



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



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Meeting Minutes

Aug. 4, 2011

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:00 p.m. on Aug.4, 2011 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Eagle Scout Candidate, Alan Foster.

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. Alan Foster – Eagle Scout Project

A. Foster, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 21, presented his idea for an Eagle Scout Project at Benson Park and he handed out packets of pictures and drawings to the Committee. A. Foster explained what the criteria for earning an Eagle Scout Award encompasses. His choice for this project is to replace the small bridge on Story Book Hill, near the Old Woman in the Shoe. At this time the bridge is in disrepair and not in use. In repairing this bridge and path way to this bridge A. Foster thought he might be allowed to use some of the wrap that is in the park. He plans on removing 2 to 3 inches of dirt and putting in the wrap. He would like to present this project in October or early November to the Eagle Scout Board. He said that a more scheduled date would be forthcoming in the future. A. Foster said he has plans to completely fund this project and it would not cost the Town or Committee anything, and any left over funds would be donated to the park for future projects. Funding will be done in January and February. He plans to build the bridge in late February and place it in the park, when the ground thaws, (possibly in early March). His drawing shows where the bridge will be placed and a trail he will create that does not exist at this time He was told that a fence was scheduled to be removed in September, and he offered himself and other Scouts to assist in this removal if need be. He would remove the bridge at this time to determine the structure and if any ground prep would be needed before the frost. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the Highway Department may remove the fencing before the end of September and as far as the pile of wrap, this was the millings of Central Street, and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper is not sure if the Highway Department will be using all of this for the back side of the pond, so A.

Foster should speak with Road Agent Kevin Burns about this. A. Foster said he would do this and if there was a problem he would speak to Brox about a donation of gravel. Empey suggested that A. Foster get his footings in before Thanksgiving, if possible. This area is subject to frozen ground until mid-April, and if he wants to complete the project by then, he should consider this.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to approve the A. Foster Eagle Project.

C. Gagnon seconded the Motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

5. Approval of Minutes of July 7, 2011

N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes

A. Desrosiers seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

6. Old Business

A. Street Name Status

Chair H. Schibanoff and N. Undercofler went before the BOS with the updated list of street names for Benson Park. The Selectmen approved the names with the exceptions of Shadow Lane because it was similar to another street name in town. This was changed to Swan Lake Lane and Wilderness Lane was changed to Wilderness Walk. The BOS approved the changes and the Fire Department was in agreement also. Chair H. Schibanoff asked what was next in regard to street naming. N. Undercofler would like to reconvene the Street sub committee to decide on posts, etc. for street names. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper mentioned that no monies were budgeted for signs, but he thought when the time came, Cedar posts would be appropriate. N. Undercofler stated that someone was willing to donate wood for these signs and she will look into that. Discussion followed.

B. Brochures

Chair H. Schibanoff asked P. Nichols what was the progress on Brochures's at this time .P. Nichols said the brochure is ready to be printed with the old map and new pictures. She wants to know if she should wait for a new map, street names, etc. before going to print. D. Empey suggested using the old map on a limited number of brochures at this time, then working toward getting the map updated with the new roadways, new structures, etc. (playground, 9/11 memorial, Dog park).The consensus was to have 2000 brochures printed at this time and when the updated map was finished have a new printing done. P. Nichols will order the brochures.

C. Park Benches

John Leone said that through the generous donations from a number of folks, companies and groups, Eleven (11) benches have been purchased through the Friend of Benson Park. They have been placed around the park to see what would be the best placement and are being used. Reports from people using the benches are good. The Friends of Benson Park are working on getting the Benches engraved for donors at this time. They are also working on installing something under these benches so that mowing underneath them would not be a problem. P. Nichols said she had viewed and tested the benches and thought they added to the park. She said she liked them as they are and was not too

keen on having them put on a cement slab, but she was just stating her opinion. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper agreed with P. Nichols and thought that pavers would look better than a cement slab. He was under the impression that only a few benches were to be placed around the park at this time. He did not want the benches to become a maintenance issue at this time, N. Undercofler, by her observation, in the placement of benches around the park, showed her what benches were used a lot and which ones were uses very little. This helps in the placement and changes to benches in the park. They can be moved to busy spots where their use will be maximized. N. Undercofler said a bench from Serenity was moved to the Butterfly Garden and J. Leone said he was not sure at this time.

D. Playground Update

Chair H. Schibanoff said he talked to D. Yates this week and stated that the Highway Department looked over the site and did some testing (borings) to see if there was ledge or rocks. D. Yates said that everything was on schedule and the playground should be done by the end of September. Vice Chair J. Barnes asked if there was anything that was needed from the Committee or anything we could do to help with this project. Chair H. Schibanoff said he would ask if the Recreation Department needed anything from the Committee and will let us know.

7. New Business

A. Committee Reports

D. Empey said the Paths and Trails committee held a monthly meeting on the third (3) Tuesday in July. They worked on the Hazelton Farm Trail system removing stumps and rocks and other small hazards. They have also been steadily improving the trails and hope people will tolerate the rough spots for a while longer until the Trails Committee can repair them.

R. Alio reported on the Dog Park and said new Dog Park sign was almost completed and should be in the park this weekend and the Dog Park will also have a booth at Hudson Old Home Days

Chair H. Schibanoff said it was brought to his attention that the next clean up day is Saturday, August 13, 2011. This will be one of the Old Home Days, and he asked if we should cancel this clean up. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he did not think this would pose a problem. Old Home Days is a Four (4) day event. A Five (5) hour clean up would not be any trouble, and those that have commitments to work at Old Home Days should be able to do it.

B. New Clean up Tools

C. Gagnon noticed at the last clean up we were scrambling for tools. Many volunteers bring their own tools, but for some, tools are needed. Some of the older tools are broken and need to be replaced at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper if this would come under small equipment in the Budget. He said that some money that was allocated for this years budget was earmarked for an attachment to the mower. Looking at the purchase of piece of equipment, it came under last years funds. He will have to look into this further. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that we were budgeted for \$500 for small equipment and maintenance but a letter in his mail box said that \$463 was already spent and our balance is \$36. Chair H. Schibanoff does not know what this money was spent on. D. Empey said that the attachment to

the mower was to be billed on 2012 budget. That was all cleared and he does not know what happened. Chair H. Schibanoff said he tried to reach D. Yates today but was unsuccessful.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to spend \$464 for small equipment pending Chair H. Schibanoff speaking with D. Yates and the Finance Director to assure that the funds are available in our budget

P. Nichols seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

Chair H. Schibanoff asked what was a Maddox. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it was a tool with an axe on one end and a flat blade on the other end...it is a very useful tool for grubbing out roots. C. Gagnon also put spray paint on the list so that the tools could be visible. D. Empey said that there might be a possibility of the Trail Grant covering the cost of this equipment with the approval of the BOS. P. Nichols asked if there would be a record of tool usage on clean up day and C. Gagnon said there would be an area on the sign in sheet to keep track of this. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper asked if the Trail Grant would decide what could be purchased or if you submit the amount of money that was spent and get reimbursed. D. Empey said that you submit the amount of money spent and they would reimburse you. Other questions about the Trail Grant will be answered when known.

C. Vehicles in the Park

Chair H. Schibanoff was at the park having a meeting and he stated there was traffic jam at the Elephant Barn because a Rec. program was being held that day, He felt that we were letting too many vehicles into the park and we should be controlling this. He spoke to Selectman Liaison S. Jasper about this and he is afraid someone is going to get hurt. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper spoke to D. Yates about this and told him, according to the deed, that only maintenance vehicles were permitted on the property. He has been noticing vehicles parked on the property during clean up and he agreed that people dropping off lunch articles that are too large to carry in, could drive in and then park their vehicles off the property, unless used for maintenance.

D. Signs

Chair H. Schibanoff said he has noticed too many signs in the park. The latest one he saw was 'Don't feed the Geese'. This was posted by someone on the gate. P. Nichols said she finally saw the new sign at the handicap area. She went by a number of times before she saw it and did not think it was all that visible. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it was the only viable spot to put it up.

E. Financial Report

Chair H. Schibanoff handed out the Financial Report. He just received it this morning and wanted to know if anyone had any comments. Questions were asked and Selectman Liaison answered with explanations that were understood by all.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper had an update on the Train Station. Due to an email he received, it appears that the Train Station progress will be delayed

another fiscal year. He said that the Train Station needs to be moved and roofed this year so he called Nancy Mayville at D.O.T in Manchester. It seems that there has been miscommunication between the Town and the State and he does not know why. Ms. Mayville said one of the things D.O.T. needs from us is a clear long term plan for that building. What will be done to the building and what will it be used for when completed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he would like to have a meeting with D.O.T. on Benson Park property and have D.O.T. see what the volunteers have done, then possibly have a meeting at Town Hall to iron out the details pertaining to the use of the Train Station and repairs of same. He thought that the baggage area be used as a storage area, and the rest of the building used as meeting/class rooms. If this were agreeable to the Committee it could be given to D.O.T. To satisfy the cost of repair and completion of the Train Station, we will continue to apply for Grants, through budgetary requests and volunteer efforts. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper feels that this could be sent to the D.O.T. in compliance with their requests. D. Empey said that we should send a recommendation to the BOS, stating that the basement of the Train Station will be used for storage of equipment and tools, the main floor of the Train Station be used as a Welcome Center/Information Desk, possibly staffed by volunteers or Seniors, The Baggage area should be used as Meeting or Classroom space. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the problem with the baggage area is that it is not handicap accessible and would be better left as the baggage area. The more Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought about a welcome center the less he liked the idea. He said that the time planning this would be too intense, so he thought that the Train Station proper could be used as meeting and classroom space. C. Gagnon agreed with Selectman Liaison S. Jasper about the use of the Train Station.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion that this Committee recommend to the BOS that the use of the Train Station be for Meeting/Classroom space and it be funded through volunteer efforts, Grants, and regular budget requests, and the baggage area be used for storage, the basement be used for storage of tools and maintenance equipment.

Vice Chair J. Barnes seconded the motion.

C. Gagnon asked if there would be a bathroom in this building. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it was assumed that there would be at least one bathroom in the building.

All in favor – Motion Carries

C. Gagnon said she had to say a few words on how the park is looking great and thank you to all who have been at the clean ups this summer and thank you to all who have Adopted-a-Spot and helped in other areas.

N. Undercofler said that the entrance is almost completed. There is still grass to be put down and it should be alright for this season.

A. Desrosiers said thank you to the Town Workers for the job done on the lower parking lot. She attended the Reunion of former Benson Park employees and one gentleman said he knew we were trying to beautify the park and he felt we had surpassed what it had looked like when it was in its hey day. They were very pleased with everyone's efforts at the park.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper forgot to mention that he did a little research on line in removing poison ivy. He found a recipe using vinegar, salt, hot water

and dish detergent. He could bring this equipment but someone else should take on this project. P. Nichols asked if this came under the cooking committee. N. Undercofler has an interest in this and P. Nichols said she would help.

J. Leone mentioned the ruts in the lower parking lot and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he would speak to the Road Agent to see if this could be graded again.

Chair H. Schibanoff had a couple of items. The first was that the committee now have identification badges so if people have questions they will know who to talk to. Chair H. Schibanoff wants to know if there is not much of an agenda for a meeting on August 18th, as Chair could he use his discretion to cancel this.

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

P. Nichols seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

Next Meeting:

July 21, 2011, 7:00 PM @ Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

9. Adjournment: 7:25 pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries