

Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 2010

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:02 pm. August 5, 2010 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall. D. Empey led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Attendance:**

J. Barnes, late, K. Dickinson, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, M. Lee, Clerk P. Nichols, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, Alternates A. Desrosiers, & J. Leone

**3. Public Input**

None

**4. Presentations**

**A. Dog Park Proposal**

**D. Briand and C. Murray** spoke of the latest proposal to the Dog Park. The only thing that has changed from the first proposal is the size. It has been made smaller to accommodate the Senior Center if it is built near this area. They also explained that the Dog Park would be situated well above the wetland mitigation area chosen by the State of New Hampshire D.O.T. J. Barnes asked if the next step in their plans would be to go before the Board of Selectmen for approval. If this is approved what is the time line for the Park? D. Briand stated he has everything in place to collect funds for this and hopes to have the area cleared and outlined before the first snow of the season. Vice Chair asked if upkeep of the Dog Park would be a responsibility of the Town or the Dog Park Subcommittee. C. Murray said that maintenance and upkeep of the Dog Park would be done by the Friends of the Benson Dog Park and no funds would be asked of the Town or the Benson Committee. A. Desrosiers found that one of the rules for the Dog Park was that no children under 10 years of age be allowed in the Park and wanted to know if this was a standard rule for other Dog Parks as well. D. Briand said that this was fairly standard in other Parks. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that some paper work would be drawn up between the Town and the Dog Park stating that the sole responsibility of the Dog Park would be under the control of the Dog Park Committee. Chair H. Schibanoff had a few questions regarding the bulletin board. What sort of information would be allowed? He read the deed and said that it stated that no Commercial activity would be allowed and if a donation box were set up that would be soliciting in the park. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he did not think that this was an issue because the Deed does allow for entry fees and if there was a Museum in the park admission could be charged. J. Barnes asked if this would be monitored by the Dog Park Committee and the answer was yes, possibly every day.

**P. Nichols made a motion to have the Benson Park Committee recommend to the BOS that they permit the establishment of a Dog Park at Benson Park.**

**D. Empey seconded the motion.  
All in favor...Motion Carries**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes of July 15, 2010 Benson Park Committee.**

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept minutes**

**C. Gagnon seconded the motion  
All in favor...Motion Carries**

## **6. Old Business**

**A. Project Management & Process**

**Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** asked if anyone had questions on the revised project application form that was sent to the Committee. P. Nichols did not receive a copy. Extra copies were given out and the Committee did not have any questions or concerns on the revised form. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that she spoke to Lisa Nute and she will put it on the web site. Dave Yates said that he was all right with being the contact for questions or direction on this form. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh is looking for approval from the Committee to go forward with this.

**Selectman S. Jasper made a motion to accept the Benson Park Project Application Form**

**C. Gagnon seconded the motion  
All in favor ...Motion Carries**

**B. Hours**

**J. Barnes** gave a revision of the park hours as requested by the BOS. He gave four different times for the four different seasons of the park for the Committee to review. After much discussion it was agreed that the opening time stay the same and the closing times change.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to approve the following times and present to the BOS**

**Opening times will stay at 5:00 AM**

**May 1 to August 31- 9:00 PM**

**September 1, to October 31 – 7:00 PM**

**November 1, to February 29 – 5:00 PM**

**March 1, to April 30 – 7:00 PM**

**D. Empey seconded the motion**

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

**C. Accounting for Benson Park Funds**

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** forgot to bring the Accounting update at this time but will bring it to the next meeting. D. Empey asked if it was going to be a monthly update in the future. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he would inform the Finance Department to run the report once a month and forward to Chair H. Schibanoff to submit to the Committee.

## 7. New Business

### A. Committee Reports

**C. Gagnon** said that the Landscape Subcommittee Chair has stepped down due to School commitments. C. Gagnon is taking over until the next meeting of the subcommittee, Wednesday, August 11, 2010, when a new Chair will be voted in. If all goes well the new Chair will present herself to the Committee at their next meeting. They are also working with a local nursery that is willing to donate a number of bushes and trees to the park.

**C. Gagnon** asked for everyone's opinion on the next clean-up which is scheduled for August 14, 2010. This is the weekend that the Old Home Days Celebration is being held. Many of the members of this committee and volunteers will be attending or working at Booths at this event. Do we want to reschedule the clean-up for another day? P. Nichols said she thought moving the clean-up to the 21<sup>st</sup> of August would be a better time because we need as many volunteers as possible due to the number of days to our own Grand Opening. Chair H. Schibanoff agreed with this and he mentioned we should have more clean-ups before the Grand Opening Celebration. C. Gagnon was going to suggest this and she said that the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> of September would be the dates for these clean-ups. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh is getting a lot of requests from Alvirne Students looking to volunteer at the park and she wanted to know if she could get a copy of the waiver form to send to them. D. Empey has contacted all the students that were emailed to him and he has set up a day, August 18, 2010, to work on the trails. He will also inform them of the clean-up days so that they can get their nine hours completed. He has three students that have completed their hours and eight that have not. D. Empey also told what he required from the students and what he requires from the Trails committee.

**P. Nichols** said that the communication's subcommittee would meet on Monday to finalize plans for the Grand Opening Celebration. This would then be presented to the BOS for their approval or changes. As she stated, this is their park and it should be what they want.

**J. Leone** gave an update on the Building subcommittee. He handed out a list of Materials and requirements to stabilize the Gorilla House. He had some people come forward to donate some lumber and another person (General Contractor) willing to donate his time to do the repairs. He is asking the Committee to approve an amount of \$1,500 to purchase whatever is needed and not donated to finish this project. Many questions followed regarding repairs, painting, etc.

**D. Empey made a motion to expend funds, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to repair and paint the Gorilla House**

**J. Barnes seconded the motion**

**All in Favor...Motion Carries**

**A. Desrosiers** mentioned that one of the subcommittees that was mentioned a while back but not formed. This subcommittee would be Video/Photography and the purpose of this would be a chronicle of the

evolution of the park, past, present and future. She would like permission to form a subcommittee for this.

**P. Nichols made a motion to allow A. Desrosiers to form a Video/Photography Subcommittee and be the acting Chair with Cindy Provencher, Lee Lavoie, and Jeremy Griffins as members**

**J. Barnes seconded the motion**

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

**J. Leone** mentioned that a welder was donating his time and equipment to repair some of the railings that are broken. He asked if it would be alright to put up a sign saying who had repaired this. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that this has been done in the past but the sign could not be left up for an extended period. Letters should be sent out to thank those that have donated time and equipment for major repairs. There should also be a notice in the Hudson/Litchfield news of their generosity. P. Nichols offered to write letters if she is given the names and addresses of the donors.

**D. Empey** said that bridges and boardwalks over the wetlands were discussed at the last meeting. The Conservation Commission took a walk with him and they discussed what needs to be done and how to do it. The next step in this process is to appear before the Commission and request approval to do what has to be done and what steps will be taken in order to complete it. D. Empey also said that he noticed that the landscape committee is having a hard time watering the plants and he wanted to know if anyone objected to him putting a hand pump on the well to get them water. No one objected but a few questions were asked concerning this pump. He also suggested planning a very precise clean-up for the last two before the Grand Opening Celebration. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if a cost estimate had been done regarding the bridges and boardwalks. D. Empey said he did not have this right now. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that the Conservation Commission would help share the cost and that they were meeting on Monday. Would it be possible for D. Empey to have the estimates by then? He said he would do his best to have at least a rough draft.

**J. Barnes** asked if the Communication's Subcommittee had something that was needed to be done before the Grand Opening Celebration. P. Nichols said that new signs were made to highlight some of the historical places in the park but how they could be put up or who would make the sign holders is an issue. D. Empey has ideas about this but cannot implement it at this time.

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

**J. Leone** mentioned that he met J. Griffins and asked him if he was going to do another sign for the park. He said he would come to our next committee meeting to discuss his ideas for the sign and his cost to complete this.

**P. Nichols** asked if anything new was being done on the Children's Playground. Chair H. Schibanoff said he has not heard anything but that the Recreation Committee who is interested in building this does not meet during the summer months. When Jeremy comes in to talk about the sign we could ask him about the playground. P. Nichols also asked if anything is being done about security at this time. It was discussed a while back but does not look like it has gone forward.

## **Budget 2012**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** stated that we needed to be more formalized in our approach to this. He thought in forming a small subcommittee to bring something to the full Committee that would have to go to the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectman would be the way to start and was looking for volunteers. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, J. Barnes and Chair H. Schibanoff will form this committee.

**J. Leone** mentioned Old Home Days and the need for volunteers to man the booth. Anyone wanting to volunteer please see him after the meeting.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that people are still enthused about the park and happy that the town is keeping the property for a Park. On another note he stated that the hats and shirts were not approved to give to the Friends of Benson Park to sell at Old Home Days. He said that Doug Robinson offered to do the count and if this is done it would be brought before the BOS again in hopes it would be approved before Old Home Days.

P. Nichols thanked the Town for fixing the roadway at the Main Entrance to the park and at the bottom of the hill.

**J. Barnes** said that he looks forward to the dog park and thinks this will be a wonderful addition to the park.

**A. Desrosiers** also thanked the highway department for repairing the road into the park. She also commented on how friendly and happy people are that come to the park. One mentioned that the Park is the Jewel of Hudson.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that New Hampshire did an article on the opening of the park. He said the article was well done and wanted to let people know about it.

**Next meeting Date: Aug. 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm**  
**Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall**

## **7. Adjournment 8:15 pm**

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn**  
**C. Gagnon Seconded the Motion**  
**All in favor-Motion Carries**