



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison

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Meeting Minutes February 7, 2013

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:01 p.m. February 7, 2013, Buxton Community Development Room, Town Hall, with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by D. Briand

2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternate R. Alio, D. Briand

Excused: C Gagnon, John Leone, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau

R. Alio will be a voting member tonight for C. Gagnon.

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

Linda Kipnes is appearing before the Committee to request a sign being placed at the Butterfly Garden. This year the group has been certified as a Monarch Butterfly way station and a sign with information on what a way station is and information on Butterflies was shared with members of the committee. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked what this sign would be posted on. L. Kipnes said she thought wooden posts with the sign at an angle would be best for ease in reading. She also requested another sign be placed at the garden with the names of the GFWC-Hudson Junior Women's Club and GFWC-Hudson Women's Community Club. She was not sure what kind of sign would be allowed because both names are quite long. Chair H. Schibanoff said that wood was the excepted signage background for the park.

P. Nichols made a motion to accept this proposal

N. Undercofler second the motion

N. Undercofler asked where the signs would be placed and L Kipnes said that the Butterfly sign would be near the milk weed and lave bed, the name sign would be placed near the front. She will check with N.

Undercofler before the signs are placed.

All in favor-Motion Carries

L. Kipnes also asked if another request of a structure in the form of a Pergola to be placed in the top corner of the area would be considered. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if it would be near the pond and L .Kipnes said it would be placed at an open space coming down the hill. She passed around a copy of a Pergola, and P. Nichols finally knew what it was...just didn't know the name. N. Undercofler stated she liked the idea.

A lot of different options were discussed but this was the one that would work in the garden.

N. Undercofler made a motion to allow a Pergola to be built at the Butterfly Garden

P. Nichols second the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be voted on at next meeting

6. Old Business

A. Office Update

Vice Chair, J. Barnes said he had hoped to have more information on the Office at this time but unfortunately he tried to reach out to someone about the windows and they were supposed to meet at the park, but due to illness, this has not happened. He will reschedule a meeting and when he gets an estimate on replacing or making new windows, he will get this to G. Webster, Town Engineer, who will then submit a Grant to the State. The application for this Grant has to be submitted sometime in April. The awards for this Grant will be known in the fall. If the Grant is given, plans to have this work done can be planned for next spring. P. Nichols asked if G. Webster had retired, and Vice Chair J. Barnes said he was working part-time on projects like this.

Chair H. Schibanoff had another issue with the Office Building. Usage of the Office Building was allowed during the sled race because it was so cold. D. Empey said we should be careful about letting others use it because it is a Historical Building and there are some issues with the foundation. He asked if someone on the committee could come up with a list of rules for use of this building and P Nichols said she would try to come up with something.

B. Train Station Update

Chair H. Schibanoff stated that at the BOS meeting on January 12, 2013, there will be representatives from the D.O.T. to explain the status of the Train Station. Chair H. Schibanoff suggested that as many members from the committee as possible attend this meeting. This request was also sent by the BOS Chairman.

7. New Business

A. Planning for Projects

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke about a listing of projects to be planned for the spring. Clean-up time will be before us soon and it would be good to have a few thing listed ahead of time. He asked D. Empey if he would think of things that should be done. P. Nichols asked that the committee have a walk around in March or April to find other areas that will need attention. Chair H. Schibanoff said it would be a good idea to document this for future questions from the BOS.

Vice Chair J. Barnes said that there are a few things we should considered for next years budget if approved. The street signs for the Historic District, the office repairs (sills & temporary windows), and picnic tables. He thinks these should be coordinated before budget approval.

B. Park Hours

Chair H. Schibanoff said he attended the Deliberative Session and spoke with Chief Lavoie who put out the suggestion that maybe we don't need park hours.

Chief Lavoie seems to think that most of the vandalism occurs during the night hours even when the gates are locked. At least one of the locks is broken. Chair H. Schibanoff would like feed-back from the committee. A. Desrosiers asked if the gates have been open for a while and Chair H. Schibanoff said yes. She was unaware of this. R. Alio stated that there should be some hours, because if a group is hanging around in the park, you cannot tell them to leave if there are no posted hours. N. Undercofler has very strong feelings about this. She thinks the gates should be locked because it gives a limit to the hours. This helps keep the vandalism down. P. Nichols agrees with R. Alio and N. Undercofler about the hours for the park. She does not want it to become a hang-out. P. Nichols considers this to be a family park, a park for everyone. If it became a hang-out, Family's would stay away and that is not what the committee envisioned when it started the development of the park. If the park has standard hours you do the best you can to control it. D. Empey strongly believes we should retain the hours. This was discussed at length before the opening of the park. The committee deliberated a very long time to set the hours, and as R. Alio said, without set hours there is no way to control what is going on in the park. There is no need for anyone to be at the park after dark. D. Briand voiced his opinion by saying that there is no reason for anyone being in the park after dark. Chair H. Schibanoff said that nothing has been said about this, he just wanted the feed-back from the committee. P. Nichols asked if there is some way the broken locks could be replaced, and Chair H. Schibanoff said Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau was working on that.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Desrosiers said she has not been to the park after the cardboard sled race. That was quite the event with top notch imagination construction of the sleds.

N. Undercofler wanted to let everyone know that at the BOS meeting on February 12, 2013, Eagle Scout candidate, D. Teague would be presenting a substantial gift of money to the BOS for use at Benson Park, Landscaping sub-committee.

Vice Chair J. Barnes handed out Expenses to date, end of January. We are overdrawn on the line item for the portable toilets. We knew this was happening and they will be going back into the park in March so this will continue. There is sufficient money in the General Maintenance Account to cover this. We should have enough to cover the projects this spring. Vice Chair J. Barnes said the Electric rate has increased in January. The bill will be a little bit higher but should not be a problem. The other big item is the service for the portable toilets. N.

Undercofler asked if anyone has responded to the septic question. Chair H. Schibanoff has not spoken to D. Yates. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he will call him.

Chair H. Schibanoff said he has been working on the signs for the buildings and spoke with the vendor. He thought the signs should go on posts, not put on buildings. The only two (2) structures that he is unsure of are the Gorilla House and the A-Frame. D. Empey said that he thought the signs should be posted on the buildings because the posts seem to be the most vandalized. Chair H. Schibanoff said he did not think signs should be posted on Historic Buildings. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he would ask if this would be allowed. P. Nichols liked the idea of posting on the buildings. Looking at Historical Buildings in the area, signs are posted to the buildings and this is something Vice Chair J Barnes could look into. Chair H. Schibanoff received an invitation for the committee to attend a Court of

Honor, to honor Eagle Scout Brett Reed, Sunday, January 24, 2013, at the VFW Hall at 1:00 pm. RSVP to J. Undercofler.

N. Undercofler made mention of the well behaved young members of our audience this evening. Chair H. Schibanoff asked J. Undercofler about these young men and he said they were younger members of Boy Scout Troop 20, working on their Citizen in the Community Merit Badge. J. Undercofler thought this would be a perfect meeting for them to attend.

Adjournment: 7:30 pm

N. Undercofler made a Motion to adjourn

P. Nichols second the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries