



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



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Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes May 5, 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 May 5, 2011 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by D. Briand

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

Tami Bohnert is a member of the BSA Arrowhead district activities committee and is the coordinator for the Boy Scouts Hike-a-thon fund raiser. The Scouts get pledges for a Hike-a-thon every year to raise funds to go to camp. T. Bohnert said she was before the Committee to ask permission to use the park for the Hike-a-Thon this year. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if she had filed with D. Yates and the answer was yes. Selectman S. Jasper asked what the duration of the event would be. T. Bohnert said it would start at 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, with different groups beginning at staggered times. D. Empey asked how many scouts would be hiking and where in the park would the hike take place. T. Bohnert said that the amount of Scouts varies from year to year, and the most they have had in the past is 150. The Historic District would be the area for hiking for the younger Scouts and possibly the Hazelton Barn Trail for the older Scouts. T. Bohnert said that there would be an adult with every group hiking. P. Nichols asked what the date would be for this event. T. Bohnert said May 21, 2011.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of April 21, 2011

N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

9 in Favor – Selectman Liaison S. Jasper Abstained

6. Old Business

A. Park Bench Update

J. Leone said that nothing was new in regard to Bench update, but if anyone wanted to purchase a bench in honor of a family member, etc. they could contact The Friends of Benson Park. They are ready to accept those donations at this time. **R. Alio** asked if a price has been set, and **J. Leone** said that the price of the Bench would be \$450.00. This price would include the cost of the bench, shipping and a cement pad. **Chair H. Schibanoff** talked to the Road Agent and was told that he trusted the decisions of the Committee in the placement of the benches in the park. **Chair H. Schibanoff** also said the he would be going to the BOS meeting on May 10 with **N. Undercofler**, and a map with the first ten (10) locations for bench placement would be given to the Selectmen for their review.

B. Selectman Actions

Chair H. Schibanoff said that the BOS approved the painting of the Gorilla House green.

C. Plan Development for Highway Department

Chair H. Schibanoff said that a tour of the park with Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper**, Road Agent **K. Burns** and a few others resulted in Road Agent **K. Burns** asking for a list of projects that need to be done. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked for volunteers to help him formulate a list. **D. Empey**, Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper**, and **C. Gagnon** volunteered.

7. New Business

A. Committee Reports

P. Nichols said that she posted a notice on the Kiosk with the Rules for Dogs and had sent one to HCTV. It has not appeared on HCTV, so she talked to HCTV again and a new address was given. Hopefully, it will appear soon. **C. Gagnon** also asked **P. Nichols** if she had any brochures. **P. Nichols** said that she was completely out of maps until July.

D. Briand said that a sign for the Dog Park Adopt-a-Fence program was made and he wanted feed back from the Committee on this. **P. Nichols** said she liked the sign even though she has no dog. **D. Briand** said people did not have to have a dog to Adopt-a-fence. **D. Empey** asked what the section length would be, and **D. Briand** said that most lengths would be between 8' and 10'. **D. Empey** asked if someone adopted a full side of fence would there be just one sign? **D. Briand** said if they wanted a sign for each section they could have it.

J. Leone made a general comment on signs. He said that The Friends of Benson Park, along with **D. Briand** have been working with someone that makes signs. At the last meeting of The Friends of Benson Park, it was decided to show the Benson Committee samples of signage and colors for their approval. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked what the plans are for the painting of the Gorilla House. **J. Leone** said that **P. Lacasse**, the main leader of repairing the Gorilla house is almost done with the trim and other areas left over from last year. **J. Leone** expects that within the next several weeks the prime painting could be done, along with sanding the bars on the cage. **J. Leone** thought that within the next month, painting could commence. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if the walls would be washed first, and **J. Leone** said that a plan was in place to do this.

C. Gagnon mentioned signs and approval from this Committee. She wanted to know if we could get a permanent sign saying "Don't drink the Water" at the hand pump.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that this water is being tested to see if the sign is necessary. A temporary sign would be alright at this time until water is known to be safe.

N. Undercofler has been very busy with people requesting Adopt-a-Spot areas. N. Undercofler is running out of areas at this point. The only area left is around the Gorilla House, and she has been postponing this until the repairs and painting has been completed.

D. Empey said that the Trails Committee has completed all the bridges that were applied for, including all those that the Conservation Commission provided funding and materials for. Chair H. Schibanoff asked D. Empey if he would like to talk about the Grant. D. Empey can give a little information on this. A Trail Grant was awarded to Benson Park in the sum of \$30,000. There are some matching issues which have to be met, but he believes this can be done through labor, but he will check on this. There are some administrative issues to be worked out also. Chair H. Schibanoff read a letter saying that we have met the requirements to receive this grant. P. Nichols asked that if this was a Trail Grant, could we get money for Trail Maps. D. Empey said that he had this on his list and would look into this further. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper asked if any thought had been given to the area near the sewer easement to Flying Rock Road, to possibly work to bringing it up to grade to prevent it from being a mud hole. D. Empey said it was on the long list and he stated what had been discussed at this time:

1. maps
2. Sewer easement that needs upgrading because it is a muddy trail
3. Remove old animal fencing, especially along the Moose Pond Trail
4. Remove stumps
5. Getting gravel to fill in mud holes on the Hazelton Farm Trail
6. Possibly a mower deck for mowing the Trails

This would save a great deal of money that could be used in other areas. D. Empey said that this was something that would have to be worked out and get approval for.

B. Recognition of McGuinness Tree Services, LLC

D. Empey told the Committee that McGuinness Tree Service came into the park on April 29th, with a tremendous amount of equipment, a 90 ton Crane, a very large chipper that would swallow a whole tree, Trucks to haul away the debris, and a stump chipper. They removed approximately ten (10) trees from the park that were problems for one reason or another, large dead trees that were a safety hazard. D. Empey said they did a very clean, professional and thorough job. When they left there was no sign of the work they had done. Pictures were taken of the work they were doing for their company magazine, and D. Empey is hoping that there will be an article of their day of service at Benson Park. There is a chance that they would do this again for their day of service. P. Nichols asked if she could make a Certificate for them, and Chair H. Schibanoff also requested a letter. P. Nichols said she would do this. N.

Undercofler stated that this service was done in honor of Arbor Day.

C. Water Pump

A. Desrosiers asked if it was safe to drink water from the water pump. She said it was marked for watering only but some people have been drinking it. Selectman S. Jasper said that tests were being done at this time and he has not heard if anyone has been sick but he would not object to a sign being placed on the pump at this time warning that the water might be unsafe to drink, until the test are completed. N. Undercofler said that a sign is on the pump at this time.

D. Handicap Parking

A. Desrosiers said that with more events in the park and more people taking advantage of the park, would it be possible to have a few handicap parking areas in the Main Parking lot to accommodate visitors and guests. Some people requested that a few spots be allocated to the Handicap in this area. C. Gagnon asked if the rules would allow handicap parking in mud. This is a non-paved area and can get very muddy at times. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that we have an area designated to the Handicap and it would be counter-productive to add more spaces. Once the new sign is erected more people would use this handicap area. P. Nichols said that the Handicap area should be adequate, but other people are parking all around the Handicap spots, one particular car is parking on the area facing the fence where grass was just planted. N. Undercofler said she knew of some people that parked in this area receiving warnings from HPD. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will speak to the Police Department about this. Nothing can be done if people are parked on the pavement in non-handicap areas, but if they are parked on the grass something can be done. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper if he mentioned the new sign to Road Agent K. Burns. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he spoke to Road Agent K. Burns about this and he would work on it as soon as possible. The area chosen was near the guard rail between the two entrances.

Chair H. Schibanoff said the next Clean-up is May 14, 2011, 9:00 AM -2:00 PM. Rain Date, May 15, 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. A count was needed from this Committee, and seven (7) members and spouses signed up to attend. A letter was received from the Division of Historical Resources saying that they think there were gutters on the Train Station at one point. The DHR are not asking us to replace them, but if we find them, they are to be left in situ (left in place-not moved).

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

A. Desrosiers said the park is really blooming and people should drop by and just enjoy their Park.

P. Nichols wished everyone a Happy Mothers Day. She said that she had been in the Park recently and saw a dog without a leash. She mentioned to the owner that the dog was not leashed. The person kept walking so P. Nichols said again that the dog was not on a leash. The owner turned around and asked if she had heard of electronic fencing and that this was an electronic leash. The owner continued walking as the dog went into the brush and left waste there, then went back to its owner. The owner never picked up the waste, just continued on. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he had never heard of this but this was not a true leash to control a dog. It must be a visible leash. The rule concerning dogs on leashes and waste pick-up has been posted in the Kiosk and will be on HCTV.

H. Schibanoff said he attended the Easter Egg Hunt held at the Park and really enjoyed it. He said that this was the largest amount of people in the Park since the Grand Opening and it was wonderful to see the Park being used as we had envisioned it. He hoped there would be more events in the future. Another thing of interest is, The Audubon Society is having its Spring Bird Count on June 12, 2011 at 6:00 AM. A request for a flyer to be posted in the Kiosk was asked for and P. Nichols will create one and put it up. Chair H. Schibanoff was at the Park with Curt Laffin to view the areas where the eight (8) American Chestnut's will be planted. Alvirne High School Biology Students, and Forestry Students, along with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will take part in this planting event on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 1:00 PM,

Next Meeting:

May 19, 2011

7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

9. Adjournment: 7:42pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

Selectman Liaison Shawn Jasper seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries