



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

Meeting Minutes July 18, 2013

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 6:59 p.m. July 18, 2013, at Benson Park, Kimball Hill Road.

2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, D. Empey, C. Gagnon, John Leone, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau. P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, alternates: R. Alio, D. Briand
Excused: A. Desrosiers

3. Public Input

Linda Kipnes from the Butterfly Garden Committee wanted to update the Benson Committee about plans for the installation of a Pergola in the area. A picture of the Pergola was passed around and it would not be white as shown but a natural wood structure that will blend with the park and the floor could be some sort of patio stone. They were originally looking at a 10' x 14' but they have priced a 9' x 12'. She has sent out emails to her committee and is waiting for a consensus for the size wanted. There will be a path going up to the Pergola and another coming down to the Butterfly Garden. L. Kipnes is also thinking about chairs or a picnic table inside this structure. The Pergola is fairly plain so that they will probably be growing something up the sides. This comes as a kit and the Butterfly Committee has spoken with someone from Habitat for Humanity and they are willing and able to help with this project. P. Nichols asked if they were agreed on stones, pavers, etc. and L. Kipnes said that she has heard of large square blocks that have flagstone on them and they are looking into this. Vice Chair J. Barnes said that putting a picnic table under this would not allow much room and there could be more trash from this. L. Kipnes said they were thinking that this could be a gathering place for people to sit and talk rather than picnic. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested putting benches along each side of it so visitors could rest and view the garden. Chair H. Schibanoff agreed with Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau about benches and he thinks a picnic table would eventually invite trash. P. Nichols suggested flat benches without the back and J. Leone said that the company that does the other benches also has flat benches. Chair H. Schibanoff asked L. Kipnes if she needed anything from the committee at this time and she said just an ok to proceed. The consensus from the committee was in agreement.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of June 20, 2013

N. Undercofler made a Motion to accept Minutes

J. Leone – Second the Motion

All in favor- Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Office Update

Vice Chair J. Barnes handed out an Overview of Two (2) Office Projects for FY2014 showing drainage improvement and sill repairs. Another part shows supporting beams on the inside. Delays from contractors have been a problem at this time. Vice Chair J. Barnes has put together a draft of what needs to be done concerning drainage. He wanted a discussion on this and then he would prepare another draft and present it to the State and they would have 30 days to get back to us. Another thought he has was getting volunteers to work on the outside of the Office Building and it was decided it would be a larger job than volunteers could handle. Vice Chair J. Barnes did contact K. Burns, about doing this work, and he already has a number of projects and without a formal request from the committee he would not schedule it. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he would like to get permission from the committee to send a formal request to K. Burns so that this work could be done in the fall. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said with K Burns schedule it would not be done before October. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau suggested Vice Chair J. Barnes present this draft to the State as is. D. Empey said this was all approved a while ago and he has documented back up for this. Discussion on this followed. Peter Michaud, State of NH said that it had been approved but there are some restrictions on materials.

P. Nichols made a motion to formally present to K. Barnes, Highway Department, work to be done at Office Building, including drainage and slope and Vice Chair J. Barnes will forward the draft to the State.

D. Briand Second the Motion

All in favor- Motion Carries

Vice Chair J. Barnes said on the Office Building that the request for the Grant is that some sort of decision will be made early in August. We should hear something about this shortly after that. J. Leone mentioned LCHIP (Land Conservation Historical Improvement Program Grants). J. Leone did not know all the details of this but thought that the Friends of Benson Park and the Benson Park Committee could work together in looking into this for additional funds. All agreed to look into more funds for our park.

6. New Business

A. Volunteer Participation

Chair H. Schibanoff seems to think Volunteerism is dropping off at this time and wants to know what we could do to rekindle the interest in the Park. P. Nichols stated that not enough notice was given for the last clean-up. It was only a day and a half at the most and people like to plan ahead. Discussion followed and Chair H. Schibanoff agreed to write something for the Hudson/Litchfield News to try to incite interest in the park. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau also suggested that once a month do an adopt-a-spot area and talk about some of the different things that are happening around the park and an article with a picture letting people know how things have been accomplished at the park. Also show some areas of the park that the committee has an interest in developing. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if anyone had pictures and N. Undercofler said that she did and it was also agreed that Ann Desrosiers was also a phenomenal photographer. N. Undercofler told of a Family that is willing to take over

a spot that has been abandoned by someone. They are in the park every day and are anxious to do their part as a Family. N. Undercofler thought that this could be an incentive for other families to become involved.

B. Picnic Tables

Chair H. Schibanoff asked the status of the Picnic Tables. D. Empey stated there are 15 tables=3 handicap, 12 regular, they put them all together. They have 5 of the old benches with the black metal legs over in the new picnic area, two of the old ones and 2 handicap under the A-Frame, One of the new tables near the A-Frame, there is an old table with metal legs over by Serenity Gardens near the water pump and another one on the other side of this area on the Knoll, one of the old ones down by Dave Cunningham's spot, Two new tables on the overlooks, an old table around the corner of the barn, the new handicap one in front of the barn, a new one at the edge of the woods near the barn, one where the port-a-potties used to be and there are three that have not been put out yet. One of these is going to Bob Merrill's spot, the second was discussed going on the peninsular on the other side of Swan Lake, the third may stay in this spot for a while until a decision is made to move it to another spot. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if many of the older ones have been replaced. D. Empey said that all the old wooden ones are gone.

C. Benches

J. Leone informed the committee that the last 35 benches commissioned for Friends of Benson Park has been finished, and that is it at this time. If the committee wants more benches, a decision should be made. D. Empey asked where the last bench was going and the gentleman that purchased the bench requested that it be placed on the far side of Swan Lake. N. Undercofler had the bench moved to Duck Pond so some juggling would be needed to accommodate this gentleman's request. Discussion followed.

D. Amplification Issues

Empey said he became aware of the Amplification Issues during Mal's Pal's raffle at the park. The Duet that was performing at this event had modest speakers, and they weren't exceptionally loud when you were down in the park, but someone who lives off Greeley Street could identify the songs at their house. D. Empey stated that Greeley Park went through something similar a few years ago with their amphitheatre and the neighbors were up in arms about the acoustics. D. Empey's concern is we will get the same thing. Mal's Pal's amphitheatre, if all goes according to schedule will be stated and possibly up within 12 weeks. D. Empey thinks some occasional sound should be allowed there, He thinks that music and performances should be allowed, however, the committee should address the size of these occasions, and the frequency of them. For example: if you live on Shepherd's Hill and work the third shift, having music every night when you are trying to sleep would be a deterrent to the park and everyone involved. It is up to the committee to see that this does not become a nuisance in the future. D. Empey thinks this should be controlled before it becomes a problem. P. Nichols thinks this is a Town responsibility and they should set up the rules because it is a Town Park. She asked Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau what his thoughts were. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he thought the Town would like the guidance from the Benson Committee on this. The committee could come up with a plan on how many nights music would be allowed in the park, what would the exceptions be, how much amplification should be allowed, would something be allowed on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon? These are things the committee should

think about and presented to the BOS. Maybe the Police Department should be asked what the standards for sounds should be or just ask Nashua what their criteria is for use of their amphitheatre. Vice Chair J. Barnes said the town already has a noise ordinance. You go to the property lines and measure the sound but with the park being so large it might be wise to measure sound around the lake or other areas of the park. C. Gagnon agreed to look into information on surrounding areas and will pass this on to the members.

E. Donations

Chair H. Schibanoff asked about the donation of stones stored behind the Office Building. He asked if we have anything to present to the Town to accept this gift. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau asked if anyone knew the value of the stones. N. Undercofler said that any donation over \$100 had to be approved by the BOS. Chair H. Schibanoff asked where the donated stones came from and Benson Quarry was the name of the donor. He asked what we would be required to get from them in order to present this donation to the BOS. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said the committee would need a letter from Hudson Quarry stating the value of the stone. Chair H. Schibanoff asked who would be the contact at Hudson Quarry and N. Undercofler said the Manager was Tim Baney. J. Maltz was the person that solicited this donation and it was recommended that he be contacted. Chair H. Schibanoff also let the committee know that he donated a shovel to the park.

F. Miscellaneous Communications

Chair H. Schibanoff received a thank you card from Rusty and Bruce Ottman of the NH LAST CAST FISHING CLUB OF NH. They thanked the committee and the town for allowing them to conduct the trout derby at Swan Lake and would like to do it again next year. This group has two leaders and a letter was sent to one of them from this committee and it was never shared with the second group. Chair H. Schibanoff just signed another letter that will be sent out to them also thanking them for a very special day and we look forward to their coming back to the park next year. The Town gave Chair H. Schibanoff a tape about an interview done around 2002 and it has J. McGraw and the people that were involved in the park at that time. The strange thing about this tape is that the party line is the same...i.e. the animals are not coming back and it is going to be all volunteers...some things never change. P. Nichols will send this recording to all committee members.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- A. **Vice Chair J. Barnes** asked when we would know our budget for this year. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he would have K. Carpentier get this out to Chair J. Barnes this week.
- B. **J. Leone** sent a notice about Hippo stating this park being one of the best walking parks and thanked P. Nichols for posting notice in Kiosk. Chair H. Schibanoff told J. Leone to send JPEG image to Donna at town hall and she would get it on HCTV.
- C. **Next Meeting: August 1, 2013** – Town Hall

8. Adjournment 8:03 pm

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