



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison



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Meeting Minutes May 3, 2012

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 6:04 p.m. April 19, 2012 in the Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance led by N. Undercofler.

2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, C Gagnon, late, John Leone, late, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternate, R. Alio

Excused: D. Briand

Absent: Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentation

A. **Animal Control Officer, Jana McMillan** spoke on a report that she gave to the BOS regarding dog waste, leash law, and non-use of trash barrels. She praised the volunteers that she has met in the park on the work they are doing to make this a special place. She wants to do her part in keeping it this way. There has been a problem with littering and dog waste in the park but it seems to be improving with more awareness of the rules, regulations, and fines. She has been asked by volunteers what can they do to help, and Animal Control Officer, Jana McMillan said it would not be safe to approach people in the park. She said to try to contact the police department or if possible to contact her with concerns and she would do her best to resolve the issues. A question of deputizing a few people in the park was asked but Animal Control Officer, Jana McMillan stated due to accreditation status, etc it would not be feasible. She also addressed some of the laws that applied to dog waste. If she or another officer saw a person walking a dog and asked to see what they had to pick up waste and they did not show it, there would be an automatic fine. The 6' leash law, the means to pick up dog waste, and the means to dispose of dog waste, all carry fines if not in compliance: \$25 first offense, \$50 second offense, and a third offense could warrant a court action. Members of the committee asked for clarification on some of the rules and what we could do to help enforce them. Animal Control Officer, Jana McMillan mentioned she had a few issues with animal wild life. Without a lot of signage, Animal Control Officer, Jana McMillan and her Chief were trying to figure out a way to educate the public on the trails. It is a park with a variety of wild life and

everyone should be aware that no animals, turtles, etc. should be removed from the park. There are also fox den's throughout the park and everyone should be aware that it is dangerous to disturb these areas. Discussion on marking the signs or putting yellow tape around the area followed. Animal Control Officer, Jana McMillan was thanked for speaking to the committee on her observations.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of April 5 and 19, 2012

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept both sets of Minutes

J. Barnes second the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

6. Old Business

A. **Walk-Through Results**

C. Gagnon wrote up a quick note from the park and handed it out for quick review. More can be added to this listing for volunteer projects and what can be worked on with the town. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if C. Gagnon had shared this listing with the town. She said she wanted to review this with D. Empey before showing the list of projects to Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau and he would give it to the town. J. Leone asked if any projects left over from last year were on this list and C. Gagnon said she did not add them. A few of the projects from last year were deemed not important, just wish list items and a few are on the list. A few more areas were added and C. Gagnon will email the updated list to all committee members.

B. **Building and Trail Signs**

D. Empey said that the bases for the park map signs were done and two (2) of the six (6) have been installed, and the Kiosk map sign has been installed. The QR Code is working and it only a matter of seconds that the map can be on anyone's smart phone. The design of the support for the new signs was changed to a two (2) post design to protect the larger signs. The signs and wood will be charged through the Trail Grant. The building signs could possibly be charged to the Trail Grant.

C. **Trash Cans**

Chair H. Schibanoff asked about trash pick-up and his concern was the trucks are coming into the park. C. Gagnon said they are picking up the trash very early in the morning. The problem on placement of barrels was discussed in detail.

7. New Business

A. **Committee Reports**

P. Nichols placed a flyer in the Kiosk posting the new summer hours. She also placed another flyer at the Handicap Entrance in the Historical Area stating the new summer hours.

B. **Financials**

Chair H. Schibanoff sent the committee the Financial Statements and we are well under budget and we have not been spending a lot of money. He just wanted to keep everyone informed. C. Gagnon said if there was money available and it was near the end of the fiscal year, there are a couple of

specialized tools that she would like for clean-up days. Chair H. Schibanoff also said there is a large budget item under maintenance for electricity, sewer and water all the way down to the Gorilla House. We have not been able to spend this money because the State has not approved the move of the Train Station yet. Chair H. Schibanoff will look encumbering these funds for another budget year. P. Nichols questioned the amount of \$16,628. She did not know what it was used for. Chair H. Schibanoff said he would look into this. It was supposed to be straightened out. D. Empey said if we were unable to encumber the funds for the next fiscal year, we should look into spending this money on other projects in the park. He also wants to bring up the fencing of the playground again. The committee consensus on April 5, 2012, was no fencing around the playground. In depth discussion followed with many committee members contributing their thoughts.

C. Office Repairs

John Leone had a question concerning left over Eagle Scout Funds. Now that work is going forward on the Office Building, he wants to know how to go about using some of those funds. The first project was jacking up the beams under the office and the building committee needs to install permanent columns so that this will stabilize the office in a level position. Money is needed for columns and cement.

D. Eagle Scout Funds

Chair H. Schibanoff said he thought this should be discussed with the BOS. A good deal of money was turned over from at least one Eagle Scout. D. Empey said that if the check that was turned over to the BOS had Benson Park written on it then those funds could be used for the park. Chair H. Schibanoff said he thought those funds went into the General Fund.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- A. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said there would be a clean-up on May 12, 2012, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch and water provided. The Park closes at 9:00 pm and is open at 5:00 am
- B. Next meeting will be held on May 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the BOS Meeting Room.

Adjournment: 8:20 pm

N. Undercofler made a motion to adjourn

A. Desrosiers second the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries