



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison

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### Meeting Minutes December 1, 2011

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:08 p.m. on December 1, 2011 in the Buxton Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by John Leone.

#### 2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, John Leone, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler, Alternates R. Alio, and D. Briand.

Excused: C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper,

#### 3. Public Input

None

#### 4. Presentations

None

#### 5. Approval of Minutes

##### A. Minutes of November 17, 2011

**N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes**

**A. Desrosiers seconded the motion**

**All in favor – Motion Carries.**

#### 6. Old Business

##### A. Train Station Update

**Chair H. Schibanoff** was told by Town Engineer, Gary Webster that a contract has been signed to replace the roof on the Train Station. As of today, this project has not been started. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if this was the only project being done to the Train Station and was told yes.

#### 7. New Business

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that there would be a park clean-up on Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. D. Empey said a discussion on what the goals and areas of the clean-up should be. P. Nichols said that she thought it was mentioned at the last meeting that the ravine area at the overlooks should be the next goal for clean-up. D. Empey said this would be a good area to mow and rake out while the vegetation is not growing and also the area near the butterfly garden should be finished. There is a dead apple tree to be removed and other scrub that should be taken care of. Chair H.

Schibanoff also said there is bitter sweet vines along the edge that needs to be taken care of. Depending on the amount of volunteers those areas should be concentrated on. N. Undercofler is concerned about leaves that have been dumped or not cleaned out near the Old Shoe. This could be something that should be taken care of if enough volunteers come. A. Desrosiers asked if we would be using the Office building for heating food and serving the volunteers. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he would check with the Fire Department to see if the fireplace in this building was fit to use for heat. D. Empey said he did not think this fireplace would be available at this clean-up due to many issues. J. Leone said that we could try out the Office building for this clean-up using the heaters that we use in the Barn. It would be a trial run for the spring. It was not a problem with the Committee and there is electricity in this building so heating food will not be a problem..

#### **A. Committee Reports**

**P. Nichols** said she placed a notice in the Kiosk about brochures not being available for the winter. Brochures can be printed out from the Town Web Site. P. Nichols said after the first of the year a discussion on what the Committee wanted with new maps, etc for the spring should be thought about. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if she was planning on changing the brochure and P. Nichols said the map was in need of an update, and did the Committee want a brochure or maps placed in areas throughout the park. This could be an Eagle Scout project for the spring.

**D. Empey** said the Trails and Paths sub-committee had a good few days since there last meeting. They have been working on grading areas and working on mud areas. He is happy with what has been accomplished with the volunteers.

**D. Briand** said he is still working on raising money for the Dog Park. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if he had any fund raisers planned for this month. D. Briand said that a bake sale is being planned at the Jr. Woman's at Memorial School, a photo shoot with Santa will held for your dogs at Positively Yummy in Tyngsboro, and a month long raffle starts January 1. 2012.

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

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

**J. Leone** said that the building sub committee would like to start work in the spring on the back of the Gorilla House. There is a garage door and a large room that could be used for storage of mowers, etc.

**N. Undercofler** mentioned that the people that adopted a spot at the Gorilla House noticed a stream of water coming down from the playground because the water table is so high. She wanted to know what, if anything could be done to stop or re-route this water away from the Gorilla House. D. Empey thought this would not be a long term problem. Once the grass comes up at the playground and when the wood chips settle, this will disperse the water over a larger area and solve some of the problem. N. Undercofler noticed that the parking lot has been graded and looks good. She thanked the town crew that did a very good job.

**D. Empey** said he has some discussions with J. Leone about the benches near the playground. He wanted to know what we should discuss about this situation at this time. J. Leone said that at the clean-up the committee should take a look at this area. He thought that benches with posts in the ground would not be needed. There are some flat areas that could be used for regular benches. We should look at the area and decide on waiting for new benches or

moving a few of the ones we have. On clean-up day some pavers could be put in while the weather is with us.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said he went before the Budget Committee last night and there was no problem with our Budget. It was accepted by the Budget Committee. There were a few questions but it was painless. The second thing was the porta-potties were removed from the park for the winter so they will not be available for clean-up. Chair H. Schibanoff also heard from Town Engineer, Gary Webster, that during the Christmas Holidays a “As Built Plan” would be done. Not knowing what this was, Town Engineer, G. Webster explained to Chair H. Schibanoff this was a plan showing where everything in the park is located. (i.e. where the benches, buildings, etc are located.) Chair H. Schibanoff said our agendas are getting light at this time, so he would like permission to cancel a meeting if there was very little on the agenda.

**P. Nichols made a motion to allow Chair H. Schibanoff to cancel the second meeting for this month.**

**Vice Chair J. Barnes seconded the motion.**

**All in favor-Motion Carries.**

D. Empey had a few questions on Chair H. Schibanoff comments. He asked if the Budget he discussed was \$19,000 and change and he wanted to know how this was to be expended. Chair H. Schibanoff said that we do not know what would be needed at that time but maintenance would need to be done so it is open ended at this time.

**Next Meeting:**

**January 5, 2012, Town Hall**

**9. Adjournment: 7:29 pm**

**N. Undercofler made a motion to adjourn**

**A. Desrosiers seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**