

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:03 p.m. June 17, 2010 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentations

A. Eagle Scout Candidate James Loshbaugh Project Update

J. Loshbaugh began by thanking all who assisted him in putting his presentation together. He will be relinquishing his proposal of clearing a field and planting shrubs in the Butterfly Garden. That was really two (2) projects and the Butterfly Garden has a Committee assigned to it. He will focus his attention in the removal of invasive species. Scout J. Loshbaugh asked if the approval of his project be the sole responsibility of the Board of Selectmen or just the Benson Park Committee. Chair H. Schibanoff said that it should be approved by the Committee and then they would send the recommendation to the BOS. Scout J. Loshbaugh would then go before the BOS and request their approval. Scout J. Loshbaugh asked if he received approval from the BOS could he utilize equipment that the Committee has at the park. R. Empey answered this to the satisfaction of all. He did request using a brush mower and D. Empey stated that it would involve a meeting to see the area that needed to be mowed and the time of day that this would be done. This equipment would require an adult trained in use. Scout J. Loshbaugh said that he spoke to someone from the Eagle Scout Council and he cannot start or put a date on anything until his project is approved. He can design his plans, how he hopes to accomplish this but not put it into production. He plans to have a car wash to raise funds for his project and told the Committee how he hopes to accomplish the removal of the invasive species, keep his workers safe and well protected. He passed around pictures of the plants he hopes to remove.

B. Train Station/Bernie Manor

Manor gave an update on the progress of the Train Station. The money for this is coming from the Federal Government through the State of New Hampshire. In working on the hiring an Architect to work on the Train Station, four (4)

Architect's submitted proposals and one was chosen. This information was forwarded to the State and he is waiting for approval to go ahead. Meanwhile, B. Manor spoke with the Architect to start setting up a plan for the scope of work and the cost this will entail. The Goal is to try to start some work on the Train Station in September. He hopes to have the station moved by then. B. Manor said that this project should be done in two (2) phases. The moving and outside of the station in the first phase. The second phase would be the inside work which would require more money than allotted. Questions and discussion followed.

C. Friends of Benson Park Presentation

Ken Matthews and Glenn Della-Monica spoke to the Committee about their plans to donate benches for use in the park. G. Della-Monica gave a hand-out detailing benches and costs to the Committee Members Both K. Matthews and G. Della-Monica gave a presentation on benches and asked the Committee what style would be appropriate for the park and where they should be placed if the Committee was to accept this proposal. Questions and discussion followed. K. Matthews and G. Della-Monica asked the Committee to come up with a wish list for future needed items or repairs.

D. Landscaping Sub Committee update

J. Richards, Chair of the Landscaping Sub Committee gave an update on what is being accomplished at the Park. Signage for the areas that are being adopted for planting was discussed as to size and height. Questions and suggestions followed.

5. Consent Items

A. Minutes of June 3, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

A. Desrosiers made a motion to accept minutes

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Project Management & Processes

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that up to this time all the concentrated effort was put into opening the Park. Now that we are moving on there are many projects ahead and she would like to see a Database for this but is not sure how to proceed. The second part of her concerns is how to understand the approval process (i.e. Committee Approval or Board of Selectmen Approval or both. This is something that she would like the Committee to consider and bring thoughts and ideas to the next meeting.. In-depth questions and discussion followed and this will be tabled until the next Committee Meeting.

B. Kiosk Posting Policy

P. Nichols read a Policy for Postings in the Bulletin Board side of the Kiosk that the Communications Sub Committee proposes.

J. Leone made a motion to accept this Policy

Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

P. Nichols said that the Committee found at least Fifteen (15) sites that could have signs showing sites that would let visitors to the park know where various historical buildings, animals, shows, etc. from the old park. She said that the Sub Committee needed old pictures to go with the signs. Suggestions were given by other Committee members. She also stated that the sub committee discussed the open house but the only thing that was decided was to have the ceremony in the amphitheatre area.

10 minute break-8:30 pm

6. New Business

A. Building Sub Committee Report

John Leone said that the Building Sub Committee met and chose three (3) projects to concentrate on. The Gorilla House, the Elephant Barn and the Office building. The committee did a walk through of these and planned action to be taken. J. Leone also mentioned one of the gates on a trail that is sometimes open and at other times closed. D. Empey spoke on this and said that this should be open at all times because it blocks access to the remainder of a Trail. This will be looked into at a later date. Another concern is the gorilla cage opening and the Elephant Barn opening...should these be closed or left open?

Selectman Liaison entered the meeting

Selectman Liaison said that he thought the cage door of the Gorilla should be welded shut so that there would be no problem with anyone breaking locks. He also thought that the cage next to Elephant Barn be left unlocked. Many safety issues on this were discussed.

B. Wish List

Selectman Liaison Shawn Jasper said that the wish list should encompass Arthur Provencher's Benson Park Collection. J. Leone said that the Friends of Benson Park had more questions than answers as to where this would be stored who would run the Museum, how the barn would be updated to accommodate the collection. A discussion followed with many issues and questions from Committee members. J. Leone would take our concerns back to the Friends of Benson Park for their review.

C. Phase II Planning

S. Rumbaugh said that she would be willing to put together a survey for the Committee to see what they think future planning should entail. Budgets for review by the BOS will be due this fall and this should be a consideration. She also brought to the committee the idea of a survey to find out what the members of the committee would like to see in future planning. Some members suggested talking to visitors in the park to hear what they would like. J. Leone mentioned having a suggestion box...this was well received. C Gagnon said that someone has taken on the project of working on a web site and this survey could be on it or people could send feed back to the site for the committee's review. This was discussed at length. Vice Chair will put together a survey for the Committee.

D. Correspondence

Chair H. Schibanoff reported that he is receiving a lot of emails. He will now be including these in the packets for the Committee to review. He said that he

answers some but others he does not. He needs direction on a few. One of the emails was a GPS survey request and he handed that over to the Town Engineer because they are doing their own. The second one is from Curt Laffin and he will be here at our next meeting to do a presentation. The next one was someone wanting to restore the remote control area. Chair H. Schibanoff said that this was a project of an Eagle Scout Candidate. We have not heard from him but it should be looked into. Does the Eagle Scout Candidate plan on doing this? If not the project could be given to the one that wants to restore it. The last one was a request to search for artifacts in the park and Chair H. Schibanoff sent back a reply to wait until the fall and he agreed. Another request came in regarding Geocaching (GPS Treasure Hunting) and Crista said that she would be willing to take this project on and see to it that no area was harmed or wetlands disturbed. Crista will respond to this request. A letter was sent telling the Committee what a wonderful thing the Town did in saving this beautiful park. This couple was looking for a way to donate to the Park and become volunteers. Discussion on this followed. Joining the Friends of Benson Park or sending a check to Town Hall written out to Benson Park would be accepted. Questions were asked if the Committee would receive the names of donors to the Town so that Thank You letters could be sent and invitations to the Open House be issued to donors. The committee asked if they could be informed at least once a month of the amount donated. Selectman Liaison Shawn Jasper will look into this for the Committee.

E. Name Plates

Chair H. Schibanoff said that he and the Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh had a discussion on having the Clerk call the roll at each meeting so that the camera people would know who was in attendance. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh suggested having name plates. P. Nichols said that she had made some for the Senior meeting and they worked well. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh will investigate name plates.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

J. Barnes - Nothing.

J. Leone - Nothing

A. Desrosiers – Nothing

P. Nichols – Nothing

D. Empey said that work in the park is ongoing. The trails committee has been working to keep the trails in passable shape and keeping some areas mowed.

C. Gagnon thanked the Alvirne High School and Emery (the dairy) for some compost. She dropped some off at the Butterfly Garden and some near the Shoe for the landscape committee to use.

K. Dickinson - Nothing

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper reported that they found, after a few attempts, how the water flows around the Old Shoe. Some problems still exist but with a little work they can be solved. He mentioned that for the Grand Opening in September this could be in operation for the day.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh – just a reminder to dog walkers - Please keep pets on a leash and please clean up after you dog. On the whole she is very pleased about how clean people are leaving the park.

Chair H. Schibanoff gave a few announcements.

There will be a clean-up at the park on Saturday, June 19 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm
Clean-ups on the Buildings will begin.

There will be a Pasta Dinner held at the Community Center to benefit an Eagle Scout Project. Michael Undercofler has been given approval from the Scout Council to undertake his project of restoring the Ticket Booth at Benson Park. The dinner will be held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Chair H. Schibanoff asked people to support this cause.

He also spoke to HCTV and they will be able to cover the Grand Opening in September.

Chair H. Schibanoff asked about the temporary signs at the park and these will be put away at the clean-up

Final comments from C. Gagnon – the new park sign looks great – thanks Jeremy.

Ditto from P. Nichols.

Next meeting Date: July 1, 2010 at 7:00 pm
Board of Selectman Meeting Room, Town Hall

8. Adjournment 9:30 pm

J. Barnes made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon Seconded the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries