

Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2009

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chairman H. Schibanoff at 7:07 p.m. on November 5, 2009 in the Board of Directors 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,
Absent: J. Desrosiers

3. Public Input (Non-Agenda Items): none

4. Approval of Minutes

S. Rumbaugh made a motion to accept minutes of October 15, 2009
K. Dickinson seconded the motion
All in favor-Motion Carries

5. Old Business:

A. Interviews:

Cheryl Murray, resident of Hudson, is interested in working on a dog park to be placed on the Benson property. She is also interested in Trails and clean-up.

B. Report on Soft Opening:

Out-Reach Committee evaluation update on the Open House week-end. **K. Matthews** spoke of things needed on the next Open House. Portable toilets should be available. Posting of Hours should be done for next opening. It was also discussed having tours during the opening. It was stated that 15 volunteers is the minimum number that would be needed to open the park for the day. Discussion followed. P.Nichols made a suggestion to find a place for a children's playground and flyers were made and looking for approval from the Committee to pass them out. Vice-Chairperson S. Rumbaugh asked about how to inform people if the **rain date** would be in effect. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper mentioned to have P. Nichols check with Jim McIntosh of the cable company to find out how this could be announced on HCTV around 8:30 A.M. on Saturday and emails sent out to everyone who volunteered. Discussion followed.

C. Budget Report 2010 Update"

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper spoke about the Budget and what will be allowed for the Park and the Committee. Will have written report at next meeting.

D. Acceptance of Donations and Policy:

H. Schibanoff spoke about the listing of companies and pizza restaurants that donated time, equipment, man hours and food to cleanup weekends at the Park. Certificates were created and signed and given to Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh to distribute.

Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh stated that this should be an Out-Reach Committee endeavor. P. Nichols stated she would be happy to distribute these.

J. Barnes asked about donations that people want to give to the Park. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated items that have a large monetary value would be sent to the Board of Selectmen to be accepted. After \$5000.00 it would have to be sent to a hearing. Checks would be accepted...cash donations are frowned upon.

J. Barnes made a motion to accept donations.

K. Dickinson seconded the motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

E. Building Report

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that No Hunting, No Trespassing signs, etc. should be an issue of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper reported on the Office Building and the old kitchen area has been completed with the rolled roofing and ½ of the Office Building roof has been shingled. The Canopy over the door has been taken down and has been taken to Selectman S. Jasper's workshop to be refurbished through the winter. Locks have been a problem and new locks have been purchased with new codes for security purposes.

Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh asked about work to be done on the ticket booth but nothing new on that at this time. The Old Woman in the shoe has been cleaned up and plans to restore this are in progress.

F. Administrative Matters

Chairman H. Schibanoff reported that J. Desrosiers gave him a verbal resignation from the Committee. J. Desrosiers also gave a verbal resignation to the Selectman Chairman R. Coutu. After a discussion

J. Barnes made a motion send a Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to accept this resignation.

K. Dickinson seconded the motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

Chairman H. Schibanoff asked the Committee for the use of a consent agenda. All agreed. Chairman H. Schibanoff also stated that the posting of the agenda and minutes be posted on the town web site. He will work with P. Nichols to accomplish this. In speaking with a Recreation Committee member, Chairman H. Schibanoff would like the Committee to coordinate with them in working to create a playground or other interests that would be beneficial to Benson Park and the Recreation Department.

J. Barnes suggested that the Benson Committee and the Recreation Committee meet at a future date.

6. New Business:

A. Dog Park Presentation by Dog Park Committee

Cheryl Murray, a member of the Dog Park Sub-Committee put on a Power Point Presentation for members of the Benson Committee. Many questions followed re: wet lands mitigation, noise level and possible presentation to State regarding fencing. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will bring this proposal to the Town Administrator for more information.

Chairman H. Schirbanoff called a ten minute break at 8:49 P.M.

Reconvened at 9:08 P.M.

Chairman H. Schibanoff turned over the Chair to Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh

B. Clean Up Planning:

Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh announced that Richard Empey was willing to take over the Chairmanship of the Trails Sub Committee and would give the report at this time.

R. Empey stated that the local Scout Troop in Town are interested in finding an Eagle Scout Project. They are willing to build picnic tables or a Kiosk for Benson Park if they know that the project would be a viable endeavor. J. Barnes asked that a Scout Leader come to a Committee Meeting to present what the Scouts are looking for and then decide if this would be a project that they would like to do. Open communication with the Troop should be pursued.

R. Empey gave a proposal to mowing the brushy meadow to curtail growth around the North Field. Many areas were shown on a map to be scheduled to be cleared to place picnic tables and rest areas along trails.

S. Jasper made a motion to accept this proposal.

M. Lee seconded the motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

Second Proposal: The trails Sub Committee would like to remove a section of fence to allow wild life to utilize the whole park. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that this should be taken up before the Board of Selectmen.

J. Barnes made a motion to bring this proposal before the Board of Selectmen.

M. Lee seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion carries

Discussion followed. Three small openings could be made in the fencing for some animals to pass but not allow dirt bikes, etc. to enter the park. This seemed to be a feasible solution instead of removing a large area of fencing.

R. Empey handed out a plan of attack to this weekend's clean up at the park.

Crista Gagnon explained how she will assign volunteers to different areas.

C. Sub Committee Organization

Out-Reach Sub Committee is doing well. Trails and Paths should be divided. The work load is getting heavier for one Sub Committee to handle it all. Another Sub Committee that should be formed into two would be the Volunteers and Clean Up Committee. There are so many aspects of this that it is getting difficult for one Committee to handle. Chairman H. Schibanoff wants to propose having a Grounds and Landscaping Sub Committee instead of the Clean Up Sub Committee.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to change the Clean-Up Sub Committee to the Grounds and Landscaping Sub Committee.

J. Barnes seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

P. Nichols made a motion to have a Volunteer Sub Committee

Vice Chairperson seconded the motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

P. Nichols made a motion to appoint Crista Gagnon as Chairperson of the Volunteer Sub Committee.
Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh seconded the motion.
All in favor...Motion Carries

D. Sub Committee Project Report

J. Barnes presented a template Sub Committee Project Report that could be used when a Sub Committee needed to interact with other Sub Committee's. This could be a useful tool as we progress on our way to reach goals. Jim will explain in depth at a later meeting.

E. Access by Motorized Vehicles

Vice Chairperson S. Rumbaugh sent pictures to identify spots where ATV's, etc. are entering the park. Discussion followed and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will tour the area to see what can be done to help prevent this.

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

P. Nichols asked for clarification on the Open House Hours and Date so that Flyers could be printed and distributed.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept the Open House date of November 14, 2009 with a rain date of November 15, 2009.

Seconded by J. Barnes

All in favor...Motion Carries

Assistant Town Administrator Mark Pearson is meeting with vendors to install a security gate up by the old office building. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper hopes to have a report on this at our next meeting.

J. Barnes stated it was wonderful to see so many people at the park having a great time and it was something we can be proud of and look forward to happening again.

Chairman H. Schibanoff spoke of his presentation to the Kiwanis and as he was speaking he looked out at his audience and noticed that none of them were born at the time of the old Benson and they wanted to know why it closed. It sounded like a neat place.

There will be a clean-up, brush burning on Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Join in the fun and hope for the sun.

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn.

K. Dickinson seconded the motion

All in favor...motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 10:04 pm

Next Meeting: November 19, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room.