

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:10 pm. November 18, 2010 in the Ann Seabury Room, Police Department.

2. Attendance:

J. Barnes, Ken Dickinson, Late, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, M. Lee, P. Nichols, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, , and A. Desrosiers

Excused: Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, Alternate J Leone

Late: Alternate A. Desrosiers

3. Public Input

None

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of November 4, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept minutes

K. Dickinson seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

B. Minutes of October 21, 2010 (error on voting last meeting)

M. Lee made a motion to accept minutes

D. Empey seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Playground

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke about the Recreation Department forming a Subcommittee to work on plans to construct a playground at the Park. They have had many meetings and will present a location and rough plan to their Committee in December. If this plan is approved by their full Committee, then they will request being put on the Benson Committee Meeting Agenda in January. If this is approved by our Committee, they will be creating an RFP (required by Law) to receive quotes from several Companies. Once an official plan has been accepted by the Recreation Department, they will request another meeting with the Benson Committee. Their hope is to be all set to order and built by spring.

B. Park Benches

Chair H. Schibanoff asked Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh about progress on the park benches. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh stated that J. Leone's email told it very well. They had only preliminary discussions through email and due to conflicting schedules this subcommittee has not met at this time.

C. Volunteer Procedure for Students

Chair H. Schibanoff asked Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh if she had worked on this procedure. Vice Chair said that she had not done anything at this time but would have something at the next meeting.

D. Signs

Chair H. Schibanoff said that the Handicap sign is finished and J. Griffins would be bringing it to the park to store in the Elephant Barn until we are ready to erect it. Discussion on location of this sign followed, and how many signs were left.

6. New Business

A. Committee Reports

P. Nichols did not have a report but wanted to inform everyone that meeting rooms for the coming year have been booked through Town Hall for the first and third Thursday of the month

J. Leone sent an email on the repairs of the Gorilla House. Two more sills need replacing before winter but he can't buy more plywood until funding is available.

Chair H. Schibanoff also referred to the email from J. Leone saying that the Boyer Family would like to donate enough lumber to build 4 picnic tables. He asked if anyone was interested in building these tables. C. Gagnon asked if the metal frames that have been found in the park could be used for this. Chair H. Schibanoff said that this appeared to be something for the future. Discussion on type of wood, etc. followed. Chair H. Schibanoff asked D. Empey if he would coordinate with J. Leone on the wood to be donated and the metal framing. D. Empey agreed.

C. Gagnon said that she was not opposed to a clean-up in December. The Dog Park area is still in need of clearing and weather permitting this could be done. C. Gagnon said that plan to have a clean-up on December 11 should be planned. D. Empey agreed and said that as long as it was not freezing and the ground was not covered with snow, clean-ups should continue. It was a consensus of the Committee to continue with these clean-ups.

B. Boyer Family Request

Chair H. Schibanoff said that he forgot to add a Boyer Family request to the Agenda. The Boyer Family would like to name their area 'Serenity'.

P. Nichols made a motion to accept this request and name the area 'Serenity'

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

Chair H. Schibanoff asked that the December, January, and possible February meeting schedule be on the first Thursday of the month and the third Thursday meetings be cancelled unless the work load increased. He also said that our next meeting should be interesting because a group in Hudson wants to submit a proposal to put a gazebo or band stand on top of the amphitheatre in memory of a young lady who passed away in the school system. Discussion followed in where the Committee wants to go with this. If one is allowed then others follow.

D. Empey spoke about a development being constructed on Belknap Road for 55 or older citizens and the area will have approximately 110 units. He gave a few handouts for Committee members to share. For the record Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh will not participate in this due to conflict of interest. D. Empey said

that this property abuts Benson Park, and he thinks we need at least an 150 foot buffer, (fast growing conifers, spruce, Canadian hemlock, balsam firs) to separate the park from this property and keep our area pristine. He thinks it would be wise to work with company to ensure our privacy and that of the new development. He does not know how to go about presenting his idea. This company is meeting with the Planning Board on December 08, 2010 to discuss this plan. (This has not been confirmed). J. Barnes said it would be highly unlikely that the Planning Board would approve this at an early date. Extensive Discussions on what could or should be done followed and it was decided to ask Town Planner John Cashell, for his guidance, and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper for his input. D. Empey wanted to know if the Rules and Regulations for the park have been approved as a Town Ordinance and being enforced. There were (6) six horses in the park over the weekend. If the ordinance has been put in place then the police could be called to remove them, D. Empey asked about the information and documentation of the Adopt-a-Spot areas. He said that with the larger areas being worked on and others that may be introduced, information should be available for everyone to refer to. D. Empey said that he has heard people express their desire for larger areas. This would be more commercial than the regular Adopt-a-Spot and is concerned that the Committee has a say on this. C. Gagnon said that she would take on the task of creating three binders of all the information N. Undercofler has gathered for the Landscaping Committee and keep them at Town Hall.

J. Barnes thinks that there are three (3) terms expiring at the end of December and wanted to know if they are re-applying. M. Lee said she would not re-apply, C. Gagnon will re-apply, and K. Dickinson said that at this time he will be re-applying. The notice has already been posted at Town Hall and is expected to be in the paper shortly so that others could apply for these positions. He was asked by someone at the park if there would be ice skating on Swan Lake and if the Town was going to plow an area for this. It was believed by the Committee that if you want to skate then the clearing would be done by the skaters, not the Town.

D. Empey said that in the walk with the gentleman from Fish and Game that the portion where some were ice skating near Bush Hill Road is a wild life habitat and we should think of ways to keep people from trampling this area.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh thanked D. Empey for mentioning the walk with the Fish and Game person and would hopefully have a report for the next meeting. She also said that she would not be continuing as Vice Chair for the coming year so that anyone that would be interested in this position to please come forward. She also mentioned that the Dog Park would have it's own parking. This would not be near the conservation area. C. Gagnon would consider being Vice Chair when the new Committee meets in January. All the positions will be up for re-election the first meeting in January, 2011.

Chair H. Schibanoff asked Dana Sion about his email. Dana stated that the gates are not being opened at times and the DPW is bringing heavy equipment into the park and damaging the wrap. Chair H. Schibanoff said that the only thing that could be done about the gate is to notify the Police Department. He didn't know what to do about the damage to the rap. J. Barnes said that if we are repairing the rap after the DPW has done damage they will not know what is happening. D. Empey does not want to talk to the DPW because of the work that they have been doing in the park. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Dana if he would monitor the situation and let him know if matters got worse.

Next Meeting:

December 2, 2010

7:00 PM
Community Development Room

8. Adjournment 8:55 pm

P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon Seconded the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries