the park.

- Request a change to the outside of the Elephant Barn on the side that faces the Train Station. There are two pieces of old fence jutting out that they would like to remove. They are a haven for Bees nests and it is a problem to clean the area with the overgrowth. **J. Leone has a Consensus from the committee to remove the old fence.**
- Old log between the fences was going to be carved but it has not been done at this time so FoBP would like it removed. It could be moved to another area of the park if it is still needed. **Chair H. Schibanoff said this would be a Highway Department Issue and he will look into this.**
- FoBP would like to install a donation box on the outside of the Elephant Barn and asked D. Briand how this was working at the Dog Park. D. Briand stated that it was worth putting in. Chair H. Schibanoff asked D. Briand how it was secured and he said he has the post sitting in two feet of concrete; it is on a piece of metal fence post with a back board welded to the post and bolted to this. J. Leone was thinking of something attached to the outside of the Barn or a mail slot, but D. Empey said he would encourage J. Leone not to place anything too close to the barn with the fear that someone could put something into the box or slot that would endanger the barn. P. Nichols suggested welding a small box to the cage next to the barn that would not cause any danger to the barn. D. Briand will give J. Leone information on where the Dog Park Committee purchase their box, that is said to be pry proof, fishing proof (D. Briand did not know what this meant until he looked it up...he shared his knowledge with the committee). J. Leone will inform the committee at a later date of what FoBP decide. **J. Leone has a Consensus from the committee to research this matter a little more.**
- FoBP would like permission from the committee to purchase more benches. They have donors pledged to pay for at least four (4) benches. After walking around the park with C. Gagnon, he thinks they found at least a half dozen spots the will not be an issue. J. Leone thinks the Dog Park will be purchasing at least two more benches so he would like permission for the purchase of five to seven more benches. N. Undercofler asked how many benches are in the park at this time and J. Leone said that there were 35. D. Empey gave his reasons for not wanting more benches at this time. P. Nichols stated her reasons for wanting a few more benches. A. Desrosiers also she thought the Park could use a few more benches in remote areas. R. Alio would like to see a map of the placement of the benches that are already in the Park and placement of new benches.

R. Alio made a motion to get a map of all benches in the park and area for new benches

D. Empey Second the Motion

Show of Hands Vote

3 FOR – 5 AGAINST- Motion Fails

P. Nichols made a Motion to allow FoBP to purchase five additional benches

D. Briand Second the Motion

Show of Hands Vote

5 FOR – 3 AGAINST – Motion Carries

D. Empey raised the question of picnic tables being placed in an area where a new bench might be placed. J. Leone said he would work with D. Empey and R. Alio as to the placement of benches.

- J. Leone asked about small signs directing visitors to the porta-potties because FoBP at the Barn on weekends are asked about bathrooms. The Barn does not have them and they are directing everyone down the hill near the A-Frame. P. Nichols said these markers or signs could not be permanent because they have to be removed for the winter and she did not know how this could be done. This will be tabled until a later meeting.

C. Clean Up

September 14, 2013 will be the next volunteer clean up. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that C. Gagnon, P. Nichols, N. Undercofler and himself would be at the clean up. Rain date is September 15, 2013.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- A. **A. Desrosiers** mentioned the passing away of R. Shaden and she wanted to express her condolences to the family. He did a lot to improve the roofing situation at the Park.
- B. **P. Nichols** mentioned a visit to the dog park and witnessed one dog attack another. She asked the owner of the dog that was attacked if he was going to report this incident and he said no. P. Nichols asked what could be done about this.
- C. **J. Leone** said that the Friends of Benson Park are having a fund-raising Golf Tournament. This will be held on September 27, 2013 at Green Meadow Golf Course. Posters around Town and for more information everyone is welcome to stop at the Elephant Barn from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm most weekends to purchase tickets or sign up for a round of golf or just for dinner. This money is raised to enhance the park and Elephant Barn. R. Alio asked what time lunch would start and J. Leone thought this would begin around 1:00 pm.
- D. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said he received an email from Kurt Laffin regarding a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid he found on a Hemlock Tree near the Old Shoe. He stated that this insect was very invasive and can kill Hemlock Trees in a matter of years. K. Laffin will be looking into the situation but he does not think the park has many Hemlocks. He just wanted the committee to be aware of this situation.

9. Next Meeting: September 19 2013 – BOS Room

10. Adjournment 8:32 pm

N. Undercofler made a Motion to Adjourn

J. Leone second the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries