



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



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Meeting Minutes Sept. 1, 2011

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:03 p.m. on Sept. 1, 2011 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Eagle Scout Candidate, Matt Gagnon.

2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes, 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.

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

A. Matt Gagnon – Eagle Scout Project

M. Gagnon, Eagle Scout candidate, Troop 21, presented his idea for a Wildlife Blind as his Eagle Scout Project at Benson Park, to the Committee, and handed out packets of information and pictures. M. Gagnon explained what the criteria for earning an Eagle Scout Award encompasses. Benson Park offered so many choices for Eagle Scout projects that he set up a meeting with D. Empey and J. Undercofler. After meeting with them I became intrigued with the idea of wildlife blind. I was shown several stunning spots to place this blind and this helped me to make my decision on doing this project. For those who do not know what a wildlife blind is, what it's function is, or how it will benefit the park, it is basically a camouflage for people wanting to observe animals in their natural state. It is a little three sided building, with a roof, and slit in the front for people to look through. It allows people to see the animals without the animals being aware of human presence, thus allowing the animals to act completely natural while being observed. Artist and photographers could capture animal activity and behavior in a completely different manner compared to having the animal be aware of their presence. It would also provide children with the opportunity to research animals in real life from behind the covering of wildlife blind. M. Gagnon explained how he would construct this blind with pictures, a few areas for placement and a map of the area. Vice Chair J. Barnes said that the blind would be off and established trail. Would a trail be put in? M. Gagnon said that J. Undercofler and D. Empey would provide help in putting in a short trail. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked how long it would take once the plan is approved by the Eagle Board and the BOS? M. Gagnon said after approval, most of the work

would be done at his home so it would not take long. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if he had to get approval from any other boards and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said where it would be built on conservation land it should be brought before the Conservation Board. Chair H. Schibanoff asked when this would be completed and M. Gagnon was looking to complete the project before summer, sometime in the spring;

P. Nichols made a motion to accept M. Gagnon's Eagle Scout Project.

C. Gagnon seconded the Motion

D. Empey wanted to say he is behind this project 100% and would encourage other Committee members to approve this.

All in favor – Motion Carries

5. Approval of Minutes of Aug. 4, 2011

P. Nichols was excused from having minutes done at this time.

6. Old Business

A. Street Name Status

N. Undercofler said the sub committee met to discuss street post locations.

The sub committee has identified some locations but would like to take a walk through before assigning these posts. Her committee is also looking into funding for this project and they do not expect anything will be done before spring.

B. Brochures

Chair H. Schibanoff said he spoke to D. Yates about the brochures and they have been ordered. They should be in within the next few days. P. Nichols said she has haunted this man for three weeks but they have definitely been ordered with hopes they will be available by 9/11.

C. Train Station

Selectman S. Jasper said the Train Station was a sad situation. A meeting was held up in Concord and unfortunately, the Engineer for the Town was unable to be there so we are nowhere right now, and as it stands there is no possibility of the Train Station being moved until spring time. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if there was anything we needed to do to protect the building for the winter. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that only a corner of the roof needed to be fixed and he would check it out himself.

D. Playground Update

Chair H. Schibanoff said before our meeting he went into the Rec. Department Meeting to personally thank them for the playground. A letter had already been sent but he felt that the personal touch would be better. He also volunteered some of our volunteers to help with this project. As far as progress, all the pieces have been chosen and colors decided on. They are waiting until after the 9/11 event to be over before they have the playground pieces delivered. They hope to have it assembled toward the end of September.

7. New Business

A. Committee Reports

D. Empey said the Storm spared us any really heavy damage in the park. We lost only about five (5) or six (6) trees by his count, one of significant size.

These trees have all been cleared. A pass through the trails was made and they are all cleaned up and with a little more work they will be ready for the weekend. N. Undercofler said that the clean up crew did a wonderful job after the storm. Even park visitors commented on how fast the park was cleaned.

D. Briand reported on the Dog Park and said the new Dog Park sign was in its new location. A few fund raisers were being planned. Please visit the web site for upcoming events. They will be having a special Dog Park clean up on September 24th to get the area prepared for the park.

C. Gagnon said that the park regular clean up will be held on September 10th, and with the 9/11 event to be held on September 11, would there be an issue with debris in the lower lot if this lot was going to be used for that event.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he thinks that instead of doing a lot of brush work, the volunteers should concentrate their efforts on smaller projects like raking and picking up smaller brush. Just clean areas instead of heavy brush work should be done. C. Gagnon said that our normal rain date for clean up would be on Sunday, and she asked if we should cancel the rain date due to the 9/11 dedication. Discussion followed and it was agreed to have the clean up Saturday with no rain date. R. Alio asked if the poison ivy treatment worked and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper was not sure where it was sprayed but it did not look as if it was a success.

Chair H. Schibanoff said it he was not at the last clean up and was amazed to see the amount of clearing that was done. C. Gagnon said we had a tremendous amount of volunteers, in the vicinity of around 60, so a lot more was accomplished that day. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the highway department took out three (3) ten wheelers with debris.

B. Outlook Stairs

Chair H. Schibanoff said that a chain had been placed across the stairs in the outlook area. There was an accident in the park and someone got hurt. The immediate solution was to close off the stairs until a better solution is found. D. Yates was asked to find a bid for extending the stairs and railing. He had some preliminary bids that are way above our budget. There was money for gravel and wrap and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought that the wrap could be paid through the Trail Grant and may be the stairs and railings also. This could be looked into. Trail Grants are available every year and can be applied for.

Chair H. Schibanoff said that they don't make the railings anymore and we would have to have two different type of railings. D. Yates also talked to the concrete company that did some 9/11 memorial work and there were approximately 10 more steps to be added, and a small apron at the bottom. D. Empey said this was one of those things he has a big problem with. If you add more steps, code says you have to have a landing after 13 steps. He also sited more info on this and it would be a tremendous project. He thinks this project does not need to be done. He stated his ideas on how this could be corrected and at very little cost. He feels that with the crew he works with this could be done in about 2 weeks. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if an estimate could be forthcoming on the things that D. Empey would need to do this project. He said we need to investigate our options on cost effective repairs.

C. Fence Removal

Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned the fence removal in the area of the Old Shoe. This was another fence that went nowhere. The removal by the town really

opened up another large area. The Eagle Scout that will be working on the bridge was happy because this cleared his area.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

A. Desrosiers said that Mal's Pal's was continuing with there fund raisers to place a Gazebo in the park. She had nothing else to report.

N. Undercofler has been at the park a lot and the response from visitors has been so positive, and they love the benches and love the adopt-s-spot areas.

Gagnon said she already told everyone how wonderful we were at the last clean up so she will leave it at that.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that several years ago he was approached by Don Simard. When Benson's went out of business, he purchased two signs: the Gorilla House sign and the Elephant Barn sign. He mentioned at the time that he would like to donate these signs to the park. They have been in his home and not exposed to the weather. He would like the Town to accept this donation, and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said we could put them on the upper part of the Gorilla House until another area is found. In this area they would not be easily vandalized and they would be out of the elements.

Gagnon made a motion that the Committee accept the signs with the approval of the BOS

N. Undercofler seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

P. Nichols said she had been to the park a few days in a row and could not believe how beautiful it is. There is something new to see every day. Visitor stop and talk about the memories they have of the old park but are saying they are making new memories too.

Vice Chair J. Barnes said that the new benches are great and they are a wonderful addition to the park and he wanted to thank everyone who worked on that project.
again.

Chair H. Schibanoff had a couple of items. The first was a personal invitation to the dedication of the 9/11 Memorial to be held on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 2 pm.. This is the 10th Anniversary of this tragedy. Chair H. Schibanoff will be one of the speakers along with the Governor and other dignitaries. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if the agenda was light could he cancel.

Selectman Liaison made a motion that the next meeting be at the call of the Chair

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

Next Meeting:

Call of the Chair

9. Adjournment: 7:45 pm

C. Gagnon made a motion to adjourn

A. Desrosiers seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries