

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:08 p.m. on May 27, 2010 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall. J. Leone led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

Michael Undercofler, Eagle Scout candidate. **Will be delayed.**

Michael Undercofler arrived and came before the Committee to present his final plans to refurbish the Ticket Booth for his Eagle Scout project. He explained how this was going to be accomplished with repairs, trims, wood, siding, etc. He plans to paint the siding red and all trim white. He wants to use shingles rather than sheet metal. The booth is attached to wooden skids and instead of removing these he plans to build a small platform around the booth to cover the skids and paint it white. There is a corner of the roof missing and that will be repaired. If he finds anything else that needs to be replaced or repaired this will be done. When the booth is moved to the area that was chosen near the Elephant Barn, tan pavers will be put in place to surround the Booth. He plans to hold a pasta dinner to raise funds for this. P. Nichols asked for one of his flyers to put in the Kiosk at the park to advertise his dinner. Chair H. Schibanoff asked when he expected to go before the Eagle Scout Council. M. Undercofler said that he would be meeting with the Council on June 8th. He hopes to know if his project will be approved. Other questions followed.

4. Consent Items

A. Minutes of May 20, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept minutes

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Park Progress

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** informed the committee that he was in the park to pick up the brochures and took a walk around. There are six (6) picnic benches in the A-frame and Chair H. Schibanoff said that they look good, they even match. The train platform was removed down by the lake and has been seeded. The Dam was repaired and is now working. The cage was completely removed and cleaned out on the right side of the Elephant Barn

which was not expected. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he thought one of the excavators from the town must have hit a corner of this and it could not be left like this. Selectman S. Jasper spoke to Road Agent Kevin Burns and he said that he would take the whole thing down so it would be easier to clean out. Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned a spot around the Elephant Barn that should be cleared, the grass along the edge of the lake has been trimmed, the Shoe has been done except the door being put in and it looks great. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he could not say enough about the work that the Highway crew did to help get the park open. C. Gagnon said thank you to the Highway crew for the work that was done on the handicap area in leveling out the ground to make it more wheelchair accessible.

- **Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** asked D. Empey on status of Kiosk at parking lot entrance. D. Empey said that he just had to attach the map boxes to the Kiosk and put in the big map and rules. D. Empey also said that the trail signs were 100% completed. Vice Chair asked about the Town Web site and P. Nichols said that the rules and regulations were on the site and the map and hours were there but she had made an error on the hours so there will be a delay for L.Nute to fix this. This can be viewed at the Town Web Site under Benson Park Committee. When you get to that page go to the bottom of page and the listings will be there. Chair H. Schibanoff said that L. Nute is looking for pictures for the web site to dress it up. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh mentioned that Benson Boulevard had some spots that needed to be repaired. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that those repairs have not been done but would be taken care of in the future. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked C. Gagnon about the handicap parking area and C. Gagnon stated it was done. The next issue is the sign for the park. It will not be put up by the committee or volunteers...this should be done professionally so Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will speak to the town to see what could be done at a future date. The handicap toilet has been installed next to the general one. The rules and regulation signage is not complete so temporary signs are in place at this time. The next item is the security of the Elephant Barn. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said the building was secure but our next task was to get prices on replacing the windows. He felt that this should be our next step. He also let the Committee know that the small piece of fencing that was going up on the roof between the office building and the kitchen to prevent injuries is being installed.

B. Future Clean-up Activities

- **Gagnon and J. Leone** wanted to discuss future clean-up activity now that the park will be open. J. Leone suggested trying to establish a regular pattern and pick projects to be done. C. Gagnon said that she thought that the second Saturday of the month would be good with the third Saturday be the rain date. She said that Selectman Liaison S. Jasper suggested working on the buildings for the summer months so that heavy machinery, etc. would not bother people in the park. He also suggested that the area in the lower parking lot behind the Gorilla Cage be used to pile some brush because the town trucks would not have access to the park until the fall or early spring. P. Nichols thought that the Gorilla House was going to be the first project for the summer. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that would depend on how many volunteers showed up. Chair H. Schibanoff suggested a plan be put in place for projects. Selectman

Liaison S. Jasper also suggested sanding and painting the fencing around the Lion cage and the fencing on the over-looks on Storybook Hill. Chair H. Schibanoff suggested that the building committee get together with C. Gagnon to come up with a plan for the first clean-up for June. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought that the June clean-up be cancelled to give everyone a break. After much discussion it was the consensus of the committee to have the clean-up on the third Saturday of June. M. Undercoffler requested a signature from the committee for approval of his plans.

C. Floodlights/Security

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that in a conversation with D. Yates there has been no information on plans for floodlights. This will be tabled until a future meeting. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked about the Flag. If it was not going to be taken down every night and put up every morning it should have a flood light on it at all times. Would this be an option? Keep in mind for discussion at a later date.

D. Picnic Benches

- **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** stated that with time restraints he placed a table on each of the over-looks, six (6) in the A-Frame and two (2) in the Gorilla House.

E. Flag

- **Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** looked into a flag for Benson Park. She spoke with someone from the recreation department at Greeley Park and he said that they had two (2) flags, American and State. He suggested a 30 foot pole and gave her the name of the company that they purchased the flag from. The flag etiquette is that if it is not lowered at night it has to be illuminated. He also suggested external casing about 8 feet high for the pole. There is internal casing but it is more expensive. A. Desrosiers mentioned that her husband has some 3" high pressure steam pipes that could be used if needed. Discussion followed about placing a flag on the property. A portable flag could be used for Grand Opening Ceremony's.

6. New Business

A. Selectmen's Report

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the report brings up The Friends of Benson Park. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that the BOS approved of the Friends of Benson Park could have a table at the park on Saturday, May 29th only. They were not to solicit but if people came to them they could talk about the Friends of Benson Park. The committee must decide where the table should be. They could also have a spot on the Kiosk for brochures. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper also said that he spoke the Police Department regarding protocol on opening and closing the park.

B. Opening Weekend

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** told the committee of an insert that was being put into the Brochures asking everyone to keep off the new grass and the email address for anyone wanting to volunteer. Another discussion on handicap parking. Chair H. Schibanoff said that there were only 5 spots available and he wanted to know if more should be reserved in the new parking lot near the Kiosk. K. Dickinson said that under the law we have more than enough handicap parking spaces. D. Empey questioned how people would know that the area was only for handicap and P. Nichols showed the sign that stated the area was for handicapped only. The question of who would be

putting the sign in or out was answered by leaving the sign out always. Chair H. Schibanoff said that there was a broken door to the lion cage and he would try to fix this before opening day. He also asked if we were doing warnings on poison ivy. C. Gagnon said she would make a flyer to put in the Kiosk warning of these and other plants. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if we should wear Benson shirts and/or name tags. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh thought it was a good idea even if the shirt said Benson's Park. She questioned about selling them and hats. P. Nichols said she did not think we were allowed to sell anything on Benson Park Property. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that we could sell on the property as long as it would benefit the park. C. Gagnon wanted to know if we were going to have times to be in the park or just come when you felt like it. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that we could come and go at will and if we wanted to be visible to people the first day we could but we would not be there everyday to act as guides, etc. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if the Elephant barn would be open with pictures of the past and how the park looks now. Discussion followed. Barn will not be opened this week-end.

C. Communication sub committee

- **P. Nichols** gave an update on the last meeting of the communication sub and one of their questions to ask the Committee was permission to take control of the Bulletin Board at the Kiosk. The sub-committee would like to make this a park related board. Only flyers relating to Benson Park should be placed on the board i.e. fund raising for park projects, special nature tours, information and communication on anything in the park, etc. No outside interest to be placed on Bulletin Board. The Committee asked P. Nichols to come up with a policy for this for the future and she agreed to try to have one done by the next meeting. P. Nichols handed out a plan from the communication sub committee on the Open House in September with a list of guests, Alvirne band, children's tent with face painting, coloring, finding the bat houses, etc. She also gave a list of equipment that would be needed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought the ideas were over the top and was not in approval of most of the list. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if the committee would come up with an alternate plan. Discussion followed.

D. Landscape sub committee

- **C. Gagnon** reported that the first meeting took place. At the next Benson Park Committee meeting a member will come before this committee to ask for approval as Chair of this committee. In forming a plan for landscaping she mentioned that the sub committee was meeting on June 2 at 10:30 to walk around the park in order to tag spots that people would adopt to landscape. Another purpose of the walk would be to view the stone walls and rank them in order of disrepair. These walls would only be repaired by a rock wall professional and this would not happen until a later date. The sub committee will work on a policy for the Committee and the Board of Selectmen to review if donation of flowers or plants were given for the park and for outside groups to come in to adopt an area to landscape.

E. Signs

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the street sign and handicap sign was resolved and he asked Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh if she had any issues and she stated that in the additional parking area there was a gate and there should be a sign saying not an entrance if the gate was not going to be opened, and another sign directing people to the main parking lot. D. Empey

suggested something to keep people from turning right in the additional parking area and C. Gagnon suggested stakes and colored string to guide people to the right area to park.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper mentioned the watering schedule for the park. It will have to be done the night before the park opens due to expected amounts of visitors. **K. Dickinson** volunteered, **Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh**, **A. Desrosiers** and **P. Nichols** volunteered. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** also stated the he had spoken to **Smith Plumbing** and the fitting that they were making for the fountain on **Storybook Hill** where the water comes out is in. He will get together with the fire department and pump this down to see where the water is coming from. This is the first step in possible restoring the water around the **Shoe**.

P. Nichols made a flyer for **C. Gagnon** for volunteers. Wanted an opinion on the flyers and what one would be used.

A motion was made to accept a volunteer flyer for the kiosk

3 Members voted for the Watering Volunteers

5 members voted for the family and dog

1 abstained

Family and Dog wins

D. Empey just said that things were coming together and if we can get through tomorrow we are all set.

C. Gagnon said thank you to all volunteers who have worked so hard to get the park ready to open. She would be sending out a thank you email and a notice that there will be no parking in the handicap area when working in the park. The main area will now be the focal point for everyone.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh wanted to let people know of a little boy named **Cody** at the last clean-up that was with his parents and he was covered in mud from head to toe and the joy on his face playing in the park was priceless. **Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** stated that this was what it is all about...the Joy! She also has a request to the **BOS** regarding the donation policy...she is confused and would like a clearer policy for this and a written clarification. **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that he would see what he could do.

Chair H. Schibanoff said we wouldn't be were we are today without the volunteers. We also received big time help from the **High Way Department**, **Road Agent**, **Fire Department** and the **Police Department** but most of the dirty work was done by the volunteers and we will be forever grateful. The end of phase 1 is here and another phase starts (maybe 20?) but everyone should be proud of the work that was accomplished. It will be a great park and he hopes the citizens of **Hudson** will think so too!

**Next meeting Date: June 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm Town Hall, BOS Room
Board of Selectman Meeting Room,**

8. Adjournment 9:01 pm

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