



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



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### Meeting Minutes March 15, 2012

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:01 p.m. March 15, 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, A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, C. Gagnon,, John Leone,  
Selectman B. Nadeau, (late), P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler,  
Alternates R. Alio.  
Excused: D. Briand

#### 3. Public Input

None

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

##### Minutes of January 5, 2012

**A. Desrosiers made a motion to accept minutes**  
**Vice Chair J. Barnes seconded the motion**  
**Motion Carries.**

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Trail Name and Signs

**D. Empey** stated it was agreed at the last meeting to name the new trail Lookout Path. This has been deemed unacceptable. Overlook is also not acceptable with the town. D. Empey sent a late email to members of the committee with the name of Rocky Path, he does not think this would have any conflict with the town street names. J. Leone asked for a description of the path and D. Empey described it to everyone. Committee members made a few suggestions but there are town streets and roads with similar or same names. Chair H. Schibanoff said we should come up with two or three names so that we would get an answer from the town in order to complete the new map. P. Nichols came up with Acorn Trail, and a street map was sent for by a member of the audience. Acorn Trail was not on the Town street map so the committee stated they would go with that as one name and Rocky Path as the second choice. A review of the map was discussed and D. Empey said the side of the map with the caption Historic Buildings should be changed because the highlights on this column are not all buildings, and he was not sure if Bandstand was the correct name for this area. A. Desrosiers stated that she thought the correct name for this area from Mal's Pal's was amphitheater. D. Empey said that the amphitheater was included in the old plans and in a different

area of the park and looking the meaning for amphitheater up in the dictionary, the site for the gazebo and area in remembrance of Mallory Gray did not really coincide with this. Discussion followed with many committee members adding their thought on this.

**C. Gagnon made a motion to let Mal's Pal's decide on what this area will be called.**

**P. Nichols seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carried**

C. Gagnon asked if 911 should have a dash between the 9 and 11. It was agreed that a dash instead of a slash be used in referring to this memorial.

P. Nichols said she thought that too many 'you are here' stars on the map are close. D. Empey explained that the stars on the map signify beginning of trails and one larger map for the Kiosk. R. Alio agreed with P. Nichols that there should be 'you are here' signage on trails that intersect in the park. Selectman B. Nadeau said he had the answer to Mallory's place. He received a call and the Mal's Pal's committee said it is referred to as amphitheater. Putting us back on track, D. Empey said that Historic Buildings would have to be changed because not all areas are buildings now. After some discussion it was agreed by the Committee to change Historic Buildings to Points of Interest. D. Empey asked if the committee was finished making changes to the map and P. Nichols said she was having a hard time with no signage being on the outer trails that intersect. D. Empey said that there was a QR Code on the map and that anyone with a smart phone could get the map of the area. P. Nichols said that many seniors use these trails and did not have smart phones. She does not have one herself because she is retired and does not have a use for this type of phone. D. Empey spent time explaining these signs in detail. R. Alio felt that a map at the intersection of 8 and 9 would be important for anyone wanting to leave the trails the shortest way. After more deliberation from the committee on this subject, Selectman B. Nadeau thought that with the different ages of people using the trails, a sign should be posted at post 16. R. Alio said he thought the better choice would be at post 13, due to the different trails that intersect at this area. Selectman B. Nadeau said he would agree with R. Alio in placing a sign at post 13 instead of post 16.

**J. Leone modified a motion to accept all 4 star locations and add 2 more star locations, one at post 13 and one at post 8**

**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carried**

D. Empey moved the discussion to Vendor information and cost at this time. He stated that we would need four (4) 18x24 signs and two (2) 12x18 signs. D. Empey referred to page 2 of the packet he handed out with information to Hudson Vendor #1 and Litchfield Vendor #2. He also handed out a sample of the sign from both Vendors along with prices and lead time. A description of the posts was given and how the signs would be attached. Committee members gave their opinions on Vendors and D. Empey agreed with the committee on the choice of Vendor.

**P. Nichols made a motion to accept Vendor #1**

**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carried**

D. Empey asked if we should go to the BOS with this request and Selectman B. Nadeau said he did not think it would be necessary but he would mention this at

the next BOS meeting. The cost of these signs would most likely be covered by the Trail Grant.

### **B. Building Signs**

D. Empey stated that other than getting quotes for pricing he has not looked into Building signs in depth. He did say that these signs for the buildings would not be covered under the Trail Grant but the cost could come out of the Park funds. He produced a sample of material that would be perfect for Building signage that would be long lasting and hold up very well. He also suggested the committee table this until after the Trail signs are completed. Chair H. Schibanoff said he thought a sub-committee should be formed to decide what the content and pictures would be used in these signs. P. Nichols volunteered to be on this committee, Chair H. Schibanoff, C. Gagnon and A. Desrosiers also volunteered. P. Nichols will schedule a time and date for the sub-committee to meet.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Committee Reports**

**J. Leone** stated that the building committee met on Saturday, March 10 at the Park and to work on jacking up the front of the office. They are trying to stabilize this building so that more work could be done in the future. P. Nichols asked if this building would be able to accommodate the lunch crew to feed the volunteers. J. Leone stated that it was in the same condition as it was the last time it was used for this and he saw no reason it would not be available for the next clean-up. J. Leone also explained about plans the building committee has to further stabilize the building and replace the sills, etc.

### **B. Park Hosts**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** sent an email to all committee members from Eileen Frechette from the Dog Park Committee. The BOS will be reviewing the policy of letting people bring their dogs into the park. Due to the dogs with out a leash and owners not picking up after their dogs, they may want to ban all dogs from the park. She is looking for people to volunteer their time to welcome people with dogs to the park, ask if they have doggie waste bags, and make sure the dogs are on a six foot leash. Possibly hand out waste bags if needed. Chair H. Schibanoff asked how to get people to volunteer their time. Chair H. Schibanoff asked the committee what they thought of this idea. D. Empey said he was in favor of it and he did not like the thought of many not being able to enjoy the park with their dog for the few that did not adhere to the rules. Selectman B. Nadeau liked the idea and thought it would be proactive. Reminding people to pick up after their children and their dogs is a positive approach to keeping the park in a clean and inviting place for everyone. R. Alio said getting volunteers would be the biggest problem. C. Gagnon said she would work with the Dog Park staff if they wanted to send out notices asking for assistance from her large volunteer list. N. Undercofler asked P. Nichols if it would be possible for some of the seniors to volunteer a portion of their time in helping with this. P. Nichols said they would not be able to do a full day but she would bring it up at the next senior meeting. They have been interested in getting involved in the park for quite a while and this would be a great opportunity. Chair H. Schibanoff asked R. Alio to bring this info back to the Dog Park Committee and he asked Selectman B. Nadeau to bring this to the next BOS meeting so that they will know the Benson Committee is trying to resolve the issue of no dogs in the park.

## 7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

**J. Leone** gave an update on the FoBP (Friends of Benson Park). The last of the benches have been committed. Some will be placed by the playground. D. Empey stated that picnic tables will be needed in the park this summer. This should be looked into. Selectman B. Nadeau suggested that instead of looking for people to donate benches, it maybe worthwhile to look into asking people to donate picnic tables instead. J. Leone said he would bring this suggestion back to the FoBP.

**Selectman B. Nadeau** was having a discussion with the Recycling Committee at their last meeting. This committee purchases and sell compost bins that work at breaking down greens rather quickly, if you do it right. He thought if a few were placed in the park it would help the Adopt-a-Spot areas. With the proceeds that the recycling committee makes selling the bins he could get them to donate at least two (2) to the park. Selectman B. Nadeau explained how this could help the Adopt-a-Spot areas. It was agreed by all to accept this offer. P. Nichols mentioned the Spring Walk-Around and this could be a way to find an area for the compost bins. N. Undercofler said this should be left up to the Adopt-a-Spot group. D. Empey also said that the walk-around should be soon, due to setting our objectives for the coming year. C. Gagnon would like the walk-around before our next clean-up. If this cannot be done then she needs projects for the next clean-up.

**C. Gagnon** said the gate is gone. The gate that narrowed the road down into the parking lot has been removed and she is happy and excited that she could enter on her side of the road. She stated that the Town crew has done a wonderful job with the parking lot and continues to improve this area.

**P. Nichols** likes the clear area at the top of the parking lot. It makes the parking lot more visible from the road area, and some of the park area is also visible.

**N. Undercofler** heard from someone saying that on busy weekends, people are parking on both sides of the road going down the hill. She suggested that no parking signs be placed on one side of the hill. This was discussed and it was determined that this should be considered after the parking lot is finished.

**A. Desrosiers** gave an update on fund raising for Mal's Pal's. There is going to be a Saint Patrick's Day Roast on Saturday. Some tickets are still available through Rogers Store or through Mal's Pal's. They should be purchased before Friday so that the count can be sent in. A cocktail hour, dinner, roast, dancing, etc. will be on the agenda. A. Desrosiers also noticed when the March 1<sup>st</sup> date happened, the dates on the gates were correct but in the Kiosk, near the large map, the hours were different. Vice Chair J. Barns said these needed to be updated and some of the rules have been changed or added so he will look into this.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked D. Empey about a new water control system that was mentioned. A new device was installed to confuse the Beavers that the Trail committee was having a problem with last year. It seems to be working at this time because the Beaver has not figured out how to plug it up. It is experimental and has been used successfully in other places and that is where the idea came from. In closing Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned that our Liaison was not re-elected and will not be on this committee any longer but he wanted to thank him publicly for his service to this committee and to the park and without him he does not think the park would be where it is today. We appreciate everything that Shawn Jasper did for us and hopefully he will still be around to work on the park.

**Next Meeting:**

**April 5, 2012, 7:00 pm Town Hall**

**Adjournment: 8:45 pm**

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

**D. Empey seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**