



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison

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Meeting Minutes January 5, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Benson Park Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Harry Schibanoff at 7:02 p.m. on January 5, 2012 in the Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Ralph Alio.

2. Attendance

Vice Chair J. Barnes, R. Empey, A. Desrosiers, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper-late, N. Undercofler, C. Gagnon, J. Leone, Chairman H. Schibanoff, Alternates: R. Alio and D. Briand.
Alternate D. Briand will be seated in place of absentee Member.
Excused Member: P. Nichols

3. Public Input

None
Chairman Schibanoff welcomed Hudson Boy Scout Troop 20 to the meeting. They chose this committee to observe as a requirement of the Citizens Community merit badge.

4. Presentations

None

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented except for a minor correction indicating the next meeting will be Jan. 5th instead of Dec. 1st.

6. Old Business

A. Use of the Office/Gorilla House

The transition out of the Elephant Barn to the Office building was discussed. The ability to serve the volunteers lunch was successful and will continue. Given that the office building has been deemed an historical building and must be restored to its original state, J. Leone will look into possibly making the upstairs more attractive, e.g. evaluate the existing frames and reglaze the Glass; use a temporary front window, etc. A plan should be presented for Approval with the State Historical Resources before anything is done. J. Leone suggested that first the front beam be repaired and leveled.

It was determined that the Office building would be a more convenient Location for storing of the tools rather than the Gorilla House. The consolidation would help on clean up days for sign in and distribution of rakes, etc. Also, this location has the availability of electricity to recharge the equipment batteries.

J. Leone mentioned that the Elephant Barn lease agreement between the Town and The Friends of Benson Park will not be happening until after the warrant article is approved at the March voting.

Lock access code to the Office basement will be the same as the Elephant Barn. There should be no need for access to the Office front door other than those who already have been assigned keys.

B. Remote Control Car Area

It was announced that the remote control car area is now available. The Candidate that was going to do it is no longer interested. The Eagle Scout Project List will be reviewed/updated at the next meeting.

C. Other Outstanding Issues and Updates

A. Story Book Hill Waterway

Someone has expressed interest in redoing the waterway at Story Book Hill. S. Jasper and Chairman Schibanoff met with the gentleman to discuss the scope of the project. There is nothing definite yet but should this materialize he would first make a presentation before this Committee.

B. Placards for Designated Parking – Handicap Parking Area

Chairman Schibanoff indicated he did not know where this item stands since P. Nichols is absent and he did not have an update.

C. Presentation by Park/Recreation Dept.

Dave Yates presented the Benson Park Committee with a Plaque of Appreciation for all the work done on the Playground. He pointed out attached to the frame is a piece of the piping used on the Playground equipment. Chairman Schibanoff stated it was a great “thank you” for our contribution and suggested it should be hung in the Office Building. All members agreed.

7. New Business

A. Election of Officers for 2012

Nominations from the floor were entertain. With no addition/change the following officers were elected unanimously for 2012.

Clerk – P. Nichols

Vice-Chair – J. Barnes

Chairman - H. Schibanoff

Chairman Schibanoff stated that in December J. Barnes, J. Leone and he were all interviewed by the Board of Selectman and approved for a 3 yr. term plus 4 months. This term is being extended to bring the appointment process into April each year. This is to coincide with the March voting and seating of new BOS. The present Committee member's term will not be extended. Only "new" appointees will have the 4 month extension until everyone has the same term length.

B. Committee Reports

Chairman Schibanoff asked R. Empey what was happening with the Trail Grant. R. Empey stated that he had submitted information on labor and materials to Gary Webster for reimbursement. To do this, there had to be an accumulation of at least 25% of the Grant. Once this is achieved Gary will/has sent them into the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails for evaluation and reimbursement. Items submitted are as follows: New trail from the Main Gate to the Gorilla house; trail behind Swan Lake; the stumping, grading/filling of the back trails; the sewer easement area; Moose Pond Trail; two loads of processed gravel; and other miscellaneous projects.

The Grant is for \$30,000 with the town matching approx. 25%. The efforts by the Highway Dept. and the men working on the trails are valued at a certain dollar amount and are applied to the town's portion. The actual outlay of funds for the Town should be zero.

Volunteers. C. Gagnon stated that the last clean up brought a smaller group but they made a huge accomplishment in various areas of the Park. The Committee was in agreement that clean up days were necessary and will resume in March or April, depending on the weather. In preparation, it was suggested that the project list be reviewed at the next meeting for outstanding projects and addition of new projects.

C. Annual Town Report

Chairman Schibanoff stated the Annual Report is due Jan. 10th. Being pressed for time he decided to write it and then sent it out to the Committee members for their perusal. He thanked J. Leone and A. Desrosiers for their helpful comments.

D. Meeting Schedule for 2012

It was discussed as to whether this Committee needed to schedule two meetings each month. It was determined that the schedule should be maintained and it would be dependant on the issues at hand. C. Gagnon made a motion that if approved by the BOS, Chairman Schibanoff can make the decision whether to call a second monthly meeting. Seconded by J. Barnes. The motion in favor was unanimous.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- A.** Chairman Schibanoff mentioned that he has received positive remarks about the benches in the Playground area.
- B.** Chairman Schibanoff announced that the Train Station has a new roof. Selectman S. Jasper stated that he had talked with Gary Webster and due to the amount of damage, the new roof before winter was timely. They will now work to get back on schedule with the state, get the contracts in place and move the train station in the spring, May or June.
G. Webster has adjusted the angle of the station so there will be less disturbance of the existing area. The DHR wanted the outside of the station to look original around the entire building and the only way to do it was to use a box culvert to get into the back of the building.
- C.** R. Empey mentioned some of the huge accomplishments of the past year were monumental and stated he felt it maybe difficult to repeat again.
- D.** N. Undercofler and J. Barnes noted the activity at the Park with the good weather in January. J. Barnes is now looking forward to the Dog Park.
- E. NEXT MEETING: January 19, 2012, 7:00 PM, Board of Selectmen Room.**

9. Adjournment : 7:35 PM

Motion was made, seconded and passed.