

Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 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 3, 2010 in the Community Development Room at Town Hall. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Attendance:**

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

**3. Consent Items**

A. Minutes of May 27, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

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

**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**

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

**4. Public Input**

**None**

**5. Old Business**

**A. Park Opening**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked the Committee about feed back and observations on the opening of the park.

**P. Nichols** stated that everyone she talked to at the park were in awe of the changes that have been made and every one was thrilled that the town had purchased the land and turned it into what it is today. They know that more will be added and they are so happy with everything that has been done to date. Some questions she was asked was permission to use remote control sail boats on the lake and she said that this would have to be a decision of the Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Another request from a visitor was a few trash barrels placed around the property, and if a few small rain barrels be placed around the park so dogs would have water. Another visitor asked if there was a donation box that they could put money in. P. Nichols said that they could join the Friends of Benson Park or send a check to Town Hall for Benson Park.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the Board of Selectmen seemed pleased about everything so far. No negative comments.

**C. Gagnon** said that she noticed that other than Handicap vehicles were parking in that lot where there was no signage and some appeared to present a hazard if an

emergency arose and the safety vehicles would not be able to enter the park through the automatic gate.

**D. Empey** said that he noticed this too and that this hazard should be discussed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he would see if the Highway Department could stripe this area and put up a few signs when they had a chance.

**P. Nichols** had another observation regarding the Historical Area and the Lake and Trails area – most people spent there time at the Lake and Trails area and just looked at the Historical Area. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that he thought it was the new traffic pattern.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** heard from Smith Farms that everyone that came in commented on how great the park was. He also had one comment that it was difficult to find a way out and to please put a sign up pointing to the parking lot. Discussion followed on this and it was agreed that a sign should be posted at the intersection directing people to the handicap area and the general parking area.

**C. Gagnon** asked that the picnic tables be removed from the Gorilla House because of the traffic going to and from the porta-potties was not very pleasant and if people wanted to view the Gorilla House they felt they were intruding when others were having lunch. C. Gagnon mentioned the North Field as a spot to set up a few picnic tables. C. Gagnon mentioned her idea for the signs leading to the parking, historic and lake area.

**J. Leone** said the he was at the park around 7:30 pm one night and there were a few cars there. He wanted to know if issues had come up with people not being able to get out of the park after hours. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that there was a little problem with this but the Police Department went down to the park on bikes. There has been a minor problem about opening and closing the park but this will eventually be straightened out.

### **B. Flood Lights/Security on Buildings**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that in a conversation with D. Yates he was supposed to get a quote from B. Mason. Chair H. Schibanoff called D. Yates and spoke with Susan. She called B. Mason and received a verbal quote of \$375 per light with a motion detector on it. It was a lot less money than the last quote with the View Point project. Chair H. Schibanoff asked the Committee if this was something they would like to discuss. Questions followed by Committee Members. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that power would be a problem at this time. D. Empey said that there were many issues to consider, locations, etc. A site visit to determine where the lighting should be seems to be in order. Discussion on many issues followed and it was decided that the Buildings Subcommittee look into this and report back.

### **C. Signs**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that he spoke with Susan from D. Yates office and she said that the printed signs with the rules and regulations would be in any day now. The sign for the entrance to the park that J. Griffus was working on is finished and he is just waiting for it to be installed. The sign is being stored in the Elephant Barn at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff also spoke to J. Griffus about a second sign at the Handicap Entrance. The Committee would need a proposal for this because J. Griffus could not donate his time for this. The sign would be another old sign

that would be refurbished to save money instead of a new sign. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said before we went any further we should discuss getting the first sign erected. He said the he would talk to the Road Agent about this as he is very good at erecting signs and gave an example. D. Empey said that he discussed this issue with J. Griffus and that he should be included in this because he has ideas on how this should be done. Questions and Discussions followed. Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned the signs he had made with a brief description of buildings or projects. He felt that they should be made permanent, i.e. waterproof, laminated, etc. D. Empey said that he received many favorable comments on these signs but people wanted more of them. This was discussed at length. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if the Communications sub-committee could look into this and come up with wording for these signs. P. Nichols said she would add this to the next meeting of the sub-committee.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Remote Control Boats**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that P. Nichols mentioned this earlier. D. Empey said that remote control cars, etc. was discussed and he said a policy of only electric power be used...no internal combustion or gas power be permitted. Discussion followed because a rule states that no motorized boats be used on the lake but this was referring to boats carrying passengers. Consensus was to allow the remote controlled boats on the lake. If it becomes a problem it can be discussed then.

### **B. Trash Receptacles**

Chair H. Schibanoff said that P. Nichols also mentioned this earlier. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that this was discussed early on and the reason being no other trash cans in the park was because no one is available to empty them and they attract Raccoons and other wild life. D. Empey said that the park is a carry-in, carry-out park and people should plan accordingly. The dumpster is near the parking lot.

### **C. School Usage**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper about allowing the Town Schools access to the park for visits without having to adhere to the policy of more than a group of fifteen (15) or more getting permission from the town. This was discussed at length and the consensus was that the Town Schools do not have to get permission to use the park for research, historical information and picnics. Out of town groups, etc. are required to get permission from Town Hall.

### **D. Smoking**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** was approached by someone in the park wanting to know if smoking was permitted. He said it was and this person said that it was town property and that smoking was not permitted on Town or State property. Chair H. Schibanoff could not verify this on line and wanted to know the Committee's thoughts on this. Discussion followed and C. Gagnon asked if we could find out if there is an actual policy on this and if there is a policy than that covers the issue. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the Towns only policy on Smoking is 'No Smoking in Town Buildings and vehicles'. The Committee will study this further.

## **E. Other**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** stated that he received an email from a R. Robillard. He is part of a History Preservation Club based in Massachusetts and is looking for permission to look for buried history at Benson Park. Mr. Robillard stated that he had taken a walk through the park and loved it. He complimented the Committee on a job well done. His group would like to come and metal detect around the park. The group would not go near any area that has been done or newly seeded areas, just woods and the parts of the park that have not been worked on yet. All items found would be presented to the committee to do what we want. They are not looking to profit on anything; they just like to bring buried treasure and history back to light and for people to enjoy. He said that they are very neat and environmentally friendly and we would not even know that they were there. Discussion followed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he had no objection other than this should be undertaken in the late fall or early spring. Chair H. Schibanoff will email R. Robillard to let him know what Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said.

## **F. Policy on Kiosk Postings**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** asked P. Nichols if this was ready and she said she is still working on this. D. Empey spoke about access to this and that a lock should be attached to it. P. Nichols will purchase a lock and give everyone the code. The Communication sub-committee will be responsible for the postings on the bulletin board side of the Kiosk.

## **Landscaping Sub-Committee**

C. Gagnon gave a report on the first landscaping sub-committee and that a new Chair person, Jen Richards was selected and is here before the Committee for approval. Chair H. Schibanoff asked J. Richards to tell a little bit about her self and she complied. Questions were asked by other members of the Committee.

**C. Gagnon made a motion to accept J. Richards as Chair of the Landscaping sub-committee.**

**P. Nichols seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**

J. Richards gave a handout to all Committee members. The sub-committee members met during the week to identify areas that would be possible for landscaping at this time and 25 spots were chosen. Another concern that J. Richards and C. Gagnon had was identifying what needed to be passed by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper answered this question to her satisfaction. P. Nichols said that there was a group of Girl Scouts that are interested in helping with planting or looking for a spot to adopt but she did not know how to get in touch with them. This was discussed and hopefully someone was watching the telecast. C. Gagnon gave an email address of [landscapingatbensonpark.org](mailto:landscapingatbensonpark.org) for those interested. Questions and Discussion followed and guidelines given. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that landscaping should be started as soon as possible. C. Gagnon asked for an area to bring brush that landscapers cleared. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper answered this to everyone's satisfaction.

## 7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

**J. Barnes** said that it was good to have the Park opened and seeing people enjoying it. Comments from everyone remarked on the difference in the area from last October. He thanked the volunteers, town workers and the Committee for the work that was done to get this park opened.

**C. Gagnon** said the park has become an obsession for her. She drives by and has to see how many cars are in the parking lot. She was back and forth several times during the weekend. Just couldn't stay away. C. Gagnon was thrilled with the number of people utilizing the park, smiles on faces and pure enjoyment everyone seemed to be experiencing. She thanked everyone for all the work accomplished and the pride that they can take for a job well done

**D. Empey** echoed J. Barnes and C. Gagnon and was impressed by the differences that people had to say about the park and the difference in their interest, from the Historical Aspect to where the animals were and what our future plans for trails and other things in the park are. It seemed to him that the park will work in a way that the committee had not envisioned in a very positive way. . D. Empey said that the challenge now is to move on to Phase 2.

**P. Nichols** agreed with what D. Empey said. People were in awe of what the park looked like and so thrilled that it is in our Town. She cited examples of what people were saying. Everything was on a positive note.

**K. Dickinson** did not get to the park until later in the evening and there were still people walking around and enjoying it. He is also meeting with a candidate for Eagle Scout and will help him get started on his project.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that he met with Jeremy Griffus from the Rec. Committee to discuss potential sites for the Handicap playground. Our original plan would not work due to the fact that it needs a five (5) foot rise and would cost a great deal of money to start this from level ground. The first idea was to use the retaining wall at the old Bear House but Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the Selectmen did not want to tear up anything that had been planted ( i.e.grass). A discussion followed. A few areas were talked about and P. Nichols said she would write a letter to the Selectmen if the Liaison wanted her to but he said that he thought the Rec. Department would be happy with an area that he picked. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper also saw D. Morin from the Fire Department who is interested in doing the 911 Memorial. He showed him the location he had chosen. He had heard that they had picked a few locations but this was hearsay he thought. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper also stated that a plan for watering in the park should be put in place. He also asked about links from the town web site to volunteer, landscaping and trails web site. C. Gagnon will be working on this and hopes to have this up and running at the next meeting.

**M. Lee** said that she is so happy the park is finally open and on a personal note said that last year her parents were here from Florida and she took them to the park. They are visiting again next week and she can't wait to see the park through their eyes this year.

**J. Leone** mentioned that the Buildings sub-committee will be meeting for the first time on Saturday, June 5 at 2:00 pm. J. Leone sent an email out to the listing that C.

Gagnon provided and some have responded. He said that if anyone wanted to join in on this please do.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the Committee should start using the sub-committees in a more positive way. We were under pressure to get the park open and the Committee was doing most of the work. Changing the way things are operating should be our goal as we enter Phase 2.

**P. Nichols** added another comment. This was the perfect time to open the park. It looks so beautiful and while it looked nice in October the difference is phenomenal. The work from volunteers, the town, the paving, the trail signs, the Kiosk, everything is perfect and it can only get better. She noticed a lot of interest in volunteering and thinks that people will take a larger interest in Benson Park as time goes on.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that a few of his cohorts asked what is so different about Benson Park and they can now see the vision that the Committee had a year ago, that it is different than anything else in town or will be as it continues to grow. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thanked everyone for their support. If the park had opened last October the work that has been done the past few months would never have been done. It was well worth it.

**Next Clean-up date will be June 19, 2010 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Next meeting Date: June 17, 2010 at 7:00 pm  
Board of Selectman Meeting Room, Town Hall**

## **8. Adjournment 9:01 pm**

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