



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
March 3, 2011

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:03 p.m. on February 3, 2011 in the Community Development Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by D. Briand.

2. Attendance:

Vice Chair J. Barnes-late, C. Gagnon, A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, J. Leone, P. Nichols, N. Undercofler, Alternates: R. Alio and D. Briand

Alternate D. Briand will be seated in place of an absentee member.

Excused: Selectman Liaison S. Jasper

3. Public Input

K. Matthews, President of the Friends of Benson Park gave an update on what has been happening with this organization from its beginning in May 2010. With their attendance at Park openings, Old Home Days and Pumpkin Fest they are aggressively pursuing their goal of fund raising for the betterment of Benson Park. They have a membership at this time of 90 of members (Two (2) of these members are descendents of John T. Benson). K. Matthews gave a summary of the foundation's articles of agreement, elected officers, adopted a set of By-Laws, set up a website, received an Employee identification number from the IRS, and added Three (3) new Board Members to the original Five (5). They are registered with the NH Attorney General's Charitable Trust Unit and have a Certificate of Registration. They are in the process of applying to the IRS for a **Tax Exemption 501C3**. At this time the Friends are ready to donate to the Benson Park Buildings sub committee, materials to construct Five (5) picnic tables by providing lumber, hardware and paint. They are also ready to donate to the Town of Hudson, NH, for Benson Park, a painting of Tony, the Gorilla, done by local artist, Michael Campofredano of Nashua, NH. K. Matthews said that the Friends would also be able to engrave plaques for the painting or for honoring volunteers and donors to the Park. Questions followed. P. Nichols asked for clarification on the engravings. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if K. Matthews had any idea where the painting would go. He could not give a definitive answer at this time. The buildings are not ready to store and protect articles of this nature at this time. J. Leone thought that it might be a good idea to ask Town Hall to display this until a secure spot in the park became available. P. Nichols asked if accepting this gift was up to the BOS. Chair H. Schibanoff said he thought if it was valued under \$500 we would not need to go before the BOS to accept this gift, but he

would check with Selectman Liaison S. Jasper. C. Gagnon said that it was a beautiful gift and that when the Train Station was completed in the future, it would be an ideal place to display the painting. Chair H. Schibanoff said that he would inquire at Town Hall or the Library for storage or display space and if nothing was available the Committee would hold off on accepting the painting at this time. K. Matthews and the Committee were in agreement with this solution. K. Matthews also mentioned that a new book 'Benson's Wild Animal Farm' written by Bob Goldsack is now on sale at Show Time Computer, with a percentage of the sales going to the Friends of Benson Park. K. Matthews also asked the viewing public for assistance in going forward with these projects.

P. LaCasse, reported that he would have to rescind his request to put a mural on the wall inside the Gorilla House cage, due to a lack of interest from the Art Department at Alvirne High School. He has tried a number of times to reach someone in the Art Department but they do not return his calls. P. Nichols asked him if he would try again at a later date and he said no.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of February 3, 2011

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept minutes

N. Undercofler seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Train Station Update

Chair H Schibanoff said that G. Webster, Town Engineer has been keeping him updated with plans for the Train Station. Chair H. Schibanoff displayed a rendering of the final location of the Train Station. He asked D. Empey to give a view of this new location to the Committee. D. Empey said that the engineering aspects would work better with this new location and he felt that this plan should go forward at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff said that Town Engineer G. Webster hoped to have a bid date of July 19th. Town Engineer G. Webster is very optimistic that this will happen and this should go forward in late summer. They are in the process of doing borings to look for ledge, this is phase I, phase II is the design, and phase III is the construction. Town Engineer G. Webster' biggest concern is getting the Train Station moved to a new foundation and will worry about the inside later. He is actively searching for funding to complete the inside. Vice Chair J. Barnes said that Town Engineer G. Webster was also in attendance at the Planning Board for another project and mentioned the Train Station. The Town Engineer G. Webster also stated that he has been going to the D.O.T. in Concord at least once a week and feels that he is on firmer ground working on this project.

B. Financial Report

Chair H. Schibanoff said that he thought D. Yates would have an update on Finances, but he is going on vacation and did not have time. However, Chair H. Schibanoff said that at the last BOS meeting there was a discussion of Benson Park lack of funds and deficit position. The bottom line is that we have approximately \$600 in our account until the end of June. D. Empey asked what was to come out of that \$600 in regards to fixed funds. This money is not designated to any fixed bills. J. Leone asked if some of this would be used for pamphlets for the spring and P. Nichols said she would not consider using those funds at this time. The pamphlets are not inexpensive and she does not want to utilize the funds at this time. She would like to wait until the end of June to order them for the summer season.

C. Calendar of Events

Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned that at the last Committee meeting a discussion was held in regard to summer bookings at the park. **J. Leone** in order to coordinate events with **D. Yates**, set up an account called Benson_Park@yahoo.com and created a calendar that will list weddings, reunions, clean-up scheduling, meeting dates, park closing update, etc. This calendar is available as a free service. **C. Gagnon** asked if the cleanup dates could be posted on this calendar for the rest of the year and **P. Nichols** said she would do this.

6. New Business

A. Committee Reports

N. Undercofler reported on a meeting with the Benson Park street naming sub committee. The sub committee agreed on names for the streets within the park. Before presenting this to the Committee, they want to have signage post and design construction completed. They are not sure if the signs will be engraved or painted at this time. **D. Empey** said that he would like to see the names of the streets before the signs are designed so that we can begin to use a new version of the map for direction information. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if the names could be shown to the Committee at the next meeting and **N. Undercofler** agreed.

Chair H. Schibanoff asked what was happening in regard to park benches in the future. He thought that this was a sub committee. **J. Leone** responded by saying that **R. Alio** was willing to help with this along with **N. Undercofler**. A few emails have been exchanged but they have not looked into vendors in the area at this time.

B. Project Planning for Volunteers

J. Leone said that the Buildings sub committee has a list of projects it wants to accomplish in the coming year. **N. Undercofler** said that she also has a list of projects that the Landscaping sub-committee would like to do. She would like to see the entrance to the park from the Main Parking lot be made more attractive and inviting. The second item on her list would be the water (basin) near the old shoe. **C. Gagnon** stated that this was a project that Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** is working on. She thought that he should be consulted with before any plans were made. **N. Undercofler** said the there was broken asphalt behind the Old Shoe and she would like to see this removed and RAP put down to make this area more attractive. **C. Gagnon** said that if this were to happen she would like to see everything coordinated within a few days of the asphalt removal and the laying down of the RAP in the event of heavy rain that could wash away some of the area. Another area that **N. Undercofler** would like to see repaired is the wall near the remote car area due to a large crack. She has someone that would be willing to take on this project but **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that this was something the Town would do. **J. Leone** said that this was something that came under the Buildings sub committee and it was not on the list at this time. He reported on his list for the coming year to include finishing the work on the Gorilla House that had been started last fall. This would include trim, painting and securing some areas. They would like to get the building pressure washed and painted. They have someone willing to donate paint for this project. The Building sub committee would like to work on the back room of the Gorilla House. This area has old duct work and wiring that needs to be removed. This could be a volunteer project at a later date. **J. Leone** asked **D. Empey** if access to the water pump would be possible when this was turned on in the spring. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that part of next years budget was to put in water lines, electric lines, and sewer lines, from the Train Station to the Gorilla House. **D. Empey** said he would need the size of the pipe to connect to the pump with a proper fitting. **D. Empey** does not know if this pump would overwhelm the water supply. This is something that should be taken into consideration. **J. Leone** stated that

the sub committee would like to devote some time to working on the outside of the Elephant Barn to the same level as the front. Someone is willing to fund the cost of the paint for this project and if possible look for donations to replace broken siding, etc. if funds are not available from the budget. The Buildings sub committee would like to remove broken fencing, sand blast and paint the Lion Cage attached to the Barn. This would be all that would be done to the Elephant Barn for a while. J. Leone said that the internal cleanup of the Office building and Kitchen could be done by volunteers. He said that some of this work had been done last year but there is still work to be finished, especially on the lower level. The Building sub committee would like to replace the door of the Office Building. There is only a piece of plywood nailed to the building at this time, and something more secure is needed. The stone fireplace inside the Office is covered with graffiti and needs to be cleaned. He also asked if an inside view of the Train Station was possible. It could be a chance to do some clean up before it is moved to a new site. Chair H. Schibanoff will look into this. C. Gagnon asked if a clean up could be scheduled for inside buildings before the snow is gone and J. Leone said that this would be acceptable. D. Empey said he did not think that we could touch the inside of the Train Station without approval from the State. Chair H. Schibanoff said that no one mentioned clearing. **D. Briand** said the Dog Park needs clearing. He now has approval from the State to go ahead with plans to construct this in the park. **D. Empey** has a long list of projects in no particular order. He would like to see what can be done to plant trees along Central Street to eliminate traffic noise. He has lots of work to do on the Trails once the snow is gone. There are old stumps that need to be removed and there are drainage issues that need to be addressed. There are cement structures throughout the park that should be removed and he thinks the Town should be involved in this. He visualized the area near the old amusement ride area as a picnic area. There is a lot of hot top with bushes and trees growing up through it, and he would like to mark out three (3) or four (4) spots to put picnic tables on, then remove the rest of the asphalt and see what can be done to plant grass and clean up this area. Along the paved roads in the ticketed area of the park, are a lot of debris, pieces of asphalt, dead wood, broken branches, etc. that should be picked up and disposed of. This could be done with volunteers. He would like to remove the cement wall behind the Duck Pond, he considers this an eye sore. He would like to see the removal of the broken fence between Swan Lake and Bass Pond. There are broken pipes scattered in this area that should be removed. The Committee discussed a stroll through the park when the weather permitted this spring to see what if any clearing should be done. C. Gagnon suggested that this be done and least twice a year to stay ahead of any future problems. The replacement of bridges behind the Old Shoe was discussed. C. Gagnon asked that any projects be sent to her before a clean up so that she could assign volunteers to specific areas.

C. By-Laws

Vice Chair J. Barnes worked on an updated version of the Committee By-Laws. He emailed this version to the Committee members and received some comments back. A question he had was on the number of alternates that were listed. He was not sure if it was for two (2) or three (3). Chair H. Schibanoff said that the number of alternates was two (2). Another point that Vice Chair J. Barnes was trying to make was terms of appointment. He will re-word this to be clear on the terms. P. Nichols corrected her title as being Clerk of this Committee. Vice Chair J. Barnes will change this. Meeting cancellations will be updated as discussed. There was also a question on alternates discussing a matter on the floor. They could not make a motion but should be allowed to speak on matters before the Committee. A. Desrosiers asked that in the absence of the Selectman Liaison, can an alternate vote in his place? Chair H. Schibanoff said

that no one could vote for an absent Selectman Liaison. Vice Chair J. Barnes will revise the By-Laws and send to everyone before the next meeting.

D. Kiwanis Indoor Yard Sale

Chair H. Schibanoff received an email from S. Cloutier, Hudson Kiwanis. They are having an indoor yard Sale on April 2, 2011, and they are donating a table to Benson Park for this event. C Gagnon volunteered her time along with P. Nichols and A. Desrosiers. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if electricity would be available because he has a Power Point Presentation that could be run at this table. J. Leone asked how the Friends of Benson Park could obtain a table at this event and C. Gagnon said she would have J. Maltz email him with the information. Chair H. Schibanoff said he would email our acceptance to this event and thank her for including us.

E. Selectmen Actions

Chair H. Schibanoff said that the BOS would like people to put together Public Service Announcements that could be shown on HCTV between breaks during meetings. This was discussed among the Committee and they will come up with something by the next meeting. The next item approved by the Selectmen was accepting the Playground as presented by the Recreation Committee. Now this will move to the Planning Board for the release of funds. C. Gagnon asked if this would involve a Community Build. Chair H. Schibanoff thought that this was the plan so C. Gagnon will add this to the list of volunteer projects to be done in the future.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Winter Conditions and related issues

Chair H. Schibanoff asked what, if anything was going on in the park at this time. Snow Shoeing is about the only activity. C. Gagnon asked about conditions in parking lot. R. Alio said that the lot had been plowed and it was not too icy when he was there. D. Empey said that he wanted to remind people to clean up after their dogs. Now that the snow is melting there are signs of dog waste showing up and it would be sad to see many people punished for the few that don't clean up. Please be aware of this rule.

B. Remarks by Committee Members

C. Gagnon congratulated Mal's Pals on their recent fund raiser to build a gazebo at Benson Park in honor of young Mallory. This fun event was a cardboard sled race and the creativity was a wonder to see. She said our own A. Desrosiers was an active participant, sledding down the hill in a replica of the Old Shoe at Benson Park.

A. Desrosiers said that we should get our sleds ready for next year and join her in another Cardboard Sled event. (The challenge has been given!)

Chair H. Schibanoff said that D. Yates updated the signs at the Park now that the hours have changed. The park closes at 7:00 pm. He also said that the Dog Park was approved by the D.O.T. so D. Briand and crew can proceed with plans for the spring. His last item was interesting in that he received a phone call from Manchester Segway. They were asking to give Segway Tours at Benson Park. While this seemed to be a great idea his first thought was that no motorized vehicles are allowed in the park, but Segways are not deemed motorized because they can be used on sidewalks. The next stumbling block was that it would be a commercial enterprise and the park would share in the revenues. Chair H. Schibanoff had to explain that deed restrictions would not allow this on Benson Property. C. Gagnon said that she had also received a request from a local Dog Shelter wanting to have a fund raiser on the property and she gave them the same answer. J. Leone said that this might be a discussion for the Committee at a later date because he is also unsure as to what the deed restrictions mean. Chairman H. Schibanoff asked if we should keep our scheduled meeting on

March 17th. If not, the next scheduled meeting is in April. Chair H. Schibanoff asked for the Committee's thoughts and he asked each one what his/her idea was. All said that we should go ahead with the planned meeting to get ready for clean-up dates and spring projects. Only two (2) said that they thought it was not a good idea, so the Committee will go with the meeting on March 17th.

Next Meeting:

March 17 2011

7:00 PM

Community Development Room, Town Hall

8. Adjournment: 7:47 pm

C. Gagnon made a motion to adjourn

N. Undercofler seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries