



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison

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

### Meeting Minutes November 17, 2011

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:06 p.m. on Oct. 6, 2011 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Dick Empey.

#### 2. Attendance:

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

#### 3. Public Input

None

#### 4. Presentations

##### A. Eagle Scout Proposal – Brett Reed

Brett Reed, Scout from troop 20, would like to become an Eagle Scout, and has chosen for his project two (2) bridges at Benson Park next to the Old Lady in the Shoe. These bridges complete a path near the Old Shoe and a means to cross a small stream. The bridges are very old and in dire need of repair. One is on top of an unstable rock foundation and steps that looks out of place with another bridge that forms an arch. He would like to make the two bridges alike. Pressure treated wood would be used for this project and clean the stream bed of debris at this time while it is not currently active. Scout B. Reed would like to make this area more accessible to seniors, the handicap, and strollers, so that all visitors to the Park will benefit. P. Nichols asked when he would start this project. Scout B. Reed said he would like to start in the Spring. Chair H. Schibanoff confirmed that this area would have Handicap access. D. Empey said he was in favor of this project and the bridge with the steps being an arch bridge to match the other bridge. Chair H. Schibanoff told Scout B. Reed that the Benson Committee was very appreciative of his taking on this project. We all know these bridges are in bad shape and we are happy to have someone who wants to restore them.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept this project**

**N. Undercofler seconded the motion**

**All in favor – Motion Carries**

#### 5. Approval of Minutes

**A. Minutes of October 6, 2011**

**N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes  
Selectman Liaison S. Jasper seconded the motion  
All in favor – Motion Carries.**

**6. Old Business**

**A. Benches**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said he has been getting complaints from people about the lack of benches in the playground area. The Rec. Dept. that funded the playground ran out of money so they could not purchase benches for this area. He asks for patience from the public at this time. Benches will be added to this area when monies become available. **D. Briand** asked if there were one or two benches that could be moved from another area on a temporary basis. **C. Gagnon** said that she knew of one bench that was not assigned to a specific spot and it was discussed that this might be moved to the playground area until more donors came forward to purchase a bench for the park. At this time the area nearest the playground is not very stable due to the mulch. Benches would have to be placed a distance from the playground. **N. Undercofler** said she has been asked about picnic tables in this area. This would also provide seating. **Vice Chair J. Barnes** asked if anyone has reviewed how many benches would be suitable for this area. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that benches would not be in the playground area but along the perimeter of the area and due to the topography of the area this will present a challenge. He thought that the area above the playground could be cleared and picnic tables and benches placed there next spring. **D. Empey** agreed with **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** about the area around the playground. **C. Gagnon** said before anything was done it would be to our advantage to contact the playground builders to find out the rules to placing seating within so many feet of the equipment. The consensus of the Committee in regard to benches was to wait until spring and see what money would be available. **Vice Chair Jim Barnes** suggested adding this to our Spring Walk-about and consider what to do after that. **J. Leone** was brought up to speed on the benches in the playground area. He would bring our concerns to the Friends of Bensons and coordinate with the Rec. Department on this.

**B. Parking Lot Planning**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the Highway Department might be working on enlarging the parking area and he asked **Selectman Liaison** if this was a true statement. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said this was not true. The Town needs to map out the Wetland boundaries and how far down the hill they could go before reaching the mitigation area. Due to the Halloween storm, this will probably not happen until spring. **D. Briand** talked about putting up a retaining wall with the rocks and filling in this area so that the area would be level. **Vice Chair** asked if once the plans are made would it come back to the Committee. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said the Town Engineer would be involved and it might be back to the Committee before it was started.

**C. Bench Foundations**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked **J. Leone** to update the Committee on pavers under the benches that have been installed in the park. **J. Leone** said that the

benches on the road along the pond have pavers. They have been there for a few weeks. The pavers are done for now until it is figured out where the next batch will go. This will be done in the spring. A few more questions were asked and answers given.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Committee Reports**

**P. Nichols** let the Committee know that meeting rooms have been booked for 2012.

**D. Empey** said the Trails and Paths sub-committee have been cleaning the Trails after the October storm and he is happy to report that they are passable and the finish work will be done this coming weekend. D. Empey said this would be the end of this work for the winter. He said he was thankful for the many volunteers who helped in this clean-up. For those who did not know, there were between 30 and 40 trees that needed to be cleaned after the storm.

**N. Undercofler** reported that she has been getting many requests for adopt-a-spots. People are waiting until Spring because there is not much that can be done at this time of year.

**C. Gagnon** discussed clean-up at this time and asked the Committee if they wanted a clean-up in December. She said if the weather was clear and it was not too cold she felt that we should go ahead with it, but wanted other opinions. P. Nichols said she thought if there was not a lot of snow on the ground and the temp was not lower than 40 degrees she was for it. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that a lot of work has been done and it was time to take a break for the winter. Vice Chair J. Barnes said he agreed with Selectman Liaison S. Jasper that unless there was some specific work to be done it should be put on hold until spring. N. Undercofler also agreed that there should be no clean-up in December. D. Empey disagreed and stated the if there was not a lot of snow on the ground or too cold a clean-up in the ravine area would be acceptable. He said that maybe we could omit the lunch. P. Nichols said if they show up they get fed...it is as simple as that. R. Alio also said that he was in favor of a clean-up even if the turn-out was low. Some things would get done. A show of hands agreed to a clean-up.

### **B. Budget**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said he promised the Committee he would watch our spending and took the budget and actuals from previous years and sent it to us. There were two (2) sheets in this excel file. He will try to do this on a quarterly basis to let us know where we stand. The first one is the Budget for our Committee and the only expenditure is for Brochures. Park Operations is next and Chair H. Schibanoff spoke to Cathy Carpentier. She explained what the figures were about and Chair H. Schibanoff explained this to the Committee. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if we would get charged for the clean-up the Town crews did after the storm. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said we would not be charged for this. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper explained some of the other items to the satisfaction of the Committee. Chair H. Schibanoff appeared before the Budget Committee and they had no problems with our budget due to the 10% reduction in expenditures.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said if we were going to have a clean-up in December, he thought that the Office building was fairly clean and he would check with the Fire Department to do an inspection of the fire place and chimney. There is electricity in this building and it would be warmer than the barn at this time of year. J. Leone said that there is a counter at the back of the building. C. Gagnon said she would not mind cleaning it up a little if we were defiantly going to use it.

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

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

**N. Undercofler** said that it being near Thanksgiving she is very thankful for Benson Park and all the volunteers that have helped beautify it, there dedication and loyalty and how well the park has been received by the Community. They have learned that at Benson Park there are no strangers, its like a Community within a Community.

**C. Gagnon** said the N. Undercofler said it all.

**D. Empey** said thank you again to all who helped after the storm It really was a tremendous project and it was gratifying to see what was accomplished. He also said he has heard from many visitors what the park has or does not have. Possibly complaints, he wants to remind people that we are trying to keep this park at a reasonable cost to the Town. Many things will happen, but it may be more slowly than visitors want.

**P. Nichols** said she was just about out of Brochures and she was saving the rest for the Thanksgiving Holiday. She does not want to order more Brochures until the new map is done or the Committee decides on something else. She does not want to spend the money at this time. P. Nichols said the parking lot is full unless it is bitterly cold or raining heavily.

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** said the park is usually full when he is there, but there was one day the lot was empty and that was the day after the storm.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said he spoke with Dave Yates about the cost of the repair to the fence near the handicap parking. It will be \$495 but he understands that approximately 70% of this will be covered by FEMA so that the impact of this cost will not be that hard. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he saw something about FEMA not honoring this for the October storm and we should keep our fingers crossed in the chance this is false information. The Eagle Scout Candidate, A. Foster has completed the wrap and he had some left over so he left it there to be used at the Gorilla House. Chair H. Schibanoff also reminded everyone not to park inside the gate. Please drop off you equipment and park outside.

**P. Nichols** wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and seconded what N. Undercofler said. It was perfect. Happy Thanksgiving!

### **Next Clean-up**

**December 19, 2011**

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Weather Date: December 20, same time**

### **Next Meeting:**

**December 1, 2011, Town Hall**

**9. Adjournment: 7:45 pm**

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

**N. Undercofler seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**