



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison



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### Meeting Minutes

Dec. 6, 2012

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:03 p.m. Dec. 6, 2012, Hudson Town Hall in the Buxton Community Development room with P. Nichols leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Attendance:

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

#### 3. Public Input

None

#### 4. Presentations

- A. **Chair H. Schibanoff** called on Vice Chair J. Barnes to make his presentation of Office Building repairs, due to his being called to appear before the Budget Committee this evening.

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** stated that Chair H. Schibanoff sent out copies of the list of projects that was the result of meetings and discussions with Town Engineer G. Webster and D. Empey. He also went through the building at one point and met with J. Leone and other members of the building committee. After putting together this list of proposed projects, Vice Chair J. Barnes met again with Town Engineer G. Webster and P. Michaud at the office building for a walk through and reviewed the projects. After this meeting, Vice Chair J. Barnes made an updated list of proposed projects. A few of the projects are in the budget request for next year and hopefully an approval from the Budget Committee will be forthcoming. This would be repairing the sill in the front of the Office Building and replacing a couple of windows in the main area. A picture on page 3 of the list give an idea what the sill condition looks like and it really needs attention. Chair H. Schibanoff asked where this sill section was located and Vice Chair J. Barnes explained it was the area under the front door. He also explained that these projects would involve a number of years to complete. We will need to go to P. Michaud and the Dept. of Historic Resources for some of these projects. This is to maintain the Historical accuracy of the building. Looking at the Office Building at this time, there are three (3) different styles of siding. There is log look on the front and south side of the building, the back has shingles, and on the north side there is clapboard. The reaction of the Building Committee and D. Empey was to make the whole building log style, but P. Michaud said no, this was not historically accurate. It has to be kept like it is. P.

Michaud said that when painting the building, we could keep it the same color. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Chair J. Barnes how does the State know that the sides of the Office were all different. Vice Chair J. Barnes said to look in the 2003 Historic Structures Report for the Office Building and there was mention of this question included. Chair H. Schibanoff said we would have to follow these guidelines. Questions and Discussion followed regarding the Kitchen area and looking for more pictures of the Office Building at an earlier date. N. Undercofler suggested someone ask The Friends of Benson Park if they could check all their pictures of the Office Building. Vice Chair J. Barnes suggested putting projects in some order for future updates and repairs. Town Engineer G. Webster and P. Michaud mentioned that there could be grants to apply for to help with funds for these projects. The DHR awards five (5) \$10,000 grants per year for the purpose of restoring Historical buildings. This should be looked into. Chair H. Schibanoff thanked Vice Chair J. Barnes for all the work done on this project.

**B. Chair H. Schibanoff** introduced Dave Hardy, View the Race

**D. Hardy** stated that he was appearing before the Benson Committee to ask for permission to stage a road race in the park. He has run through the park on many occasions and pictures a 5K race with half being run on the paved trails around the landmarks and the other half being run on the dirt trails within the park. If allowed, a portion of the proceeds would go to the park, and he thinks this would be a great way to highlight the park. Vice Chair J. Barnes said that as far as fund-raising goes he should be working with The Friends of Benson Park. It was mentioned that if this went through the committee, 100% of the funds would have to come to the Town. We are under a deed that does not allow the Committee to have commercial enterprises within the park. D. Hardy said this was not a problem and if approved (he owns a company called View the Race and he films race courses and creates websites) he would film the course and the race. P. Nichols asked how many runners would be involved in this race. D. Hardy said he would like as many as possible but if there were restrictions this he would work with the park. D. Empey asked how he would control the trails with people walking, biking, dog walking, etc. D. Briand asked if this would be a one time event or a yearly event. D. Hardy said he would hope this could be an annual event. D. Empey asked if this was a weekend event. D. Hardy said it would be a weekend event with a time start of 10:00 am or 11:00 am in the summer. Chair H. Schibanoff told D. Hardy to get in touch with The Friends of Benson Park and get back to this committee or have The Friends of Benson Park get back to us.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of November 1, 2012, with correction

**J. Barnes made a Motion to accept minutes with correction**

**C. Gagnon second the Motion**

**Motion Carries – 1 abstention**

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. Clean Ups**

C. Gagnon said she does not want to have a cleanup in December...she will not be there. N. Undercofler said it was too busy and cold to have a cleanup this month. P. Nichols said if there was something that was an emergency it would be

alright, if not, it is too busy in December. Chair H. Schibanoff said the consensus of the committee would be no cleanup.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Current Issues in Park**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** wanted to bring a few issues to the committee's attention. The first one is a complaint to the BOS from a town resident about smoking in the playground area. There was a discussion among the BOS and it was talked about banning smoking throughout the park and banning smoking in all parks. This has not gone anywhere, Chair H. Schibanoff just wanted to bring this to the committee's attention. A discussion followed among committee members on this issue. The smoking ban was discussed in the past and P. Nichols will check old minutes. D. Empey stated that this would be a hard rule to enforce. The second issue is with the social media. There have been comments made on Facebook about allowing horses in the park. This is something the committee did not want to do because of the sanitation problem and also the impact on the trails. Chair H. Schibanoff said there were 78 comments made on this issue. Someone suggested a warrant article on this among other dialogue. D. Empey stated that there was also a rule banning horses from the park and it should be enforced. One thing not mentioned about horses in the park is the large number of dogs on leashes walking on the paths and trails. Horses get excited by dogs and dogs get excited by horses and this is a potentially large safety issue. Chair H. Schibanoff said he wanted to bring this to the committee's attention because of the large number of comments made.

## **8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

**D. Briand** wanted to know if the dumpster was included when the Trash pickup was cancelled. He stated that the dumpster was just about overflowing at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff said that Pinard placed the trash barrels in the park, he did not know the status of the dumpster. C, Gagnon said that the dumpster was part of the towns allotted dumpsters and this was an extra one that the town placed in the park. Vice Chair J. Barnes said when Pinard picked up the barrels they forgot that the dumpster needs emptying on a regular basis. He feels that this was just an oversight. Chair H. Schibanoff will let D. Yates know about this.

**D. Empey** stated this as the last meeting of the year and it has been quite an eventful year. He thanked everyone who helped us, the Hudson Police Department has helped with a number of issues in the park, the Highway Department have been working well with us, the volunteers, without there tremendous help and efforts have really made a difference in keeping the park in the best condition. With the New Year upon us, D. Empey thinks we should start planning for the coming year with maintenance becoming a larger issue

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** said he has received many emails from the building committee. The roof on the Old Shoe is in need of repair. The building committee is working with the Brownie Troop to see what can be done to fix this before the inside is complete. They are looking at getting a contractor in to see what can be done with repairing the roof as part of the overall project. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that Troop Leader Beth Baker, will be attending our January meeting to update the committee on the granite stone and the Old Shoe.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if we wanted another meeting this month. Consensus was no meeting. P. Nichols will inform D. Graham and HCTV that we will not be meeting December 20, 2012. We will also be meeting on January 3, 2013, at the Ann Seabury Room at the Police station; all rooms at Town Hall are full. On another note, Chair H. Schibanoff received an email from Chicago. The person who sent the email originally came from Hudson and visited the park not too long ago. He was really impressed with what he saw and wants to contribute to the park. Chair H. Schibanoff told him how to do this and received a very positive response,

**Adjournment: 8:07 pm**

**P. Nichols made a Motion to adjourn**

**C. Gagnon second the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**

**The next meeting of the Park Committee will take place on January 3, 2013  
Ann Seabury Room at the Police Station at 7:00 pm.**