



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
May 19, 2011

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:01 p.m. on May 19, 2011 in the Board of Selectmen Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by D. Empey

2. Attendance:

A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, J. Leone, Alternate Liaison Selectman B. Nadeau, P. Nichols, Chair H. Schibanoff, Alternates: R. Alio and D. Briand
Alternates D. Briand and R. Alio will be seated in place of absentee Members
Excused: Vice Chair J. Barnes, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, N. Undercofler,

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

Dana Sino came to the meeting tonight in regard to trash receptacles in the park. At the present time there is only one and Dana feels that another one should be added. The park is a carry-in, carry-out and he finds this is not very successful. There is one receptacle in place near the Gorilla Cage, and Dana is emptying this at least once a week. With the park getting busier with the Summer Season, he feels that another trash receptacle near the overlook area would be in order. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau spoke about the possibility of having donated trash receptacles for the summer and felt that more than two would be needed. A. Desrosiers asked if this would be a very large trash receptacle, and Dana said that it would not be industrial size, it would be the 40 or 50 gallon size. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau said that home style could be used for events in the park, i.e. Easter Egg Hunt, etc. He felt that this was something that should be looked into. Chair H. Schibanoff asked D. Sino if he was the one that emptied the trash now, and he stated that he has been doing this for the past year. D. Sino said that he has an interested person who would help with emptying the second container. P. Nichols said she would go along with the second receptacle. She felt that the park has a dumpster located at the Main Entrance and if more than two containers were placed around the park, when winter came and the containers were not there, trash would definitely be a problem. D. Empey also said that with the Park rule of carry-in, carry-out, then too many containers would defeat this purpose and it would drop by the wayside. The maintenance and emptying of many receptacles would be an added expense, and the park would not want to go in that direction. J. Leone thanked D. Sino for emptying the trash for the past year

and he felt that going with one additional trash container would be appropriate at this time. Placing this near the Elephant Barn, Overlook, or A-Frame would be fitting for now. If I looked like more should be added this could be addressed at a later date. R. Alio asked if litter was a big problem. He only noticed some litter on the back trails and a receptacle would not be placed there. A. Desrosiers has noticed an increase in volume for attendance in the park. She would be for placing an extra container near the A-Frame. Chair H. Schibanoff asked what the pleasure of the Committee would be on this.

P. Nichols made a motion to place another trash receptacle in the park, to be determined where it would be needed the most.

A. Desrosiers seconded the motion

7 Ayes- D. Empey and Ralph Alio in opposition

Chair H. Schibanoff told D. Sion he would get another trash receptacle. He did not know where it would come from at this time, but it has been approved by the Board. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau asked D. Sion where this container should be placed. D. Sion said he would leave that up to the Committee, but his preference is at the Overlook at this time. Consensus from the Committee at this time is the Elephant Barn.

Jerry Desrosiers said that from the beginning of the clean-up and some restoration at the park, he has been intrigued by the Totem Pole that used to be in front of the Office Building. He mentioned many times that he would like to see this artifact reproduced. J. Desrosiers gave everyone a handout of what the old Totem Pole looked like before it was auctioned off many years ago, and a picture of how he would like to recreate a replica. J. Desrosiers has been trying to get a log from the park for many years and finally during one of the numerous storms, a large Pine Tree fell at the park and he felt that this would be the opportunity to start recreating the Totem Pole from a portion of this tree. His proposal to the Committee is to allow him to create a replica of the Totem Pole. On the back of the handout, J. Desrosiers shows a few carvings that he and a Scout Troop did for the Town, along with other things to let everyone know he is more than qualified to do this. Chair H. Schibanoff asked how tall the old Totem Pole was. J. Desrosiers is not sure at this time but thinks it is between 12' and 15", based on the roof of the office. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if that was the log on the ground at the park, and J. Desrosiers said when that tree fell down, he contacted Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau, and asked if it could be saved until he could come before the Benson Committee with his proposal. If approved he would get together with the owner of the original Totem and take measurements, etc. Chair H. Schibanoff said the it should be as close to the original as possible. We are not creating a new Totem but a replica of the original that was in the park. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if anyone had thoughts or comments on this and P. Nichols said she liked the idea. Many people asked her what had become of it and until tonight she had no idea. The thought of having something like this in the park was to her liking. She is in favor for it. C. Gagnon asked if this would have to go to the BOS. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau said he did not think so, he felt that this was something we could do as the Benson Park Committee and that this was a project that would enhance the park. He also told J. Desrosiers he also had another carving project for him during the winter. J. Desrosiers said he would like to be involved in the future of the park and that this was one area that he could be really helpful.

P. Nichols made a motion to allow J. Desrosiers to begin work on the Totem Pole

R. Alio seconded the motion

Speaking to the Motion: J. Leone asked to hold off in the placement of the Totem Pole at this time, and all agreed.

All in favor-Motion Carries

J. Desrosiers had another recommendation. He asked if any more of the tall spruce trees fell, instead of chipping them, could they be sent to Mr. Mills to have them milled into lumber for use on future repairs on park buildings. Chair H. Schibanoff asked D. Empey if this would be a good idea. D. Empey stated that in the past trees have been sent to Mr. Mills to make rough cut lumber, some went into building the Kiosk, some were swapped for different lumber and there is still some in the Elephant Barn to be used at a later date for other projects.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of May 5, 2011

A. Desrosiers made a motion to accept minutes

D. Briand seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Park Bench Update

J. Leone said that a number of people have come forward at this time to donate a bench. In a holding pattern at this time because another bench has been made and placed in the Elephant Barn for review. Almost all Committee members have seen this bench, which has been produced locally. We owe it to ourselves to consider this bench and no decision has been made at this time. A few questions were asked about this bench and J. Leone said that they would go back to the vendor to get answers and close on this quickly P. Nichols said that thicker seating was one of the things that were requested and J. Leone said that those would be asked of the Vendor as soon as possible. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if it would be possible to keep this on the agenda for the next meeting when more information became available. J. Leone said the would be alright with him, and he will try to have this closed by the next meeting.

B. Selectman Actions

Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau said that the only thing from the BOS meeting was that the Street Names for Benson Park were pulled because many of the names have a similar Town Street Name that will make it harder for the Fire Department and Police Department to get to the right area in an emergency. N. Undercofler and the Street Naming Committee are working to change the Benson Street Names at this time and will present the changes at a later date. Chair H. Schibanoff said he thought there were six (6) names to be changed.

C. Plan Development for Highway Department

Chair H. Schibanoff said that he emailed an updated list of activities that need to be done in the park by the Highway Department. Most of this is very heavy things that are not expected to be done by volunteers. Chair H. Schibanoff said the once the new map is done with Street names, he will send this to the Town Agent for his review.

6. New Business

A. Committee Reports

D. Briand said that the Hudson Dog Park Committee will be holding a ‘Puppy Poker Walk’ on June 25, 2011, at Benson Park. This is to help raise funds for fencing at the Dog Park. More information will be forthcoming at a later date. You can check the website or Face book for updates.

P. Nichols said that she wrote the letter and prepared the Certificate for the logging company. The signing of the Certificate will be deferred until the next meeting.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

Chair H. Schibanoff said the next Clean-up is June 11 2011, 9:00 AM -2:00 PM. Rain Date, June 12, 2011. There is also an ice cream social for Volunteers on June 1, 2011, at 6:00 PM, at the Community Center, hosted by the BOS. C. Gagnon is waiting for responses from the volunteers and will send this to Town Hall before the cut-off date. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if it was necessary to have two (2) meetings a month for the summer. He stated that our meetings are getting shorter so it might be possible to halt the second meeting for a few months. J. Leone said he did not think this was a good idea because there are a lot of issues pending. The consensus was to keep the meeting as scheduled.

A. Desrosiers said that at the last clean-up at the park, so many drastic changes had taken place. The park is more beautiful than it ever was and so many people are commenting on the work completed and on-going.

C. Gagnon said that she was looking forward to the next clean-up and how different areas would be worked on to further enhance an already beautiful park.

P. Nichols agrees with A. Desrosiers on how the park is evolving so beautifully. The volunteers worked so hard at the last clean-up. It changes so much from week to week and every time you go into the park there is something new to see. New people entering the park are asking to volunteer because they like what they see.

J. Leone said at the last clean-up, the Gorilla House was being power washed and a number of cracks in the cement were found. He thought it was mentioned that some money was available for the building committee and he thought that \$50 would be enough to repair these cracks before painting. A discussion followed and Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau if this would have to go before the BOS. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau said a note could be sent requesting this money.

P. Nichols forgot to mention she was thinking about the maps and in order to save printing expenses, would it be feasible to have a few larger maps in the area of the trails where people get confused. These could be behind Plexiglas with a notice that said you are here. There would only be the need for 3 or 4 of the map signs instead of thousands being printed. It was just a thought for the Committee to think about. **R. Alio** stated that he had seen something similar to this at another park and it worked very well. He also said that finding a printer who was willing to print maps for cost or half price with the name of the printer on it somewhere advertising his donation to the park was another alternative. **P. Nichols** said that this sounded like solicitation and this was not allowed in the park. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau said this was not soliciting but advertising.

Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau said that people were asking about the old Benson Park sign that used to be on Rt. 111. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau thought after seeing the pictures that J. Desrosiers showed the Committee it would be a great winter project to have him do a new sign for Rt. 111. He also spoke of or just to walk around the lake but are prevented from doing so by having to climb the hill back to the original Handicap area near the Elephant Barn. Selectman Liaison Alternate B. Nadeau thought that a few parking sites at the lower level of the Main Parking area be designated handicap. Discussion on the pros and cons followed. This comes up about every third meeting and no one is sure how to solve this problem

Chair H. Schibanoff said he was in touch with Dominique Kaempf and Elizabeth Abbott, Girl Scout Cadet Troop 12053, (the girls that are working on their Silver Award). He put them in touch with Cindy Provencher and she is thrilled to be able to help them with their project. Chair H. Schibanoff also volunteered someone from this

Committee to help along with Cindy, Chair H. Schibanoff said his next item is a little bit of a story. When letters or emails come into Town Hall for Benson Park they are forwarded to him. He received one from a gentleman in Tyngsboro who had a glass from the Wild Animal Farm that he wanted to donate to the town. Chair H. Schibanoff emailed this gentleman and he gave him different alternatives and he emailed Chair H. Schibanoff back and said he would let him decide what to do with this. One of the stipulations on giving this to the Town of Hudson was someone had to pick it up. Chair H. Schibanoff thought it was a very large glass relic, as he lived in South Hudson he volunteered to pick up this donation. As per our rules on gifts like this, Chair H. Schibanoff brought a letter of thanks and receipt with him. The man told him he was in the process of moving and he had this stored in a box in the basement and he thinks he purchased this glass at a yard sale for about \$.25. There was also an article from the Nashua Telegraph written by a Ms. Shepard, an historian and librarian at Nashua Library. She is now deceased. Chair H. Schibanoff will info the BOS on this gift with a value of twenty five cents.

Next Meeting:

June 2, 2011

7:00 PM

Community Development Room

8. Adjournment: 8:03pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries