

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:14 p.m. on March 4, 2010 in the Community Development Meeting Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that the Committee met with the Recreation Committee at 6:30 p.m. in the BOS meeting room to let them know of our interest in their possible Children's Play Area in the Park. Questions and discussions between the Recreation Committee and the Benson Park Committee followed. Chair H. Schibanoff introduced our two (2) new alternates to the Committee, A. Desrosiers and J Leone.

2. Attendance:

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

3. Public Input

None

4. Consent Items

A. Minutes of February 45, 2010 Benson Park Committee

B. Minutes of the All Subcommittees and Volunteers Jan. 25, 2010

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept all.

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion carries

4. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

➤ **Buildings**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper had called the first meeting of the Buildings Sub Committee for February 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Community Development Room at the Town Hall. This meeting was cancelled due to Snow and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper was disappointed because of the low response from the Volunteers.

➤ **Trails/Land Conservation**

D. Empey said that the outer fencing along Swan Lake had openings made to allow wild life into the park. The fence posts that are still standing near the Elephant Barn could be removed sooner than expected if the weather cooperates.

➤ **Grounds/Landscaping/Clean-up**

D.Empey stated that the new Brush Mower is working well. He had been into the park to do some clean up and experimented with this equipment. He was pleased with how it worked.

Chair H. Schibanoff asked if any tree damage in the park was sustained due to the wind and rain storm. D. Empey said there was significant damage. The dam on the outlet side of Swan Lake was breached. The rocks that were put above the two culverts recently were washed away and the culverts were the high point. The culvert between Moose Pond and Swan Lake that was a problem has now become a major problem due to past cutting of the asphalt and it is now a gravel stream. D. Empey explained the damage in depth. Tree damage was described. Two of the Norway Spruce trees were lost near the Spruce Island area with the tops of these trees across the path and in Swan Lake. Another smaller tree was lost and a lot of limb damage throughout the park was noted. C. Gagnon asked if much damage was done near the wetlands trails and D. Empey stated that the water has not damaged what has been done so far and any work done near the wetlands requires more study. Questions and Discussion followed.

➤ **Outreach**

K. Matthews stated that the Outreach Committee would be meeting on March 8th and would discuss the opening of the park and that cooperation between the Committee and Sub-Committees be a priority.

➤ **Volunteers**

C. Gagnon has almost finished developing the data base for volunteers and making it easily accessible to all. There are a few emails that bounce back and she has tried multiple ways to make them work but has had no luck at this time. She will continue to work on this. She has changed the email address that she sends out to people to www.BensonPark.org, she also has the ability to create 15 other email addresses. C. Gagnon is looking forward to getting ready for clean-ups earlier than expected.

➤ **Dog Park**

D. Briand was not at the meeting. Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper if he had any news on this. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that his conversation to the Governors Attorney stressed that we had been waiting for a while. The request for a dog park was sent in November of 2009. Selectman S. Jasper said we would appreciate any help on this matter. Government works in a slow manner. We will have to be patient.

5. Proposed Rules and Regulations

J. Barnes gave an update on the Rules and Regulations and had two different formats. He suggested that the committee vote on the one that they liked and that it could go to the Board of Selectmen for approval and made into a Town Ordinance. Discussion followed on trash receptacles and fishing in park.

S. Rumbaugh made a motion to accept the Do-Don't version of the Rules and present them to the Board of Selectmen.

M. Lee seconded the motion.

All in favor-Motion Carries.

6. Plan for Opening

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh handed out information on groups at the last Committee Meeting. The Committee was supposed to review this and get back to S. Rumbaugh with their thoughts. No one responded. Chair H. Schibanoff asked the difference between event and group functions. Chair H. Schibanoff reported on a planning meeting for the opening of the park. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh gave a synopsis of the break down on who would be responsible for different functions to an opening of the park in the spring or early summer. All sub-committees have tasks to do along with the Board of Selectmen in getting things ready for an opening. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper let the committee know that D. Yates from the Recreation Department would be the possible town liaison for the Benson Committee. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh set the question before the Committee on what is needed to get the Park open. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that we should complete our part of the break down on opening the park and present it to the Board of Selectmen along with what their tasks would be to open the park. Questions and Discussions about all aspects of the park opening followed.

7. Ticket Booth Repairs

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that his wife contacted the Fire Relief Association to inquire if they were interested in this project. As of yet there has been no answer. D. Empey stated that he thought this could be an Eagle Scout project and is looking into this.

8. Coordination with Alvirne Vocational High School

Chair H. Schibanoff spoke with Ann Merrill on the phone with a thought that it would be beneficial to incorporate them into the park. He also spoke to Brandon Bliss of the Forestry Department. She suggested that he speak to Dick Lutz. It was set up to have Brandon visit the park but it snowed that day then it was vacation week so this will be followed up at a later date.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper suggested a 10 minute break. Committee took break at 7:20 p.m. Reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

9. BOS Decisions

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that the only thing not covered this evening was the Railroad Station and where we were going with this. He stated that the Board of Selectmen have not finalized this but he introduced Bernie M. in the audience as the man who brought us the Library. Bernie is willing to take on the task of the Railroad Station and become the Clerk of the Works. Chair H. Schibanoff asked if the Grant had been extended and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it had been sent in but he has not heard anything yet.

10. Possible Donation – Sign

Chair H. Schibanoff read an email from someone that has a sign about 4 feet by 3 feet from an exotic Baboon Show. It is in storage in New York at this time but he wants to donate it to the Park. Chair H. Schibanoff responded and told him we did not know what we were planning at the moment but would keep in touch.

11. New Business

➤ **Proposed Kiosk Design and Expense**

D.Empey presented a drawing plan for a Kiosk. He explained the type of wood it would be built of and how it would blend into the park. It would hold a trail map and information pertaining to the park along with rules, regulations and park hours. A comprehensive cost analysis was attached to the drawing.

P. Nichols made a motion to accept the design of the Kiosk and appropriate the monies to construct this not to exceed \$700.

M. Lee seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

➤ **Request from the GFWC Hudson Juniors for a Butterfly Park**

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh stated that a request from the Junior Woman's and Community Club have a renewed interest in putting in a Butterfly Park on the property. Discussion followed and an invitation for someone to visit the park to determine an area for this project was mentioned. The committee looks forward to this.

➤ **Hat and Shirt Sale – March 9th**

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh received permission to sell the hats and shirts at the election hall. Discussion on times, volunteers and price of hats and shirts followed. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked for permission to lower prices but this would be up to the Board of Selectmen. Vice Chair will coordinate this with assistance from Chair H. Schibanoff.

➤ **Spring Activities and Clean up**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper suggested that a brush burning take place soon. After discussion the date for this clean-up, brush burning will be held on March 20, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m. weather permitting. Trucks, chain saws, etc. would be appreciated from the volunteers. This event will be cancelled on Friday by 5:00 p.m if weather related.

10. **Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper spoke about the roadway (Benson Way) is in very bad shape. He would like to have this road resurfaced before the opening. This is a main roadway in the park and this should be presented to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration.

Ken Dickinson said that he is happy with the selection of having Bernie M. work on the Railroad Station.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh announced that Curt Laffin would be doing a presentation to the Junior Woman's Club on the American Chestnut and what was being done to bring it back. He also spotted a mature bald eagle in the area near Nan King and rt. 111.

D.,Empey mentioned he was getting a small group together to work in the park on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Anyone interested email Dick.

Chair H. Schibanoff reminded everyone that the Committee will now meet twice a month from now on. The next meeting will be on March 18, 2010. We may be using the Rec Hall if there is a vote recount. We will know this at a later date.

11.Adjournment

J. Barnes made a motion to adjourn

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries