

Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2009

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on September 24, 2009 in the Community Development Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman, K. Dickinson, presided
- b. Present: Chairman K. Dickinson, Vice Chairman K. Matthews, Selectman S. Jasper, J. Desrosiers, M. Lee, Clerk, H. Schibanoff, J. Barnes, S, Rumbaugh, P. Nichols

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

3. Chairman's Report:

- a. Chairman K. Dickinson gave a brief summary of the Benson Park repair work and clean up. M. Pearson is working on RFP to have Shadan Construction finish the work that KLM started.
- b. Board of Selectmen voted to have Benson Park opened by the end of October. This will be discussed under Old Business.

4. Approval of Minutes

J. Barnes stated that his name was entered twice. Correction made.
Selectman S. Jasper made a motion to accept minutes of September 10, 2009
H Schibanoff seconded the motion
Eight (8) Ayes...J. Desrosiers-Nay
Motion Carries

5. Old Business

- a. Vice Chairman K. Matthews spoke to the Committee and The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hudson. Vice Chairman K. Matthews asked for an apology from the Selectmen, he felt the Selectmen had insulted the Benson Committee by voting to open the park without the input of a Committee they picked to advise them and by blaming the Committee for not working faster to this end. He stated that his respect for the BOS (excluding Selectman S. Jasper) has caused great harm to the Volunteer Committee and the Benson Park project. Comments from the BOS should have been made to the committee and not to the media. This may have influenced the volunteer's and donors to the park to have second thoughts about helping to make this park a special place for all the people of New Hampshire. Vice Chairman K. Matthews left the meeting at this time.
- b. P. Nichols made a statement about how she felt about this Board of Selectmen decision. It was not positive.
- c. Selectman S. Jasper spoke about what his fellow selectmen did at the BOS Meeting on September 22. He felt the Committee was ambushed by the BOS because he was unable to attend due to illness. He stated that he has lost respect for the BOS for this. He spoke about all the parks that the Media wrote about that we do not have. He spoke at length about what the Selectmen said what they wanted and then what they felt the Committee could do to make this Park a reality. They said they would not micro-manage. Selectmen Coutu mentioned at one time that the opening of the park, etc. should be set at Committee level.

- d. P. Nichols mentioned the Out-Reach sub committee had been working on a Benson Park Open House to be held in October. Dates would have been the 24th and 25th with volunteers helping people to see what the park could be.
- e. S. Rumbaugh asked Chairman K. Dickinson to make an effort to speak to the Selectmen and find a working plan that the Committee could live with.
- f. Chairman K. Dickenson wants to entertain a motion to have himself appear before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the opening of the Park.
- g. S. Rumbaugh would not entertain that motion as there is not enough time before the end of the month.
- h. J. Barnes asked who would open the park and close the park, what hours, security, safety and parking. He felt that the BOS would have to make this decision. He felt we could try to comply with the BOS.
- i. Selectman Jasper responded to J. Barnes by saying that opening the park at this time would be a disaster. He stated that the Park was not ready to open to the public. Selectman Jasper spoke about the safety of the Red Barn site that has a dangerous drop that is not secure.
- j. H. Schibanoff stated that he stood behind Selectman Jasper in what was said. H. Schibanoff stated that he was very angry with the Board of Selectman in telling the Committee to open the park before the end of October. He said that the Out-Reach committee met on Monday, October the 21st and had a plan to recommend to the Board of Selectman an Open House at Benson Park in October.

Selectman S. Jasper made a Motion to have an Open House at Benson Park from 10 am to 2:00 pm on October 24th and 25th, 2009.

M. Lee seconded the Motion

Discussion followed

Eight (8) Ayes-J. Desrosiers Nay

Motion Carries

- k. Chairman K. Dickinson requested that a special meeting be held to put a presentation together to present to the Board of Selectmen. If the Sub Committee puts a presentation together will they show it to the Benson Committee? A special meeting will be called on October 1st to discuss this presentation before it goes to the Board of Selectmen.
- l. Budget deferred to a later date

6. Sub Committee Report:

- a. **Trails Sub Committee** report given by S. Rumbaugh. A special thank you was given by S. Rumbaugh to the volunteers that helped with the clean-up of trails on September 12th. A great job was done by all. S. Rumbaugh and D. Empey walked the trails on the 17th and identified a list of projects to be put in place before the park is open. A hand-out of these projects was given to the members of the Committee. Their focus was on what needed to be done by October 31st. The trail Sub Committee will be meeting at the Benson Park on Sunday, September 27, at 4:00 pm to discuss trail makers.
- b. **Buildings & Structures Sub Committee** report given by Selectman S. Jasper. Selectman Jasper spoke to Betsy Hahn about the Train Station. Selectman S. Jasper also spoke to Board of Selectman Chairman R. Coutu, and Assistant Town Manager M. Pearson about locating conduits for Train Station with the possibility of getting Dig Safe to locate whatever conduits and pipes that are around the area of the old Benson House Foundation. Betsy Hahn suggested to put a tarp over the roof of the Train Station for the winter months. No

information as to Shadan finishing the roof on the Office Building at this time and no information on the Hazelton Barn at this time.

Recess at 8:30 p.m. for 10 minutes.

Back in Session at 8:40 p.m.

- c. **Volunteer Sub Committee** report given by J. Desrosiers. Clean-Up on September 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the rain was a success. J. Desrosiers stated that more clean-up should be scheduled. Suggested dates for the next clean up would be October 3rd and 4th, 2009 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. J. Desrosiers will send out emails for request to volunteers. Discussion on fencing of the Red Barn Site followed.
- d. **Outreach Sub Committee** no report at this time.

7. Other Input

- a. S. Jasper mentioned just fencing the area around the Red Barn and not fence in the other buildings. Discussion followed. Get quotes from Penny Fence, etc. if it is agreeable to the Board of Selectmen.
- b. J. Barnes mentioned the Deed and easements. He asked if the land in the Historical area could be flagged.
- c. Chairman K. Dickinson would like to discuss the Deed and some easements at a later date.

8. Adjournment:

J. Desrosiers made a motion to adjourn.

J. Barnes seconded the motion

All in favor...motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: October 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Community Development Meeting Room.