



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



12 School Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6000 • Fax: 603-598-648

### Meeting Minutes February 2, 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. on February 2, 2011 in the Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Natalie Undercofler.

#### 2. Attendance:

A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, John Leone, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternates R. Alio, and D. Briand.  
Excused: Vice Chair J. Barnes

#### 3. Public Input

**K. Matthews**, President of the Friends of Benson Park, informed the committee that he had received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$138,000, for the purchase of Benson Wild Animal Farm memorabilia, with the understanding it would be used as part of a Museum to be placed at Benson Park.

#### 4. Presentations

##### A. Proposed Eagle Scout Project

**Daniel Teague**, Life Scout for Troop 52 in Hudson. He comes before the committee looking for a project to complete his Eagle Scout Award and after speaking with J. Undercofler he decided on a walkway connecting the two entrances to the Gorilla Cage to the pathway. He would plan to do this over the summer due to approval from his Scout Leader and permission from the Eagle Scout Board. Chair H. Schibanoff asked for a description of the walkway and D. Teague passed out pictures of two different designs for consideration. N. Undercofler said that this area is an Adopt-a-Spot and she spoke with D. Teague and the person that has this area. When all is approved D. Teague and the person who has the Adopt-a-Spot will get together and decide what would be appropriate.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept the project with coordination of the landscaping personnel.**

**P. Nichols seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked for approval in signing paperwork for Scout D. Teague to go forward with this project.

**P. Nichols made a motion to allow Chair H. Schibanoff to sign paperwork**  
**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**  
**All in favor-Motion Carries**

**B. Proposal: Remote Control Car area**

**Mike Drouin appeared** before the committee with a proposal to refurbish the Remote Control Car area. He would like to restore this area for people to bring their own cars to use in this area. The asphalt track is in good condition but there is a big Tree with roots growing underneath it and he would like to remove about eight (8) feet of this asphalt and put in place a ramp so that the Tree would not be damaged. There are also cracks in the asphalt that he would clean out and seal. There are three (3) benches: one needs to be reset in the cement and all three need new seats. There are several posts near the benches and several posts in the back of the track. A few are in good condition but some need to be replaced. Rope will also be needed to be added between the post as shown in pictures of the original track. There was a wood border around the track and some of it is still good but there are areas that will need to be replaced or restored. Chair H. Schibanoff said that there is an open-end in this area and wanted to know if this would be addressed for safety. M. Drouin stated he would do whatever we wanted him to do. N. Undercofler asked him if he was going to landscape the area and he said that he would wait until spring to see what the bushes, etc. looked like before he planned flowers. A. Desrosiers asked if he had people helping him or if this was his own personal project. M. Drouin said this was his project using his own funds. He has a brother that is a contractor in Boston and will supply him with any supplies that he needs. He also has a cousin that works with Hudson Paving and will also give him help and the resources that he needs. D. Empey has a few issues :one was the wall that Chair H, Schibanoff mentioned, he would like to see some sort of fence (possibly post and rail) put in this area to prevent a hazard. D. Empey also thought that a ramp of asphalt rather than wood would be better over the roots and need less maintenance. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the trees should be taken down. M. Drouin said if this happened he wanted a shade tree to replace this. The tree that is there offers shade to the track. J. Leone asked him when he would begin this project and he said in the spring. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper would like to see more detail to this project before allowing it to go forward. He would like it to be more formal and that a couple of people from the committee and go over the project in more detail. D. Empey, J. Leone, N. Undercofler and J. Undercofler will work with M. Drouin.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**Minutes of January 5, 2012**

**J. Leone made a motion to accept minutes**  
**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**  
**Motion Carries.**  
**One abstention- P. Nichols, not at meeting**

## 6. Old Business

### A. Identification Placards

**P. Nichols** handed out ID placards to members of the committee

### B. Review Eagle Scout Project List

The listing was an older version...**P. Nichols** said that a lot of listing items have already been done. Trees and shrubs will remain on listing; some of the picnic tables should be refurbished or restored. This list will be updated and reviewed at the next building. Discussion followed **J. Leone** mentioning exercise areas at strategic parts of the Trails. Many thoughts on this and **C. Gagnon** suggested that a walk-around in the spring would show if this or other areas of exercise (volley ball, etc.) would be feasible.

### C. Review Park Project List

Tabled until after walk-around

### D. Completion of Eagle Scout Project

**A. Foster**, candidate for Eagle Scout Award finished the bridge at Story Book Hill and wanted to know if anyone else saw the completed bridge. Chair **H. Schibanoff** has to sign off on this project so that **A. Foster** can present to the BOS for acceptance by the town.

## 7. New Business

### A. Financial Report

**Chair H. Schibanoff** sent the Financial Report through the second quarter of our Fiscal year. Everything was explanatory with the exception of two (2) items and he is not sure how to discuss them. He said we are paying a fee to FairPoint (Verizon was written) for security. Chair **H. Schibanoff** asked if this was a pertinent issue. Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** was not sure of this and suggested that he and Chair **H. Schibanoff** talk about this. The next issue was the \$16,528 for fence repair due to damage done by the storm. Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** said this was wrong and would be looked into.

### B. New Trail Addition

**C. D. Empey** handed out trail maps to the committee and he has marked a new trail beginning at post 21 and ending down by Swan Lake. This proposed route is the last that **D. Empey** mentioned in the past. It starts off Oak Ridge and goes through an area of hard woods that is an attractive area. It continues around the back of the meadow. There is a high spot on this trail and you should be able to look out over Otter Pond and Beaver Pond and the lower meadow area. It continues across more hard woods and comes out behind Swan Lake on the paved road. It should come out to be about three and a half to four tenths of a mile long.

**C. Gagnon** made a motion to approve another Trail to be added to the Park

**P. Nichols** seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

### D. Petitioned Warrant Article

**Chair H. Schibanoff** mentioned that there is a Petitioned Warrant Article signed by 25 voters in town to put parking meters in the park and allow parking to be free for residents. This is totally against the deed and if violated the State can take the park back. Do we take a position on this at the

Deliberative Session or let it go. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it would be good to take a position on this. Chair H. Schibanoff and C. Gagnon will speak against this at the Deliberative Session.

#### **E. Committee Reports**

**D. Empey** said the Trails and Paths sub-committee has working on areas of storm damage in the park an scouting out the new trail area. They hope to have this trail ready by Memorial Day. Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned that Town Engineer G. Webster gave him the form that needs to be filled out for reimbursement from the Trail Grant. Chair H. Schibanoff said it was very interesting reading because it showed that between August 15, 2011 and December 9, 2011 a total of 373 and ½ hours of volunteer work. This was done by a total of 3 or 4 individuals. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated.

**P. Nichols** asked Committee if they wanted brochures or maps placed in areas throughout the park. This could be an Eagle Scout project for the spring. She feels that brochures are getting too expensive to print. The amount of people visiting the park is far more than expected and a sign like the one for the Chestnut Trees would be more than adequate for the future. D. Empey said that we have a vendor that makes those kind of signs and he will get in touch with him and get an idea on what this type of sign would cost. He also feels that at least four (4) signs would be needed throughout the Trails system. This could possibly be funded through the Trail Grant. Discussion followed and more ideas were presented. This will be discussed in detail at a later date.

**D. Briand** said that the fence for the large and small dog park is in thanks to Gate City Fence. They are not ready to open yet...the fence has to be paid in full and there is still a lot of physical work, stump removal, grading, etc. to be done. D. Briand said that a sled dog event in the park on February 26, 2012. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper asked if the sleds were going to be on wheels due to lack of snow. D. Empey asked if more money is needed to open the park and D. Briand said yes and that donations could be made to the Hudson Dog Park web site.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** mentioned the work the Highway Department has done on increasing the size of the parking lot. It is being leveled out nicely and a few drainage issues remain but in all it will increase the number of parking spaces this spring.

**P. Nichols** tanked N. Undercofler for doing the minutes when she was absent. Good Job

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

#### **A. Remarks by Committee Members**

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** mentioned the work the Highway Department has done on increasing the size of the parking lot. It is being leveled out nicely and a few drainage issues remain but in all it will increase the number of parking spaces this spring.

**P. Nichols** thanked N. Undercofler for doing the minutes when she was absent. Good Job Natalie. Thank you again!

**A. Desrosiers** said Mal's Pal's is going to be sponsoring a card board sled race at Hills Garrison School on February 11. The donation is \$10.00 per person and \$15.00 per family. Registration will start at 12:00 pm with races

beginning at 2:00 pm, A fund raiser will be held for people looking for something to do on St. Patrick's Day. There will be a celebration and Roast taking place at the White Birch. Cocktail hour is from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to follow with entertainment, roasting and dancing. This event will be \$25 per person.

**Next Meeting:**

**March 1, 2012, Town Hall**

**9. Adjournment: 8:18 pm**

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn**

**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**