



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



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Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 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 July 7, 2011 in the Community Development Room room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by C. 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, Alternate R. Alio.
Excused: Alternate D. Briand.

Public Input

None

3. Presentations

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 19, 2011

N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes

A. Desrosiers seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

4. Old Business

A. Street Name Status

Chair H. Schibanoff that there was some bad news regarding street names and he would defer to N. Undercofler to explain. N. Undercofler said she submitted the street names to the Fire Department for their approval. Due to budget meetings, the Fire Department could not give approval of the names at this time but a quick glance did not show anything too outstanding. Today, N. Undercofler received an answer from the Fire Department and they stated that Memory Lane did not pass because they have a Memorial Drive. Wilderness Walk was not approved due to a new developer submitting Wilderness Drive. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the BOS name the streets and it appears that Wilderness Walk was submitted first. He will have a conversation with the Fire Department Chief about Memory Lane and Memorial Drive. These are two very separate names. Chair H. Schibanoff took the street names off the BOS agenda because of the conflict of names, and

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he would put this back on the agenda for the Tuesday meeting.

B. ID Badges

Chair H. Schibanoff asked P. Nichols if she had looked into ID badges at this time, and P. Nichols stated that with the holiday, etc. she has not looked into this in depth. P. Nichols will start tomorrow to investigate badges.

5. New Business

A. Committee Reports

P. Nichols said that she placed a flyer at the Kiosk and a notice on Cable about the clean-up on Saturday.

D. Empey said the Paths and Trails committee held a monthly meeting on the third (3) Tuesday in June. They worked throughout the Trail system and had to replace a signpost and replant another sign that had been pulled up. He was sorry to see this happening because there have been no problems for quite a while. They have also been working on the wet spots throughout the trails, all the bridges are in and complete and plan on continuing this month to make a little more progress.

C. Gagnon had a question for the communications committee about having new maps made now that we are in the new fiscal year. P. Nichols said that she thought the maps should be done but wanted to know if we should wait for the Streets to be named so that they could be added to the map. Chair H. Schibanoff asked what the committee thoughts were and J. Leone said that waiting a few weeks for the street names would be fine with him. The rest of the committee agreed, so P. Nichols will hold off ordering maps for now.

J. Leone gave an update on progress at the Gorilla House. The painting has started with the prime coat done and now the color coat will begin. There are a few birds nest that they are waiting to be emptied before the ceiling can be done but progress is being made.

N. Undercofler said that the Landscaping Committee continues to have meetings and some progress is being made in getting sites cleared. She hopes that everyone has seen some of the areas that are a continued work in progress.

R. Alio reported on the Dog Park and said the Puppy Poker Walk was held and although the weather was not the best they still had a good turn out and they will continue with fund raising through the summer to raise the funds to complete this portion of the park.

B. Playground

Chair H. Schibanoff said the Rec. Committee presented a proposal and drawing of the playground to be built at Benson Park to the BOS at their last meeting. The Rec. Committee has chosen a contractor at this time. The BOS voted unanimously in favor of this project, and the Rec. Committee hopes to have this completed in late September. Chair H. Schibanoff said that there was a picture posted on the site at the park for anyone interested. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it is very impressive. If you didn't watch the meeting, the building materials would not be recycled milk cartons but heavy gauge steel with a powder coat. The company seems to be very reputable and concerned with doing the job right. Chair H. Schibanoff thought Eric's presentation to the BOS was very thorough and well done. Vice chair J. Barnes asked if they would be looking for volunteers to help during the actual construction. Selectman Liaison Shawn Jasper said that due to the heavy materials they would be relying on the Highway Department and that some volunteers would be used for other things. Chair H. Schibanoff thanked the

Rec. Committee for the playground, we really appreciate it, and hope everyone will enjoy it very much. He suggested that a letter of thanks be written to the Rec. Department. P. Nichols said this would be done.

6. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

Chair H. Schibanoff had a couple of items. Over on the tables the Committee will see plans for the 9/11 Memorial. The plans have been submitted to the D.O.T., and G. Webster, Town Engineer stated that nothing can be done until the D.O.T. meet on July 14th. These drawings and renderings were in his in-basket when he checked this evening and the committee can look at them after the meeting. Chair H. Schibanoff received an invitation from Eagle Scout S. Lichtenberg to attend his Eagle Court of Honor (his project was constructing a bridge over near the Hazelton Barn), on Sunday, July 24th at 3:00 pm at the VFW and the Benson Committee is invited to attend. If you plan on attending, please let Chair H. Schibanoff know after the meeting. Chair H. Schibanoff said that with such a light agenda we probably did not need to have this meeting tonight. He wanted to know the Committee's thoughts that if the agenda was too light could he cancel it.

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

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

A. Desrosiers said she was at the park today and they were spraying the Gorilla House a pale green and they had also added a contrasting green on the trim and it looked very, very nice. There is an area that people are getting access to at the Gorilla House and graffiti has been found. A. Desrosiers asked if there was a way to lower that gate, but Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought that was an electronic gate and with no power in the park it would be unable to be closed. A. Desrosiers also said that the Reunion of past park employees has been posted on Cable TV. HCTV will try to send someone to the park to interview some of the past employees to get their stories of what it was like to work in the park so many years ago.

N. Undercofler said that on June 20th, a walk around the park with C. Laffin and M. Gagnon, Forestry Department at Alvirne High School, was done to identify unknown trees. D. Empey and many others also joined the group. It was a great experience and some 20 different type of trees were identified. C. Laffin is looking at the possibility of permanently identifying the trees, now there is only a ribbon with the name of the tree. Chair H. Schibanoff asked about the progress of the American Chestnut Tree and A. Desrosiers said she saw five (5) doing very well but three (3) did not look like they were active. N. Undercofler said she has been working near the Main Gate and people are always asking her where the 9/11 Memorial is going to be, where is the Dog Park, and who should they contact to make a donation. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he thought it would be fine for the 9/11 committee to post a sign with a picture of the memorial and where to make donations. The same could be done for the Dog Park.

C. Gagnon said that there would be a clean-up Saturday, July 9th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, with a rain date on Sunday, July 10th at the same time.

D. Empey said that there is a lot of clearing and planting of Trees to be done. He would like to see a lot of volunteers at the clean-up on Saturday if they can make it.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he wants to say how impressed he is with the amount of work being done at the park. The new (D. Empey) path that leads to the

Gorilla house is just phenomenal. He wanted to thank the volunteers and the Highway department for all the work that has been done. The pride shown by these workers really shows.

J. Leone gave an update from the Friends of Benson Park. The first 10 or 11 benches have been ordered. He does not know when they will be delivered at this time. He was also asked about the Race Track area from a visitor. The sign said that this would be an Eagle Scout Project but nothing seems to be going on at this time. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that this project did not make the approval of the Eagle Scout Council, so the young man is trying again.

P. Nichols said she has been in the park and wanted to let everyone know how beautiful the Adopt-a-Spot areas are looking. They are amazing and so beautiful. The new grass that the Highway Department planted is coming in a beautiful shade of green and is adding to the beauty of the park.

D. Empey wanted to add that he had received the new mower deck for the brush mower. He really appreciates having this. It is cutting down at least an hour on the time to do the paths which is very helpful.

Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper when the wrap would be put down around the lake. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said with all the projects the Highway Department has at this time, he thinks this would not get done until sometime in August or September. Chair H. Schibanoff said he has not been in the park for a few weeks and seeing the pictures with all the flowers and changes is really wonderful. He will be at the park tomorrow because he is being interviewed by the young lady that is doing the narrative of the park for her Girl Scout Project.

Next Meeting:

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

7. Adjournment: 7:25 pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

Selectman Liaison Jasper seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries