

Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2009

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chairman H. Schibanoff at 7:04 p.m. on December 3, 2009 in the Community Development Meeting room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Attendance:**

Attendance: Selectman Liaison, S. Jasper, Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh, J. Barnes, K. Dickinson, Martha Lee, Clerk, P. Nichols

**3. Public Input (Non-Agenda Items):**

**L. Bernard**, HCTV Video Operator asked for clarification of Committee meetings for the rest of the month and the year 2010. P. Nichols let Leo know that the dates had been set for the year 2010. L. Bernard will inform his crew.

**4. Consent Agenda**

A. November 19, 2009 Benson Park Committee Minutes

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda**

**J. Barnes seconded the motion**

**All in favor...Motion Carried**

**5. Old Business:**

**A. Committee Reports**

➤ **Buildings**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper gave an update on the roofing of the Office Building and thinks this will be finished within the week. Shadan Roofing was due to give a quote about tightening up the roof on the Train Station and doing repairs on the Haselton Barn roof.

➤ **Grounds/Landscaping/Trails**

D. Empey stated that the North End Trail is just about completed. A neighbor that abuts the park has concerns about people driving on her property to get to the Park and this will be looked into. A volunteer's came into the park during the week and completed some very heavy clearing. D. Empey requested that letters and a Certificate be sent to these volunteer because of the work and equipment loaned to the park. D. Empey had a list of areas to be cleared on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Discussion followed.

➤ **Outreach**

**P. Nichols** stated that the Outreach Committee discussed the last soft opening and having a soft opening after the snow falls. Another discussion that the subcommittee spoke of was a Friends of Benson Park and trying to formulate this after the successful Friends of the Library. This will be worked on through the winter months. H. Schibanoff gave his presentation to the committee. P. Nichols asked that a meeting of all Sub Committee's meet in January to exchange information and ideas. This was met with approval and

January 25, 2010 was the agreed date. It was also decided to invite all volunteers to this meeting for their input and decide which committee they would like to join. P. Nichols will book a meeting room and make arrangements to have this meeting posted to be in compliance with the town.

➤ **Volunteers**

**C. Gagnon** mentioned that she meet with J. Leone about setting up a Yahoo group so that she could work on keeping track of all hours and emails regarding cleanups. C. Gagnon has a list of jobs to be assigned and lunch will be provided to volunteers.

➤ **Dog Park**

No members of the Dog Park Sub Committee were in attendance. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that the submittal for the park came in and was sent to D.O.T. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he would follow up on this. Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh spoke to someone from D.O.T. about wetlands mitigation. Discussion followed with many committee members contributing.

**B. Bat House Update**

**Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh** notified the Committee that she spoke with Denise from the Campbell High School and they are interested in making the bat houses for the Park during the winter. The design has been chosen and the school wants to incorporate this with a biology class and tour the park. Selectman Liaison will help transport the wood to the school.

**C. BOS Decisions**

The opening's in the fence was approved. The Brush Mower has not been recommended for the park by the Town. This has been put on hold at this time. Sign's for no hunting is in progress. Park boundary's having yet to be established, the Highway Department will solve this.

**D. Fence Removal**

**Chairman H. Schibanoff** spoke of the fence around the Elephant Barn. He gave the committee a drawing that showed where this fence went. It is connected to a gate near the old Red Barn and do we need to keep this in place. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that the gate is never used or locked. Discussion on this followed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will present this fence removal to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Planning for 2010**

**J. Barnes** suggested that the Committee look into a date to open the Park in the spring. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated he would look into a visit from the town Insurance Agent to check for safety issues in the park before the spring opening. Building security was discussed. A quote will be given to the Town Manager about putting a security gate at the park that will give easy access to the Police Department and Fire Department. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that a review of the plan is again needed and set up into a system that can work toward the opening of the park. Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh and J. Barnes will work on this.

**B. Meeting Schedule for 2010**

Chairman H. Schibanoff stated that the need for two (2) meetings a month for the Committee would not be needed at this time. More meetings would be needed for the Sub Committees. Discussion followed and one (1) meeting a month was the consensus for the months of January, February and March.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to cancel the December 17, 2009 meeting.**

**J. Barnes Seconded the Motion  
All in favor...Motion Carried**

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to cancel the third Thursday of the month meeting for January February and March.**

**P. Nichols seconded the motion  
All in favor...Motion Carried**

#### **C. Guest**

**Jeremy Griffus, Chairman of the Recreation Committee** spoke to the Committee about the possibility of having the Recreation Department become involved and work with the Benson Park Committee. A possible playground or picnic area could be adopted by the Recreation Committee. The Committee was in favor of this and the playground was discussed. J. Griffus, Chairman of the Recreation Department will bring this back to his Committee and open up discussions on this. It was also mentioned to make this area ADA accessible for children.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to have the Recreation committee partner with the Benson Committee to construct a playground between the A-Frame and the fence.**

**M. Lee seconded the motion  
All in favor...Motion Carried**

#### **D. Winter Activities**

**Chairman H. Schibanoff** asked about the Committees thoughts on winter cleanup and soft openings. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that this would be better looked at during the Committee's first meeting of the New Year.

### **7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

**K. Dickenson** complimented the Chairman of the Recreation Committee on his presentation and looks forward to working with the Recreation Department.

**Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh** said that when walking through the park she has noticed more trash and dog waste than usual. She asked that people please do not leave trash behind and clean up after their dog.

She also stated that some sort of public recognition be given to many business organizations that donated time, equipment, and food to our cleanup days. The Out-Reach Committee will look into writing a 'Letter to the Editor' to accomplish this.

**Selectman Liaison S. Jasper** said that Selectman B. Nadeau has agreed to monitor the burning at the cleanup on Saturday morning, December 5, 2009 due to prior commitments. He will be in attendance in the afternoon.

**Chairman H. Schibanoff** spoke of his Presentation and if any Organization would like to know more about the park he is available for this.

### **8. Adjournment:**

**J. Barnes made a motion to adjourn.  
Selectman Liaison S. Jasper seconded the motion  
All in favor...Motion Carried**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm**