

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2010

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 December 2, 2010 in the Community Development Meeting Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by K. Dickenson.

2. Attendance:

J. Barnes, A. Desrosiers, Alternate, K. Dickinson, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, J. Leone, Alternate, P. Nichols, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh
Excused: M. Lee

3. Public Input

Tony V. representing KLM Developers was asked to come before the Committee to show plans for the property abutting Benson Park Property. He had a map which shows the eastern part of the property as Benson Park. The access to his property would be on Belknap Road which will be developed as a 55 or older gated community with 100 single level units on about 60 acres of land. They are not proposing any trail connections or anything going on near the Benson Property line and the nearest unit to Benson Property would be about 400'. Storm water would be managed on-site. The majority of the development is near Belknap Road. The closest unit to the Benson Property is about 400 feet away. D. Empey asked if an area of this development would be lawns and Tony V. stated that this would stay the way it is now, all woods and undeveloped. He also explained a water management area that would not be used by residents. D. Empey asked if an Evergreen buffer would be in the area but Tony V. said that this area would be filled in by nature. More questions were asked about the number of stages this development is planning and they have not gone to the Planning Board at this time but think it would be built in four (4) stages. K. Dickinson mentioned that he thought a trail led from the property to the park and it would be a good idea to open this up. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he did not think this was a good idea and P. Nichols said that the Park had set hours and if someone from the development went into the park and was injured, etc. no one would find them until the park was open. Chair H. Schibanoff was in agreement that this was not a good idea.

4. Presentations

A. Proposal for the Amphitheater

Lee Lavoie introduced himself, Keith Bowen and members of Mal's Pals, a group looking to build a memorial amphitheater at Benson Park for Malory Gray, a young child who passed away a year ago. L. Lavoie said that he told the family when they were ready to let him know and the group would come up with a plan to honor this 13 year old girl. Someone in the group suggested a gazebo. K. Bowen read a biography of the short but wonderful life of this young girl, written by Leslie Liakas, Teacher at Hills Garrison School. This biography highlighted her love of family, books, Town of Hudson, Photography and math skills. Laurie Bowen and Jeremy Griffins presented their plans for the memorial to the Committee. They also want to place a monument in the garden area in the form of an open book with her name, information and a poem her brother wrote for her. Questions from Committee members followed. The possibility of removing the mound to find out what is there and recreating it again was discussed. Maintenance was discussed and the cost for the project and this would be included in fund

raising. This group have a firm amount of money that they would raise for this memorial and would not ask the Committee or Town for anything other than a small trench to bring electricity to the site. They would like to park a trailer on site while this project was being worked on. The group stated that the disturbance to the park would only be about four (4) weeks, possibly five (5) weeks. Their hope is to have this done in time for a Christmas Concert next year. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper if this project would have to go before the BOS and the answer was yes. The Committee could only recommend this project to the BOS. The decision would be theirs.

K. Dickinson made a motion to recommend this project to the Board of Selectman
D. Empey seconded the motion
7 in favor, 1 No, 1 Abstention
Motion Carries

Committee took recess for 5 minutes

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of November 18, 2010

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept minutes of Nov. 18, 2010
D. Empey seconded the motion
8 in favor, 1 abstention
Motion Carries

6. Old Business

A. Monument Policy

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh presented her Park Donation & Monument Policy to the Committee. A copy was handed out to all members. She wants everyone to look this over and get back to her with their suggestions or what they do not like about this so she can go forward with setting this up for Committee approval. Questions were asked and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper clarified the process for donating and gift giving to the Park.

B. Handicap Sign

Chair H. Schibanoff reported that J. Griffins has completed the handicap sign and it is in the Elephant Barn waiting to be installed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will get together with the Highway Department to set up an installation date. Location site was decided at last Committee Meeting.

C. Invasive Plant Removal

Chair H. Schibanoff sent a copy of an email from the State that was sent N. Undercofler to all Committee members regarding the removal of Japanese Knotweed. There were several options for this and most were discussed in detail.

7. New Business

A. Committee Reports

D. Empey said the Bridge at post 14 being worked on by an Eagle Scout is progressing well and is about 75% completed at this time.

B. Committee Terms Ending

Chair H. Schibanoff reported that three (3) terms are ending this year. M. Lee will not be returning so if you know of anyone interested in joining the Committee please have them apply to the BOS. Interviews will be held at the December 14, 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting.

C. Report on Fish and Game Visit

There is no report at this time.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

A. Winter Meeting Schedule

Chair H. Schibanoff said that this would be the last meeting until the New Year. In January the Committee will decide if they need One (1) or Two (2) meetings for the winter months.

B. Annual Report

Chair H. Schibanoff is in the process of writing an Annual Report. This report is due January 17, 2011 and he will distribute this for review by the Committee before this date. Any questions, corrections, or comments will be appreciated.

C. Clean-up

Next clean-up will be December 11, 2010, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM depending on weather. If it is cancelled on the 11th it will be postponed until the New Year.

D. Remarks by Committee Members

J. Barnes said it has been a great year with many accomplishments. Everyone on the Committee should be proud of all that has been done in the Park.

P. Nichols read an email from M. Lee, thanking everyone on the Committee. She said she learned a lot and would be seeing us at the Park for years to come. Happy Holiday wishes from M. Lee and P. Nichols.

K. Dickinson said that he sees great things happening in the Park and is hoping he will have more time next year to participate in the ongoing development of the Park.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that it has been an amazing year and could not believe that the Park could come along as fast as it did. He thanked all volunteers and everyone that donated their time, money and effort to bring the Park so far in such a short time. He wishes a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked the Committee to refer to the bottom of the Memorial Program sheet. She would like the Committee to review the Project Vision and Project Mission Statement. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh would like the Committee's feed back as to where they would like to go in the future and we have no Mission Statement. She would like to see the group moving ahead in the coming year with the same vision for the Park and have it stated in print for future Committee members to use as a guideline. She would like to incorporate everyone's ideas and come up with a unified Mission Statement.

Chair H. Schibanoff received a request from a Gentleman who wants to remove the Reindeer and put lights on it for the Christmas Holidays. J. Barnes asked where the Reindeer would go and we have no electricity for this. The Gentleman would like to move it up to the Office area and run extension cords. A consensus from the Committee determined not to allow this. He also received a notification from someone wanting to give a cash donation to the Park to be used for building materials. He will get clarification on what the money could be used for.

C. Gagnon made a motion to request that the BOS accept this cash donation to be used for Benson Park building materials

P. Nichols seconded the motion

All in favor- Motion Carries

Next Meeting:

January 6, 2011

7:00 PM

Town Hall

9. Adjournment: 8:50 PM

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries