



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
June 16, 2011

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:04 p.m. on June 2, 2011 in the Board of Selectmen meeting room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by P. Nichols.

2. Attendance:

A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, (late) John Leone, P. Nichols, Chair Alternate Liaison Selectman B. Nadeau (late), H. Schibanoff, N. Undercofler.

Excused: Vice Chair J. Barnes, Alternates: R. Alio and D. Briand.

Public Input

None

3. Presentations

Dave Yates and Jeremy Griffus, from the Recreation Department, D. Yates told the Committee that he received an email from a Recreation Committee member today, regarding the constructed of the Playground at Benson Park and the closeness of the 9/11 Memorial. D. Yates went to the Park to measure the distance between the sites and as far as he can tell there is a 150' buffer between the two planned constructions. These are two (2) different significant projects with two (2) different meanings and being that close to each other, the Recreation Committee has a major concern that if there is a service at the 9/11 memorial, someone may want the children at the playground to be quiet. D. Yates and J. Griffus are here to bring this concern to the attention of the Committee before anyone invests time and money into these projects. Chair H. Schibanoff said that the Benson Committee pointed this out to the 9/11 Committee and they replied that they would surround the area with trees as a buffer. Chair H. Schibanoff said the Benson Committee was advisory only and it might be better if D. Yates and J. Griffus took their concerns to the BOS because they gave the final approval. J. Griffus said they are not looking to stop the 9/11 project, they are just here to find out if this is an appropriate location, being so close to the Playground. He said he is not here to ask to have it moved, just to voice the concerns that he has about the steel being untreated and so close to a playground among other issues. J. Griffus said that the Playground Committee was interviewing contractors Monday and Tuesday and things are moving quickly. He reminded the Committee that the area

proposed for the playground was approved by the Benson Committee and the BOS. He said he was not looking for changes, just that he wanted to let the Committee know of the concerns of the Playground Committee and the Recreation Committee. Chair H. Schibanoff asked for comments from the Benson Committee and asked if anyone remembered talking about this when we were walking around with the 9/11 committee. C. Gagnon said she said at the park she was concerned about the proximity of the 9/11 Memorial and the Playground. She felt that the Steel could pose a hazard to children and at that time the BOS could not give a definitive answer to her questions, and she does agree that 150' is not enough area between the two projects. D. Empey said he was present at the site walk and the meeting when the project was brought before the Committee. He said that the difference between the two (2) sites was brought up and the 9/11 Committee thought that this was workable. He felt that the Playground Committee should continue and that if anything needs to be reviewed or changed it should be the 9/11 group. P. Nichols wanted to tell Alternate Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau what had transpired before he arrived at the meeting. There is concern about keeping children quiet if a ceremony is being held at the memorial. It is hard enough to keep children quiet for a few minutes and it would be almost impossible to keep them quiet at a playground. P. Nichols said it is their park too. J. Griffus said that was one of the concerns and safety was another. He said that granite steps were planned and that the Steel could not be treated. He realizes it is a play at your own risk Playground but wanted everyone to know of their concerns. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if they would also talk to the BOS. D. Yates said they had not discussed this but would try to get on the agenda for the next meeting. They are all for the 9/11 memorial but are just concerned with the closeness. Discussions followed, and Alternate Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau, Liaison for the Recreation Committee will meet with J. Griffus and D. Yates tomorrow.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 19, 2011

J. Leone made a motion to accept minutes

N. Undercofler seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

4. Old Business

A. Fire Extinguishers

D. Yates gave an update on fire extinguishers. Deputy Burton of the Hudson Fire Department sent an email to D. Yates in response to his inquiry of putting fire extinguishers in three (3) buildings on Benson Park Property. Deputy Burton said we should get a Multi-purpose, 10 pound extinguisher. Town Liaison D. Yates said he called the company and received a price of \$79 each, Service Call, \$50, (includes labeled, mounted, and maintained, with a total of \$287, and annual maintenance of \$65. Alternate Liaison B. Nadeau said he just went through this process and ended up going to Lowes and purchasing the same extinguishers for \$45 each. You hang them on the wall and put the sticker up and that is all that is required. You could have them serviced every year but for the price it would be just as easy to purchase a new one if needed. Chair H. Schibanoff asked the Committee what it wanted to do and the consensus was to purchase the extinguishers at Lowes. Town Liaison D. Yates will purchase the extinguishers and bill the Benson Account.

B. Street Names

N. Undercofler said she would give the street names another try. She made a new list of all the street names that were approved and the ones that were rejected. She is recommending that Butterfly Way be changed to Papillon Way, Hawk Run be changed to Garden Walk, the old Main Street changed to Memory Lane, and Heron Lane could be Whispering Pines or Turtle (Turnpike) Trail, Maple Tree Lane was rejected and a suggestion was made to call this Bittersweet Way. **N. Undercofler** said we can give it this name or leave it with no name at this time. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said he is having a hard time with Bittersweet Way. He does not want to honor the Bittersweet due to the hard work involved in removing it from the park. He also asked if this list was ready to go to the BOS and the consensus was yes.

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept and send Street Names to BOS

J. Leone seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

C. Gagnon wanted to say thank you to **N. Undercofler** for all the work she put into this project. This task turned into a long and time consuming project. **N. Undercofler** also thanked **A. Desrosiers** for all the help and input in trying to identify birds, animals and trees that are used as street names in Hudson,

C. Train Station Update

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke to the Town Engineer, **Gary Webster**, in order to find out what was happening with the Train Station. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said it was unbelievable and a study in State bureaucracy. **Town Engineer G. Webster** gave **Chair H. Schibanoff** the approval letter for phase 1 which is the engineering study report. This was approved on May 17, 2011 by the D.O.T. this process took two (2) months. Now there is a need for the scope and fee study for the preliminary Engineering Study Phase which is known as Phase II. This study needs to show the schedule and method for financing the entire interior and exterior of the Train Station, and they noted that in 2003 the cost was \$253,000 and this has been changed by Conesco to \$475,720. No one on the Committee knows who Conesco is. We also need to get an opinion from a preservation consultant about the Historical significance of the buildings interior and exterior. We need a qualified Historical Archeologist to observe all excavations on the site and he can stop the excavations at his will. We need to know the design of the foundation, including the walls, the strength of the mortar; materials to be used, the parking spaces available, ADA parking and they would like to have parking inside the park. (This is from the group that said no parking inside the park is allowed). They want more details on the utilities and where they are going to be and they want to know the number of clapboard to be removed. The plans said 25% but they want a number. **Town Engineer G. Webster** said plans to move the building have been scheduled for September or October. **D. Empey** asked if this building had to be done by the State, could it be done by the Town with Town funds. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that it could be done but it would still have to be done to the same standards. **D. Empey** stated that they require us to maintain this building, meet all their requirements and price tags. **D. Empey** said to give him half the money and he could fix this Train Station. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said he told **Town Engineer G. Webster** to let him know if he really gets frustrated and he will see what he can do in Concord.

D. Trail Grant

D. Empey spoke to **Town Engineer G. Webster** about the Trail Grant. **D. Empey** said that there were some issues to overcome. The Trail Committee has not

received monies from this Grant yet. There are still forms and paper work to be submitted. He said it looked like it would be a long process. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Town Engineer G. Webster if the bridges near Story Book Hill would be covered under this grant and he thought that they would.

5. New Business

A. Committee Reports

C. Gagnon apologized for the fact that the weather prediction for the clean-up was supposed to be better on Saturday so no rain date was chosen. A small group of dedicated volunteers came to the park and worked until they were soaking wet. The clean-up was called early. The volunteers got a little done so she wanted to thank them for coming.

N. Undercofler reported on the Adopt-a-Spot's. This spring there were daffodils, tulips and other flowers to make the park a special place. Everyone is doing a fantastic job. More areas are being cleared and developed and progress is being made.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper had a few things he wanted to touch on. One was last fall a man he knows who collects junk and sells it, has was asked to remove three (3) glass display cases and he thought that the Benson Park Committee could you them in the future. They are in the School House shed now and while they are not fancy they are still in good condition. D. Empey thinks we should accept them, but he does not like the idea of keeping them in the Elephant Barn. He suggested putting them in the old Cafeteria. This area does not see much traffic like the Elephant Barn does, and the glass cases would be less likely to get broken. The consensus of the Committee to accept these display cases was unanimous. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper also gave a report of all the work the Highway Department has been doing at the park. Areas have been loamed and seeded. Drainage has been added to the area near the main parking lot so that soon it will be available for planting. He also said that the Beavers are working aggressively and water is now on part of the path. D. Empey said it would be taken care of. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought maybe we should get someone in there to trap the Beavers. D. Empey said we could still deal with them for another while. D. Empey asked if the water pump that was used last year to water the grass could be used on the new areas and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said yes.

Chair Harry Schibanoff had an idea of badges being worn by Committee Members in the park. This would let people know who direct questions to when they were walking in the park, and he wanted to know what the Committee thought about this idea. J. Leone asked what Chair H. Schibanoff thought the badge should look like and he said he did not know. P. Nichols said she would look around and see if she could come up with a few ideas and present it at the next meeting. Chair H. Schibanoff said he received an invitation to the Ground Breaking Ceremony at the Park on Monday, June 20, 211 at 6:00 pm. He will speak at this event and everyone is invited.

6. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

Chair H. Schibanoff said the next Clean-up is July 9 2011, 9:00 AM -2:00 PM. Rain Date, July 10, 2011.

N. Undercofler wanted to let everyone know that Curt Laffin has arranged knowledgeable instructors from Alvirne's High School Forestry Program to help with Identifying trees in Benson Park. This program is an educational opportunity for our visitors. We will meet on Monday, June 20th at 3:00 pm and anyone interest is welcome to join us. N. Undercofler also mentioned the closed gate at the park and D. Empey said it was open.

C. Gagnon told everyone that hasn't been in the park in a week they will be surprised at the changes. If you haven't been in the park in a month you will be amazed. It is changing every day and it is beautiful.

P. Nichols complimented the Highway Department and the Volunteers who are working somewhere in the park every day. Awesome job! She also wished everyone a Happy Fathers Day.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper mentioned that the Circus will be in town to benefit the Friends of Benson Park, and there are two (2) shows on Saturday and Sunday.

Discounted tickets are available until Friday at True Value Hardware and Rogers. After that, tickets will be available at the gate. Come have a good time.

Gagnon also attended the Mal's Pal's fund raiser. It was a fun day and hear the jazz band.

Alternate Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said if you see a flock of Pink Flamingo's in a yard, this is part of the Mal's Pal's fund raiser. If you are interested in joining this fun venture just go to Mal's Pal'.org and it will tell you about the Gazebo that will be built in memory of a young girl in Hudson.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper remembered what he also wanted to say...His wife has been working on Town History Tours for ten (10) years and this will be the first year that all of the Third Grade Classes will participate and go on the tour and Benson Park is where they will go to have lunch. This will be finishing up on Tuesday. Many of these children have not been to the park before and they love it and want to come back.

Chair H. Schibanoff shared a bit of History from the Benson's Wild Animal Farm that he purchased through ebay. It is an old pennant in really good condition. He will donate it someday to the park but for now he will keep it.

Chair H. Schibanoff announced at 7:50 pm that the Committee would enter into recess and go to the Park to evaluate plant and tree locations.

The Committee met at the Park and spent some time picking locations for trees and plants. Ideas were discussed and agreed on.

Next Meeting:

July 7, 2011, 7:00 PM, Community Development Room

7. Adjournment: 8:50 pm from Park