

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 06, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 8:00 p.m. on May 06, 2010 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall. M. Lee led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

None

4. Consent Items

- A. Minutes of April 15 Benson Park Committee.
Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept minutes as amended
J. Barnes seconded the motion
All in favor...Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Park Progress

- **Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** mentioned that the Highway Department have been working in the Park. Hydro-seeding down by the old amphitheatre has been started. Another drainage structure was found near the old amphitheatre. All broken pavement has been repaired or removed. The gate has been installed and they are waiting for one electronic component to finish. Gate City fence has just about completed all fencing. The Office Building has been secured with newer hasps and locks along with the Gorilla Cage. Some of the pavement wont be done in time for the opening. There was a meeting on site about the proposal on the foundation for the Train Station,. Still looking at a September move date for this. Questions and discussion followed.

B. Clean-up Activities

- **Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** started by asking about the update to park clean-up. C. Gagnon reported on this and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper asked that the next few clean-up's concentrate on cleaning the edges instead of working on a large project at this time. He also would like to see the bridge cleaned up more with debris and growth removed.

6. New Business

A. Review of Report to Board of Selectmen

- Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh went through the list of things to accomplish before the opening of the park.

- ✓ Insurance review-Done
- ✓ Safety issues-All taken care of with the exception of nails on posts at A-Frame. A. Desrosiers mentioned the low roof area between the Office and the Kitchen Building. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper addresses this issue and would get back to the Committee next meeting.
- ✓ Repair the pavement-this work will be done before opening day.
- ✓ Handicap parking area-This will be done before opening day.
- ✓ Repair culvert and road near southern end of Swan Lake and northern section of moose pond-low priority
- ✓ Secure Gorilla House and Elephant Barn-Gorilla House has been secured but discussion followed on Elephant Barn.

K. Dickenson made a motion to remove the small cage next to the Elephant Barn if it would not ruin the integrity of the Barn

Chair H. Schibanoff seconded the motion

Six (6) Ayes= Three (3) nays

Motion Carries

Windows need to be secured and will be taken care of at a later date.

- ✓ Install Electronic access for Emergency vehicles on the upper entrance on Kimball Hill Road-Done just waiting for a part.
- ✓ Install entrance signs at both entrances on Kimball Hill Road-One sign is being worked on for the main parking area. Discussion followed about signage for handicap parking.
- ✓ Grade and seed area across from A-Frame-Hydro-seeding has been started will be complete before opening day.
- ✓ Install temporary toilets-One has been installed other will be installed before opening day. Discussion followed about heat and the toilets will be moved to a shadier spot.
- ✓ Develop Security Measures to protect the park and buildings during closed hours-Police will handle this.
- ✓ Install trash removal bin-This will be done by the Town before opening day.
- ✓ Approve park rules and regulations-Updated rules and regulations and park hours will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. Discussion followed.
- ✓ Construct Trail Kiosk in lower parking area-D. Empey said it was 65% complete but he will need help transporting this to park, digging post holes and help assembling Kiosk. Discussion followed.
- ✓ Trail Signs-D. Empey said that posts are 100% done. Work on signs is still in progress.
- ✓ Design the Benson Park Trail Map-D. Empey stated that the Trail Map is coming along very well. Distance for trails has been added, compass direction has been added. A map of the Historic Area has not been done but the area has been shaded on the map.
- ✓ Update the Town Website-Rules and Regulations, Park Hours, copy of D. Empey map. D. Empey will finish map and burn it to a DVD for web site.

- ✓ Planning the park opening-P. Nichols asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper what the Selectmen wanted to do. Do they want a small ribbon cutting, etc? Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that the park would just be opened and that no ceremony, etc. would be held until September or until the Governor could be in attendance. In depth discussion followed to keep opening low key. Committee should be there if possible only as observers. The Committee feels that this opening will be larger than hoped for but will plan accordingly.
- ✓ Spring clean-up and invasive species removal-Clean-up will be held every weekend until opening day. C. Gagnon will coordinate this.

B. Brochure/Map

- **D. Empey** wanted to know what was going to be done with the small trail map. It was decided to do a tri-fold Brochure. P. Nichols will put a brochure together for the BOS to see and D. Empey will put that map on a disc. This will be done in color because the map is color coded. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper suggested that 5000 copies be ordered to start.

B. Barnes & Noble

- **P. Nichols** informed the committee that the Friends of the Library have invited Benson Park to be a part of their Fund Raiser at Barnes and Noble on Thursday, May 13, 2010 on Daniel Webster Highway. We will be there from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. A display of the park will be shown along with Chair H. Schibanoff's slide presentation. Drop in and say hello!

C. Meetings

- **Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** suggested meeting every week until the opening day. J. Barnes said that on the 13th some of the members would be at Barnes and Noble. It was decided to meet on 20th and the 27th. All agreed.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper forgot to mention that the area that has been hydro-seeded would need to be watered if the weather does not cooperate. Arrangements were made with the fire department to bring in a tanker. Volunteers are needed to hose the area if needed.

Chair H. Schibanoff received a phone call from a woman who wanted to know when the park would be open, what the address was (Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will look into this and if the animals were still there. Chair H. Schibanoff also stated that J. Desrosiers had asked him if picnic tables would be available for opening day. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he thought he had about 10 tables that would be serviceable.

D. Empey wanted to remind everyone that there is still a lot of work to be done before opening day.

C. Gagnon said for everyone to shut off spam filters. Some volunteers are not receiving notices for clean-up days and she thinks that the email is going to spam. Please check everyone.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that Campbell High School went on the property to install Bat Houses and that there are 10.

P. Nichols issued a thank you to the Historical Society for their special evening on Ruth Parker's presentation on Benson Park. It was a fun and informative night.

8. Adjournment

J. Barnes made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon Seconded the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries