

Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2011

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:06 p.m. on February 3, 2011 in the Community Development Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by P Nichols.

**2. Attendance:**

Vice Chair J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, R. Empey, J. Leone, P. Nichols, N. Undercofler,  
Alternates: R. Alio and D. Briand  
Seated in place of excused member, Alternate R. Alio  
Excused: C. Gagnon,

**3. Public Input**

None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

A. Minutes of January 20, 2011

**N. Undercofler made a motion to accept minutes of January 20, 2011**

**A. Desrosiers seconded the motion**

**All in favor...Motion Carries**

**5. Old Business**

**A. Mission/Vision Statement**

**Chair H Schibanoff** sent copies of updated versions of the Mission and Vision Statement done by A. Desrosiers and Ralph Alio. These were based on the draft presented at our last meeting. He stated that he liked R. Alio's Mission Statement and A. Desrosiers Vision Statement. P. Nichols agreed with this and said that after discussion she would put forth a motion to accept these statements. There was no discussion. The Mission and Vision Statement is as follows:

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Benson Park Committee is to protect and maintain the rich history of the park. It will preserve and enhance a park which enriches the quality of life for the residents of Hudson and visitors alike, it will preserve the park for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and foster harmony with nature by promoting a wide range of year round passive recreational activities.

**Vision Statement**

- To foster community pride and volunteerism in achieving our goals
- To plan for educational opportunities on the park's historical and environmental components
- To restore and preserve historical buildings and structures
- To preserve and protect our wildlife's natural habitats
- To strategically prepare for future needs and projects

**P. Nichols made a motion to accept R. Alio' Mission Statement and, A. Desrosiers Vision Statement**  
**N. Undercofler seconded the motion**  
**All in favor...Motion Carries**

**B. List of Projects**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** sent an updated list to committee members and asked if there were any revisions that he missed. **J. Leone** said that we did strike the bat boxes because there were a number of them in the park. This will be taken off the list. **P. Nichols** asked if the 'Design, plan and cultivate perennial gardens within the park' should be stricken from the list due to the fact that **N. Undercofler** and the landscaping committee were doing a lot of this. **N. Undercofler** said that it should be left in because there are still a number of adopt-a-spot areas available in the park. **D. Empey** wanted to make sure no one came into the park and started to work on a spot on there own. Vice Chair **J. Barnes** said he thought that anyone wanting to do this had to come before this Committee. **P. Nichols** said she thought there was a form that had to be filled out by anyone wanting to do any project in the park. **J. Leone** said that at the bottom of the List of Projects was a notice that acceptance of ideas was a two step process: Preliminary proposal should be presented to the committee and upon receipt of preliminary approval, a formal plan could be developed and presented to the committee for final approval. **R. Alio** asked about a bridge by the alligator pit (overlook area), he thought that this should be a covered bridge. Other bridges near Story Book Hill are mentioned in the list but this bridge is not listed. Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** said all bridges should be covered to protect against the weather and therefore last longer. **Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if the Story Book Hill bridges should be covered, but Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** stated that those were more of a foot path bridge and could easily be replaced. Trying to identify where this bridge is located, **D. Empey** said it is referred to as the Ravine area, according to older maps. **N. Undercofler** had a question about boat ramp or dock on Swan Lake. She wanted to know if this was in the plans. Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** said that it was but he was not sure if this was a good idea. People would have to portage boats, etc. into the park because no vehicles are allowed. **P. Nichols** thought a small dock for fishing could be constructed, but Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper** said that again, this had a potential of liability if someone fell into the water and was injured. He said that around the lake there were many areas available for casting a fishing line. **D. Briand** agreed with Selectman Liaison **S. Jasper**. He thought it might encourage swimming, etc. which is not allowed. The consensus of the committee was to strike this project from the list.

**6. New Business**

**A. Committee Reports**

**J. Leone** gave a brief update from the Buildings Committee. Inside the Elephant Barn some areas have been sealed off to prevent drafts, so the Committee could work on picnic tables during the winter months.

**B. Scheduling of Events in Park**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** received a phone call from someone wanting to schedule a wedding in the park. He explained that at this time there was no power and everything would have to be carried in. The caller said that this would be a very small wedding so **Chair H. Schibanoff** referred her to **D. Yates** to fill out

the forms. He wanted to know what should be done if more than one person wanted to schedule a wedding? N. Undercofler said that it should be on a first come first serve basis. J. Leone asked if someone was keeping a schedule of events i.e. Schools, etc. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he agreed with a first come first serve schedule but it was unlikely that anyone would be having a reception in the park. Blocks of time could be set up to accommodate others and if someone wanted the same time but not the same area it could be done to the satisfaction of all. A. Desrosiers asked if someone wanted to have a cookout along with their wedding could it be scheduled. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that a cookout could be set up at the A-Frame and all grills and food, etc. would have to be carried in. No catering vans, trucks or cars would be allowed in the park. P. Nichols asked to be informed in advance. She would like to post information on the Kiosk Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he thought it would be appropriate for D. Yates to let the clerk know what events are planned so that she could inform the committee and post a schedule of events on the kiosk. Chair H. Schibanoff will ask D. Yates if he could email P. Nichols with this info when it was available.

### **C. Posting of Hours**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that this would be the last meeting before the hours of the park change on March 1st to a closing time of 7:00 pm. He said that the brochure would have to be changes and P. Nichols said this has been done. The signs in the park would also have to be changed and he thought that sticker could be made for them. He was not sure of how many signs were in the park. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought there were five (5) signs. He thinks that only three (3) are being used. Chair H. Schibanoff will ask D. Yates for stickers. If they were not available for March 1<sup>st</sup>, P. Nichols will post the hours in the Kiosk.

### **D. Selectmen Actions**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper gave a report on the latest Selectmen Actions. The Train Station was one of the topics of discussion. The Selectmen agreed to apply for additional funds, along with the funds available at this time, to finish the Train Station completely. The total to complete this project inside and out would be \$625, 000. With work the volunteers and the Highway Department put into this project, it should cover the match so that it will not cost the Town additional funds. P. Nichols asked if the State had waived the cost of an archeologist to watch the dig. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he took the “artifacts” that were found recently to Concord, and he is working on getting this rescinded. J. Barnes asked if the additional monies were not made available what would we be able to do. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the foundation could be done, the Train Station moved, new roofing put on the building, and bring water, sewer and utilities to the building. He also stated that if additional money became available we could decide at a later date what we wanted to finish inside the building. He felt that there was a good chance of getting the additional funding. The next thing that the BOS acted on was applying for a \$30,000 grant for trails. They would be sending this to Concord soon. Chair H. Schibanoff asked what this would be for and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he thought D. Empey could think of something to use this grant for. D. Empey gave many suggestions for the use of these funds. N. Undercofler asked for the source of the grant and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought it was monies for the State through the Federal Government.

## **7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

### **A. Winter Conditions and related issues**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that he has not been to the park and wanted to know what the conditions were. He asked if there were any issues. A. Desrosiers said that both parking areas had been plowed. She goes into the park on the weekends to snowshoe and there are usually 15 to 20 cars in the parking lot. She has seen many people enjoying winter in the park. P. Nichols asked D. Empey if there were any more signs destroyed or taken. D. Empey said that only the ones he mentioned at the last meeting are all he knows about. He will be doing a check on this soon..

### **B. Remarks by Committee Members**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that this would be the only meeting this month. The next meeting would be on March 3, 2011.

**D. Empey** requested that the committee think of projects to be done this spring and bring their thoughts to the next meeting. He said that planning in advance would be a help in choosing the most important tasks to be done first. He mentioned hot top removal that is of no value to the park and a few other issues.

**Vice Chair J. Barnes** said he was in agreement with D. Empey and he thought that we should schedule a walk-around with the full committee in the spring to identify problems and projects to be considered. He felt that this should be done on an annual basis. He also asked if by-laws should be written for the committee to follow regarding procedures and alternates duties. A. Desrosiers agreed with this suggestion, due to past experiences. Vice Chair J. Barnes volunteered to draft something to present to the committee at the next meeting.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked if anyone knew what was happening on the right side of the Main Parking Lot. He noticed some trees cut down. D. Briand said that was the area where the small dog park would be. Chair H. Schibanoff said the he updated the description of the committee on the Town web site. He also gave a history of this committee and some of its accomplishments.

### **Next Meeting:**

**March 3, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

**Community Development Room, Town Hall**

## **8. Adjournment: 7:47 pm**

**P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn**

**N. Undercofler seconded the motion**

**All in favor...Motion Carries**