



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison

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Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2012

### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:04 p.m. April 5, 2012 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by John Leone.

### 2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, Alternate Liaison Selectman R. Coutu, A. Desrosiers, C. Gagnon, John Leone, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternates R. Alio, D. Briand

Excused: D. Empey, Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau

D. Briand-voting member this evening.

### 3. Public Input

None

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 15, 2012

N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes

C. Gagnon second the motion

All in favor -Motion Carries.

### 5. Old Business

#### A. Trail Name

Chair H. Schibanoff asked if anyone had information on the new Trail Signs. R. Alio stated that the sign on the new Trail was in place. Chair H. Schibanoff asked what the name of this trail was and R. Alio stated that Acorn Trail had been approved.

#### B. Building Signs

Chair H. Schibanoff asked about the Building signs and P. Nichols said she would schedule a meeting within the next two (2) weeks.

#### C. Trail Signs

Chair H. Schibanoff asked if anyone knew if progress has been made on the new Trail signs. N. Undercofler could only comment on the new map. She said it has been completed and she thinks it is on the Internet and the map has been given to the printer.

#### D. Benches

**J. Leone** gave update on benches for the Park. FoBP has received donation requests to finish building the original number of benches agreed upon last year. J. Leone also suggested that the committee request from the FoBP at least ten (10) more benches to be placed at the park. Chair H. Schibanoff asked how many benches have been placed in the park, and J. Leone thought at least 24, including benches at the 9-11 Memorial. A discussion followed in placement of other benches. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he thought there was enough room to place at least ten (10) more benches. H. Schibanoff also welcomed the committees Alternate Selectman Liaison R. Coutu to the meeting at this time. Selectman B. Nadeau was chosen as the Liaison of the Benson Committee. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if a formal motion on the benches be made.

**J. Leone made a motion to ask FoBP to accept donations for 10 new benches**

**Vice Chair J. Barnes second the Motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**

**E. Installation of Patio Blocks**

**J. Leone** said that the benches required patio blocks to be placed under them for stability and ease of mowing. He is looking for help in placing these blocks soon. C. Gagnon said she would place this as a priority on the list for the up-coming clean-up. At this time, R. Coutu, Alternate Selectman Liaison, said that the BOS has allocated funds for the Highway Department to have someone available to tackle some of these projects.

**F. Park Hosts**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that this did not seem to be going anywhere. This was talked about at the last meeting to have someone at the entrances to remind people to clean-up after their dogs, etc. P. Nichols said she was asked at the last meeting to approach the seniors in town to help with this and at this time she is not comfortable with asking them to participate in this. She went on at great length to explain her feelings on this. Chair H. Schibanoff asked R. Coutu, Alternate Selectman Liaison, if it was mentioned at the last BOS meeting, that dog waste baggie dispensers would be placed at the park entrances. R. Coutu, Alternate Selectman Liaison, said it was not with the BOS to make this decision. He stated that the BOS would not micro-manage the Benson Park Committee and they should make decisions of this kind. He suggested that a possible donation of dispenser and bags be solicited from dog product vendors with a notice stating who donated this to the park. He also mentioned that the park being open to all NH Residents, we might qualify, under the Division of Parks volunteer host program. This would be something to look into. He also suggested looking into fixing the Office Building so that a caretaker could be on the property at all times. This could be a future project to consider and was on the list of original plans for the park.

**6. New Business**

**A. Committee Reports**

- **D. Briand, Dog Park Committee**, said that a bake sale and tag sale will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012, 9am to 3pm, on the grounds of the Old Hills

Memorial Library in Hudson. He asked people support their effort in paying for the fencing at Park.

- **N. Undercofler, Landscape Committee** had her first Landscape meeting of the season and everyone is looking forward to a wonderful year. She also wanted to mention that the rock wall that was falling near the bear wall facing Swan Lake is now being dismantled in preparation of being restored. The Landscape committee was fortunate to have a stonemason volunteer his time and his son's in repairing this wall. The stones are being preserved and cleaned in anticipation of the start of this project. The complete date is expected by the middle of May. The only requirement needed for this project is ten (10) bags of cement, ten (10) bags of mortar, and three (3) yards of sand. The estimated cost of these items is around \$155.

**N. Undercofler made a motion to spend \$155 for cement and mortar to repair rock wall and steps**

**P. Nichols second the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**

**B. Date of walk-through**

**C. Gagnon** spoke of the date of the Walk-around at the park to determine what work needed to be scheduled for clean-up days, the first to be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>. **C. Gagnon** would like to have this walk-through on April 14<sup>th</sup>, but if this is not a suitable date, another date could be chosen because there are enough projects on the list of things to accomplish. **C. Gagnon** suggested we have the walk-around on April 19, 2012, this is the regular BP Committee meeting date and if we meet earlier, this could be our regular meeting. **P. Nichols** will cancel the Town Hall meeting room for April 19 and members of the committee will meet at the park at 6:00 pm.

**C. Dogs in the Park**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** commented on the Dog Officer's report and how we, as a committee, should act on the recommendations given. The BOS has not banned dogs from the park as requested by some, but we, as a committee, need to make the public more aware of the rules on cleaning up after your pet. Signage was discussed with the amount of money to be paid in fines for this rule breaking. The dispensers and bags for pick-up were also discussed. **R. Coutu**, Alternate Selectman Liaison, said this would make people rely on the park for bags. More discussion on this followed. It was decided to invite the Dog Officer to speak at one of the BPC meeting. The consensus from the committee was to look into metal signage with fine up to \$150.

**D. Trash Cans**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** stated that trash cans have already been placed at the park. He wanted to know if these containers were chained, and if not, do we think they would be moved around. **J. Leone** said that he has seen evidence of the trash containers being moved to other areas. **R. Coutu**, Alternate Selectman Liaison, explained how the extra trash containers were placed in the park. He spoke at length on this subject. Discussion and suggestions from members of the committee followed. It was determined to leave containers where they are and observe for a while.

**E. Playground Fencing**

**P. Nichols** is not in favor of placing fencing around the playground. It is not in the concept of the park. The open feeling and beauty would be

compromised. A. Desrosiers agreed with not fencing in the area and sees no need of this. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that removal of fences has been a project of the park and he is not willing to see others added. He suggested the possibility of planting trees and shrubs around the playground instead of fencing would be more appropriate in the park. C. Gagnon also agreed with the open concept. Other members joined in the discussion. The general consensus is not to block off with landscaping or fence-in the playground.

#### **F. Parking Lot Configuration**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if anything has been done to improve the parking at the Park. N. Undercofler said the parking lot has already been marked out and it is absolutely beautiful. There are at least 190 parking spots at this time. N. Undercofler stated that an outstanding job was done by the town crew. R. Coutu, Alternate Selectman Liaison, also was impressed on the marked out spaces and also complemented the town crew for a job well done. Other members of the committee also agreed that the job done was phenomenal. C. Gagnon said that while handicap parking was available at the entrance by the office building, there are no handicap parking spots at the lower parking lot. This has been discussed in the past and she felt that a few spots should be designated in the lower parking lot. D. Briand suggested placing handicap signs along the fence to allow for a few handicap spots. Discussion followed among committee members as to the amount of signs, where would they be purchased, etc. This will be looked into asap.

#### **G. E-mail**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** handed out a copy of an email he received from the Police Chief regarding Fox Den's in the park. He wants guidance from us in handling this. Do we want to leave as is or post signs saying where the Fox Den's are located? R. Alio said it would be wise to leave things as they are because posting signage will only lead people to investigate. Consensus on this issue: post a sign on the Kiosk warning of the Fox Den's and let the Chief of Police know what we intend to do.

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

- **A. Desrosiers** gave an update on fund raising for Mal's Pal's. There is going to be a Paranormal Event to be held on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Alvirne High School. Doors will open at 6:00 pm. Guest speaker for this event will be Kris Williams from Ghost Hunters from the Sci-Fi channel. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 in advance or at the door. There will also be another guest speaker from the New England Paranormal Research. All are welcome.
- **P. Nichols** asked if anything has come about with the repairing of the car track. She said that someone was going to meet with committee members to finalize plans for this, and wanted to know if anyone knew anymore about this. Chair H. Schibanoff said he did hear that a meeting was planned but has no information on this. J. Leone said that the meeting did take place but he did not hear what transpired. N. Undercofler said that the young man was going to get back to J. Undercofler, but that had not happened yet. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if she would follow up on this and get back to the committee. N. Undercofler said she would.

- **J. Leone** let everyone know that the FoBP are having a fund raising Spaghetti Dinner on April 21, 2012 at the Community Center, 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, \$5 ticket in advance, \$7 at the door and \$3 children 10 and under. Information can be found at the Kiosk at the park, Facebook (FB) or the FoBP website. Also, in addition to the donated benches in the park, the possibility of picnic tables being donated through FoB was mentioned at the last meeting by Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau. There are enough old metal legs to make three (3) new picnic tables, and FoBP has agreed to furnish the lumber and volunteers to complete them. J. Leone asked how many more the committee needed and he would bring this amount back to the FoBP.
- **D. Briand** just wanted to remind everyone of the tag/bake sale, on Saturday
- **Selectman Liaison R. Coutu** took this opportunity to say he is happy to be part of this committee. Even though he will be substituting for Selectman B. Nadeau, he will try to attend as meetings as he can. He wanted to remind everyone that he is a strong advocate to every committee he is a part of. Selectman Liaison R. Coutu said that with this said, he wanted to remind everyone that the week after next is volunteer week and wanted everyone to know that no volunteer is taken for granted. All the work and hours that has been donated to the park is truly appreciated and without them it would not be the beautiful, magnificent area that it is. The BOS want to extend there heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the committee and the large base of volunteers with the hope this will continue in the future. Selectman Liaison R. Coutu also took the opportunity to welcome Kris Williams, a graduate of Alvirne High School and past resident of Hudson, in being a guest speaker for the Mal's Pal's paranormal night fund raiser.
- **Chair H. Schibanoff** let everyone know that Selectman Liaison R. Coutu was also a representative on the Cable Committee for years and was a strong advocate for anything the Cable Committee wanted to present to the BOS. Chair H. Schibanoff also wanted to remind everyone that the next clean-up will be on April 14, 2012, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.
- **N. Undercofler** reminded everyone that another Spaghetti Supper hosted by Bret Reed, Eagle Scout candidate, will be held on the April 15, 2012, at the Community Center.
- **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the last Spaghetti Supper hosted by Matt Gagnon was well attended by members of this committee.

### **Next Meeting:**

**April 19, 2012, 7:00 pm Benson Park, Office Building**

### **Adjournment: 8:45 pm**

**C. Gagnon made a motion to adjourn**

**N. Undercofler second the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**