

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:04 p.m. on March 18, 2010 in the Community Development Meeting Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Eagle Scout Candidate Ben Bates.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

Eagle Scout Candidate, Ben Bates, Troop 20: Request for Project

Ben Bates from Troop 20 is looking for permission to repair and restore the radio control car track at Benson Park. He wants to clear the area of brush, repair the benches, repair the broken and overgrown parts of the asphalt, and landscape the center of the track with low growing perennial plants. He stated he would hold fund raising to accomplish this project. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked that the plants be native to the park. D. Empey asked that electric cars only be allowed on this track. The track is small and gas powered cars would be too large but it was agreed that a sign be placed that only electric cars be allowed. If his project is accepted by the Eagle Scout Board he would try to have this accomplished in early fall, possibly October.

J. Barnes made a request to accept this request

P. Nichols seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

Consent Items

A. Minutes of March 18th Benson Park Committee

P. Nichols made a correction to the minutes...misspelled name

J. Barnes made a motion to accept all.

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

4. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

➤ **Outreach Communications**

P, Nichols said that she would be receiving names from volunteers to this sub committee from C. Gagnon and would hold a meeting asap.

➤ **Report on Rules and Regulations**

J. Barnes and Chair H. Schibanoff appeared before the BOS to present the Proposed Rules and Regulations for the opening of Benson Park. The BOS approved of the Rules. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper

suggested that they become a Town Ordinance so that they would be easier for the HPD to enforce. The BOS will pursue this. Set hours for the park should be set so that the HPD opening and closing would be easier. Setting names and numbers for parts of the park to be used in emergency situations was discussed. A question on fish being stocked in the lake was raised and this was discussed at length.

➤ **Email from Laurie Jasper**

Chair H. Schibanoff received an email from Laurie Jasper stating why she did not want to open the park until sometime in September. P. Nichols thanked L. Jasper for her work and thoughts to a Grand Opening Celebration but felt that in her opinion did not want to go another summer with the park not being open. Her thought was to get the Park open as soon as possible and iron out all the little details and have a Celebration in September. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper agreed with this idea and stated that there would still be work going on in the park during the summer months and by September the park would really look very nice, and the Governor would be invited to attend.

➤ **The Opening Plan**

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh had sent a progress report on the opening to all Committee Members and asked for feedback on this.

Recommendations:

- **Insurance Review**-Selectman Liaison S. Jasper that this inspection took place on March 31
- **Repair pavement** from Historical District to Swan Lake-Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that this was being worked on by K. Burns, Road Agent. He would investigate cost, time, removal of old asphalt, etc. Other areas were discussed at length
- **Handicap parking area:** This would be done by K. Burns, Road Agent.
- **Secure Gorilla House and Elephant Barn**-Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that the Chief of Police Jason Lavoie and the Town Liaison met on April 1, 2010 to investigate methods to secure buildings.
- **Install an electronic access gate** for emergency vehicles- Dave Yates, Town Liaison is looking into the feasibility and cost of this.
- **Installation of entry signs**-This was discussed at length and it was decided to use only one sign at this time if it could be refurbished.
- **Grade and Seed Picnic Areas**-Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that Town Liaison D. Yates has plans A & B to work on these areas. He was given an estimate if we do the screening the cost of rental for two (2) days would be in the vicinity of \$700. Hydro-seed would be around \$3000.

- **Install temporary toilets**-lengthily discussion on this. It was budgeted for one (1) toilet but it would be wrong not to have two (2) toilets
 - P. Nichols made a motion to have two (2) temporary toilets, one (1) regular and (1) handicap accessible**
 - D. Empey seconded the motion**
 - All in favor-Motion Carries**
 - Location of Toilets- Put toilets together in central location. Committee in agreement
- **Develop security measures** to protect park during closing hours-Chief of Police, Jason Lavoie and Town Liaison D. Yates met and are working on various methods at this time. Some fencing will be installed and repaired and the HPD will be on alert to protect the park. Discussion followed
- **Install trash removal bins**-this will be a carry-in carry-out park and K. Burns says that a dumpster will be provided in the parking lot
- **Approve Park Rules and Regulations:** Approved BOS
- **Trail Kiosk for main parking lot**-under construction at this time
- **Install trail signs** along perimeter trail- posts-hope to be installed end of May but a problem with the signs has come up but D. Empey will be working on this
- **Design Benson Park Trail Map**-D. Empey states that the preliminary map is done and it is hoped it will be done by June 2010
- **Update Town website**-Communication sub-committee has been restructured and some members have website experience. Target date: 2010
- **Plan Opening Event**-Communication sub-committee will be currently working on this
- **Spring clean-ups**-D. Empey and C. Gagnon are planning on a clean-up on April 11, 2010. They plan on having at least one clean-up a month until opening. A plan to have a few monitors for the work-sites is planned and smaller brush burnings were agreed on instead of one large one.

5. Guest Speaker

Vice Chair of the Recreation Committee J. Griffith spoke to the Committee regarding a children's handicap accessible playground to be constructed in the park. The Recreation Committee toured the property and identified two areas that they would like to use. The Benson Committee was delighted with this project and many questions were asked regarding the funding for this project. Vice Chair J. Griffith said that he thought the Recreation Committee would look into Grant's and public funding. This could take a while and he thought that his Committee would be agreeable to building a small playground near the A-Frame until the other one could be built. Vice Chair J. Griffith stated

that he was here to see if the Benson Committee would be receptive to this endeavor and he would bring back recommendations to his Committee.

D. Empey made a motion to accept this project

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

➤ **Signs**

Chair H. Schibanoff asked K. Dickinson if he had done anything regarding looking into having the signs that were made years ago refurbished. K. Dickinson said that he was in touch with a company that gave him three (3) options: Totally refurbish the signs, they could be sanded down and redone. Get in touch with the original Contractor and see if he could do something, or make new signs. J. Griffith stated that he does woodworking as a hobby and has just completed a sign and has done others, He thinks he could take the sign and re-work it to look like something special. He does not charge for his work, only for materials. He also has time constraints and said that it could be a while before the signs were done.

A 10 minute break was called at 8:40 p.m.

Back from break at 8:50 p.m.

D. Empey asked if J. Griffith could look at the signs and see what he could do. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper asked that only one sign be done at this time. This would be erected at the entrance to the park and not at the handicap area because the sign would be too big. The other signs could be utilized at a later date elsewhere. Chair H. Schibanoff asked J. Griffith if he could look at the signs and get back to the Committee at the next meeting.

➤ **Bat House Report**

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh that there are 8 Bat Houses being built by students that will house up to 80 Bats each. They need another two (2) weeks to finish.

Issues

- Need a facilitator to finish the project. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh will take on this responsibility.
- Placement of Bat houses: C. Gagnon said to place them throughout the park because Bats help diminish the mosquito population.
- Need 4x4 to attach houses-must be pressure treated-usually under \$8. Looking for someone to donate these.
- Should some houses be attached to buildings or Trees? Decide at a later date.
- Denise Freeman would like to walk the property on Friday, April 9, 2010 @ 3:15 with Chuck Mower, Curt Laffin and the AP Science Teacher. D. Empey volunteered to be available for this.
- Students needing community service hours will be putting up the Bat Houses. Students will have waiver forms signed before working in the park.

➤ **Town Liaison**

The Board of Selectmen appointed a Town Liaison to the Benson Committee. His contacts will be Selectman Liaison S. Jasper and Chair H. Schibanoff. The Committee welcomes Town Liaison David Yates.

➤ **Clean-up Activity past and future**

Past: H. Schibanoff said that he observed that the last clean-up was a little disorganized and it seemed that volunteers were unsure where to go or how much to do in some of the areas. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the clean-up volunteers should be assigned to teams so that the

work to be done would not go beyond slash and burn. Some damage was done to areas without anyone knowing what was going on. Vice Chair suggested that Crew Chiefs should be assigned to the next clean-up because it is difficult for only one to manage. In-depth discussion

Future: D. Empey said that a clean-up should be scheduled for the month of April.

Gagnon made a motion to have a clean-up on Saturday, April 10, 2010

J. Leone seconded the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

➤ **Ice Cream Social**

Chair H. Schibanoff reminded the Committee of the Ice Cream Social for volunteers to be held on May 6, 2010 at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. RSVP as soon as possible. The Benson Committee will delay their meeting until after the social.

6. New Business

➤ **Request from Friends of the Library**

Chair H. Schibanoff said that the Friends of the Library are having a fundraising event at Barnes and Noble Book Store, 235 Daniel Webster Highway within the Café from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Friends would be happy to have someone from Benson Park represented. B&N will supply a table if needed. P. Nichols, A. Desrosiers and H. Schibanoff will participate.

➤ **Eagle Scout Projects**

Chair H. Schibanoff said that he attended Troop 20 meeting where he learned all about Eagle Scout criteria. This is quite intensive and the Scout has to show how he will develop his project, fund it, get workers to help him and complete it. This prepares the Scout for the Business World and it is not taken lightly. Chair H. Schibanoff sent a list of projects that could be Eagle Scout projects to members of the Committee. Some members added to the list. Some of the other Scout Groups were also interested. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if this could be put on the Website and Chair H. Schibanoff said he would do this.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

K. Dickinson mentioned working on proper pruning for plants but he does not have the time to teach this. He also walked on site and saw a few areas that might need attention.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that he will be the Liaison for the Benson Committee for another year. He is pleased to remain with the Committee.

P. Nichols congratulated Selectman Liaison S. Jasper and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

D. Empey has had a few more work days in the park and is happy with the progress and is looking forward to the next clean-up.

C. Gagnon is looking forward to the next clean-up and thanked J. Griffith for coming to our meeting with great news.

A. Desrosiers said that she was so pleased with the Committee being together and bringing so many people like the Recreation Committee, Eagle Scouts, etc. on board to help make this a very special park.

H. Schibanoff mentioned that K. Matthews called to update the committee on Friends of Bensons. He is working on this and is talking to many people. Also, HCTV was at the park at the last clean-up doing a documentary. A few of the members were interviewed and Lee Lavoie will also be doing a documentary with Cindy Provencher and Anne Desrosiers on the History of the Park. Chair H. Schibanoff also handed out flyers for the Open House at HCTV Access Center, Nadeau Farms on Old Derry Road on Saturday, April 11, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. all are welcome.

Adjournment

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon seconded the Motion

All in favor-Motion Carries