

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:08 pm. July 1, 2010 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall. Alternate John Leone led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

A. Proposed Senior Center-Hudson Senior Building Committee

Selectman Ken Massey, Liaison of the Hudson Senior Council on Aging and a member of the Hudson Senior Building Committee introduced the other members of this committee: Selectman R. Maddox, L. Boucher and P. Nichols. Also in attendance was D. Briand, Chair of the Benson Dog Park Subcommittee. Selectman K. Massey said he was here to get a consensus from the Benson Park Committee on a location for the Senior Center. Selectman K. Massey introduced two locations for the Senior Center in Benson Park. He cautioned that when reviewing these sites to keep in mind for a Senior Friendly and ADA compliant area. The first site shown was the original site chosen for the center. This area has at least ninety plus trees to remove and the area for extra parking would need at least a 10 (ten) foot retaining wall. Selectman K. Massey pointed out more elevations that would make it difficult for Seniors at this site. The next site was pictured on a drawing that Selectman K. Massey considered more Senior friendly. This location is to the right of the Main Entrance. He explained a plan to utilize a curb cut that exists on Kimball Hill Road and this could be a one way entrance to the senior center and the exit would be the same as other visitors to the park use. He also explained the conservation easement area plotted by the State was well beyond the boundaries of the senior center and the dog park. The consensus of the Senior Building Committee was that this area was more Senior Friendly and ADA acceptable. Selectman K. Massey presented a rendering of proposed building, telling the Benson Committee that this was not the final rendering. He asked the Benson Committee to take into consideration all the facts and choose site 2 as the most convenient for the Seniors. Questions and concerns from the committee followed, (i.e.) ramps, ledge, sewer line, senior friendly exit safety, dog park proximity to Senior Center if site two is chosen, emergency vehicle access from both sites). K. Dickenson offered his services free of charge to do some conceptual grading on both sites to deal with site and access issues. Members of the Committee gave their views on both sites.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept site one (1) as the best fit for Benson Park.

D. Empey seconded the motion

P. Nichols spoke out against the motion because of senior accessibility and safety.

K. Dickinson was hoping for a site plan that would show more information.

In favor 6 – Opposed 3

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of June 17, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

J. Barnes 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 gave the Committee a handout to be named approval form. When projects come before the Committee it would be in our best interest to have a view of the project and it would help in tracking projects in the future. This is not a final form at this point. She is just looking for suggestions from the committee to any changes, if needed. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh would also get this form on the Town web site when approved by the Committee. Questions, concerns and discussion on changes to this form followed. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said she would work on revising this form and email it to Committee Members for their final review.

B. **Memorials**

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh handed out a sheet a few weeks ago on memorials to be placed in the park. No one responded so she would like to work with a smaller group to get this started. Volunteering for this group were C. Gagnon and P. Nichols.

7. New Business

A. **Committee Reports**

B. **Cheryl Murray**, member of the Dog Park Committee (filling in for D. Briand) asked if there were any questions from the Committee concerning the Dog Park. J. Leone asked what the progress was in lieu of the proposed Senior Center. C. Murray stated that they are ready to go with there original plan if approval is granted for the original site for the Senior Building. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the Committee only recommended site 1 (one) and if the Dog Park Committee committed to the Seniors it might be wise to give up ½ acre in the event things change. In mentioning the Senior Center and the Dog Park, the Senior Center might be a long way down the road, with getting approval from the State, etc. He said it could be well over a year so the Dog Park should be planning on starting there agenda. Chair H. Schibanoff said that the Committee has not officially accepted the proposal for the Dog Park as yet. C. Murray stated that they would be working on this so that they would have firm plans to present to the Committee. More suggestions were given by Committee members and C. Murray hoped to have a revised plan in the near future.

C. Bridges & Boardwalks

D. Empey told the Committee that all trails that are showing on the map in the Kiosk are finished. There are some issues that need to be addressed in the wetland areas. He passed around pictures highlighting these areas. In one area he would like to build a bridge over an area where there is water. The flow of this water is such that erosion of the banks would not be an issue. The second area is highly used just through the highway gate. He explained where this area is and informed the Committee what the Beavers have done. **D. Empey** said a bridge would be needed here for the times of the year when the area is wet. Three and Four are in another area and would require a boardwalk on both sites. **D. Empey** stated that the boardwalks would not be done this year but would like to get permission from the Benson Committee to go forward to the Conservation Commission with this plan of action,

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to have the Trails Committee move ahead and contact the Conservation Commission

P. Nichols seconded the motion

J. Barnes stated that this was an important part of the Trails and he stated that this should proceed.

All in Favor-Motion Carries

D. Review of Park Hours

Chair H. Schibanoff stated that the park hours was brought up at the BOS last meeting. He did a study of park hours in other New Hampshire park and presented them to the Committee. A discussion followed and it was the consensus of the Committee to have **J. Barnes** bring in his original closing hours, 4 different times a year or 3 times a year. This will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

E. Old Home Days

J. Leone said that at The Friends of Benson Park meeting it was mentioned that maybe the Benson Park Committee would like to share a table at Old Home Days with them. The Landscape Committee showed an interest in joining them. **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that this booth should be left in the hands of the Friends of Benson Park. If any of the sub-committees wanted to participate they could. **J. Barnes** said that if any Committee members wanted to help man the booth, this would be appropriate. **J. Leone** will bring this back to The Friends of Benson Park.

F. Hats and/or Shirts

Chair H. Schibanoff asked the question on what could be done with these articles. **J. Barnes** asked if they could be sold at the Old Home Days to try to get rid of them. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that he would ask the BOS if they could be donated to The Friends of Benson Park. The Friends could sell them at Old Home days. **A. Desrosiers** said that she had some in her car that she could give to the Friends that night. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** asked for a count so he could bring this to the Selectmen meeting. **A. Desrosiers** gave a list of what she had. There are more hats that no one has a count of. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that he would see what could be done.

8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

J. Barnes mentioned an email sent around to Committee members regarding Disc Golf. He expressed his view that if someone wanted to propose this to the

Committee we could hear this and make a decision at to the feasibility of having this in the park.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper spoke about watering in the park. Everyone is burnt out by this because it has been a hot and dry summer. The Road Agent has agreed to use the pump and water the area up to the Gorilla House. The upper area could get by with one watering a week. Volunteers are needed at this time because of time constraints on Selectman Liaison S. Jasper. He will be unable to do this. Another problem was that the Elephant Barn was found open by B. Nadeau and the pump was missing. He found the pump on a stone wall across from the Barn. Nothing else seemed to be touched. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper changed the combination of the lock because the Barn did not have the appearance of being broken into it looked like someone that knew the combination opened the Barn. This new combination will only be given out to a few people.

J. Leone mentioned that an electrician working with the volunteers is doing a list on what would be needed for electricity and alarm systems.

C. Gagnon said that a clean-up would be held on Saturday, July 17, 2010 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

D. Empey said that at the last meeting it was brought up about funds. He would like to see a regular accounting of Funds that are available to the Benson Committee. As projects are being done an accurate accounting publicly should be noted (i.e. once a month, etc.). Selectman Liaison S. Jasper apologized to the Committee because D. Yates gave the BOS an accounting and he forgot to bring it in. Of the \$5,000 that we are allowed to spend we are now down to about \$1,700. He promised to bring this in to the next meeting. D. Empey stated that he would like this to become public so that everyone can understand where the money is being spent.

**Next meeting Date: Aug. 5, 2010 at 7:00 pm
Community Development Room, Town Hall**

7. Adjournment 9:30 pm

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