



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectmen Liaison



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Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes April 21, 2011

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:02 p.m. on April 21, 2011 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by P. Nichols

2. Attendance:

A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, J. Leone, Alternate Liaison, Selectman B. Nadeau, P. Nichols, N. Undercofler, 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, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper,

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

A. Girl Scout Silver Award Project

Dominique Kaempf and Elizabeth Abbott, Girl Scout Cadet Troop 12053, gave a presentation to the Benson Committee looking for permission to create an audio tour of the History of Benson Park. The girls are looking to create this as their project toward earning the Girl Scout Silver Award. The girls would take people on a walking tour through Benson Park and have them describe what they see now then take them back through the Park and tell them what it was like when it was Benson's Wild Animal Farm. They would bring this to the Library and put it on MP3 players and leave it at the Library. People could check this out and bring it to the park for a different view. A. Desrosiers asked if the girls had former employees lined up to help with this. The girls said that they would walk around and where there was signage they would tell what was at that spot now and what had been there in the past. J. Leone asked what a Silver Award was and E. Abbott explained it was the highest level for their cadet level. They have to complete a 50 hour project that would help the community. N. Undercofler asked how many tapes would be available at the Library. The girls said that they would ask the Library personnel what would be an adequate number of tapes. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if they had lined up anyone to speak to. E. Abbott said they have not lined up anyone at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned Cindy Provencher as a person they should talk to, due to her

knowledge of the park. P. Nichols asked when they plan on starting this project. E. Abbott said if approval was given at this meeting they would go for approval from the BOS at their next meeting and start shortly after that.

P. Nichols made a motion to recommend approval for the Silver Award Project to be done by Dominique Kaempf and Elizabeth Abbott.

N. Undercofler seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of April 7, 2011

A. Desrosiers made a motion to accept minutes

D. Briand seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carried

6. Old Business

A. Street Names

N. Undercofler gave a listing of Street names to the Committee for their review.

She recommended changes as follows:

Main Entrance (no name) will now be called **Main Street**

Unfinished Path (no name) will now be called **Gorilla House Path**

Elephant Way will be renamed **Hawk Run**

Main Street will be renamed **Serenity Lane**

Tree Shadow Lane will be renamed **Shadow Lane**

Mambasa Circle will be renamed **Alligator Alley**

Shady Brook Lane will be renamed **Shady Lane**

Apple Blossom Lane will be renamed **Maple Tree Lane**

Wilderness Walk will be and renamed **Chestnut Path**

Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau asked if the area renamed Chestnut Path was where C.

Laffin was going to plant the Chestnut Trees. N. Undercofler said it was, and

Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau stated this would be a fitting name for this area.

Discussion followed and it was decided to vote to send recommendation to the BOS.

P. Nichols made a motion that N. Undercofler send the updated version of the street names and map to the BOS for their approval.

D. Empey seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

B. Park Benches

J. Leone gave copies of Bench specs and measurements to the Committee. The first ten (10) locations were spotted on a hand-out map. J. Leone pointed out these locations on a large map. Discussion on locations followed with N. Undercofler asking if more than two (2) benches are being considered for Serenity Gardens. So many visitors love this area for the views. J. Leone stated that this was an Adopt-a-Spot, and he would talk to the person in charge of this area. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if any benches would be placed on Storybook Hill. J. Leone said that there was still work to be done in this area and it was not it the first choices. P. Nichols said that there was a really nice spot between two trees on the back side of the shoe that would be an ideal spot to sit and watch children. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau asked how

people could sponsor a bench. J. Leone said that there were still things to be discussed and confirmed. He hopes to have more information at the next meeting on how to order a bench from the Friends of Benson Park. Chair H. Schibanoff asked N. Undercofler if she could mark up the map including bench locations. This would also be helpful to the BOS. N. Undercofler said she would have her son do this. Question and Discussions followed.

C. Painting of Gorilla House

J. Leone spoke about the painting of the Gorilla House. He passed a picture around for Committee review, and said it was two shades of green, a light green with darker green trim. P. Nichols asked if the bars on the inside would be painted green or black. Preference for the bars is black. N. Undercofler liked the landscaping at the front of the Gorilla House. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if white was a consideration for the columns. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said white attracts graffiti more than any other color. Chair H. Schibanoff also asked if request would have to go before the BOS. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau said he would have to ask about this.

D. Spring Clean-up Activities

Chair H. Schibanoff said that he attended a spring walk-around with the Highway Department, Selectman S. Jasper, Selectman T. Luszey, and D. Empey. A view of the area between Swan Lake and Bass Pond was checked and the broken fence between the two had been removed. Chair H. Schibanoff said that the difference this makes to the park is incredible. It changes this whole area. The Reindeer will be moved to the Elephant Barn until a decision is made on what to do with them. The Highway Department will put pipes in the swale along the new path and cover it up. Landscaping can be done in this area when this has been completed. They also decided to remove the No Trespassing sign where the sewer line is, and also remove a post in that area. The Highway Department is planning to go through the park and remove big dead trees and heavy underbrush. (This has already been done). K. Burns asked the Committee for a wish list that could be done as time allows. Chair H. Schibanoff said he should work with C. Gagnon on this as the listing was set up a short time ago. The Highway Department will also repair the Handicap sign that blew down this past winter. D. Empey said that the removal of the cement structures around the park, old pipe, two catch basin pieces near Nakura Lake and old fencing would also be done. J. Leone asked if they were going to install the new Handicap Entrance Sign. J. Leone said that this was already on the list.

7. New Business

A. Committee Reports

D. Briand reported on the Fund Raising Bake Sale to benefit the Dog Park. He said this was a huge success with over \$1,000 toward the construction costs. A big thank you from the Dog Park Committee to Americas Pets, Chasing our Tails, and Walmart's for all their support.

N. Undercofler reported that she is receiving many emails requesting Adopt-a-Spot. People are also stopping her in the park with requests for same.

B. Name Change - Serenity to Serenity Gardens

Chair H. Schibanoff received a request from G. Boyer to change the name of his area from Serenity to Serenity Gardens. With no objections or discussion he asked of a vote.

N. Undercofler made a motion to accept the name change from Serenity to Serenity Gardens.

P. Nichols seconded the motion

All in favor – Motion Carries

C. Car Restoration

N. Undercofler sent information and a picture of a car that was found in the park. **G. Boyer** would like to completely restore this car back to its original state and place it in his Adopt-a-Spot. There will be no sharp edges on the body, the seats will be upholstered, and it will be permanently anchored for safety. **J. Leone** said that it would really look good near the race track area when it gets done. **Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau** said that if **G. Boyer** wanted to take on this project totally, then it should be situated in his area. **D. Empey** said he agreed with **Selectman Liaison Ben Nadeau**. **P. Nichols** asked if this would have to go before the BOS and **Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau** said he thought only the money expended on this would have to have the approval of the BOS. **A. Desrosiers** asked if we are assuming that this was part of a ride that was in operation when the park was open. **D. Empey** thinks it could have been a boat that ran on rubber wheels in a circle. **A. Desrosiers** said that if this is going to be shown as part of a ride from the past, she would like to have it authenticated, because she has asked a few people about this and no one is familiar with it. **D. Empey** said that he thought it was a ride at the park because there is mechanism or gears on this, the fact that there are two of them, suggests that it could have been a ride. **D. Briand** seems to remember the ride and thinks he has a picture of this, and he will look for it.

N. Undercofler made a motion to allow G. Boyer to restore the car and place on his Adopt-a-Spot, D. Briand seconded the motion All in favor – Motion Carries

D. Tree Removal

Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned that there was some tree removal at the Park. A number of dead trees were taken down, and a willow tree that was in bad shape was also removed. **Chair H. Schibanoff** explained to **K. Burns** what the committee meant when they said cleaning not clearing.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Remarks by Committee Members

R. Alio thanked everyone who came to the cooked for the bake sale, helped out, and purchased treats for humans and pets.

D. Empey said the April trails meeting was held and more work was done on the drainage area in the Deer Run area.

D. Briand wanted to repeat what **R. Alio** said and wanted to thank everyone again. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked how the selling of fence sections was going. **D. Briand** said that the forms were printed and it was going fairly well.

Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau let the Committee know that he was checking out a few downed trees on Kimball Hill Road in front of Benson Park and even with the strong winds, the parking lot was doing a brisk business. He was also over at the Park on Sunday and he saw a young boy with a fishing pole. He said he comes to the park a few times a week to fish and his dad sits on the knoll and watches him. He also heard more positive comments about the park. Some people were asking about a more permanent, three season bath house. **Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau** asked if this was something the Committee had discussed, he just heard about this recently, Discussion

followed in regard to this project. He said to keep this in mind and let him know if anyone had any ideas.

D. Empey said there seems to be a misunderstanding on leashing dogs in the Park. The law in Hudson for Dog's state that the animal must be under the control of their owned at all times, but do not have to be leashed. There is an ordinance by the Town of Hudson for Benson Park that Dogs be leashed at all times, and Dog waste must be picked up. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau has also found this to be a problem. He felt that if the rules were scrolled on HCTV this would be helpful. Chair H. Schibanoff asked P. Nichols if she could work on this with Jim McIntosh from HCTV. P. Nichols said she would and would highlight the rule about Dogs being leashed in the park. Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau also spoke about an Easter Egg Hunt at Benson Park, on Friday, April 22nd. This event is sponsored by the Hudson Recreation Committee and they look forward to hosting this every year.

D. Empey asked P. Nichols if all the maps were put out. P. Nichols stated that the maps were gone near Thanksgiving. There will be no money for maps until July. She felt that putting maps in the Kiosk for weekends only would keep cost down.

Next Clean-up is May 14, 2011 – 9:00 AM -2:00 PM

Next Meeting:

May 05, 2011

7:00 PM

Community Development Room

9. Adjournment: 8:01pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

N. Undercofler seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries