

Benson Park Committee Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2009

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order at 7:12 p.m. on September 10, 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. Barnes, 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 Roofing and Building Stabilization Projects. Shadan Construction has completed the Elephant Barn and working on the Gorilla House.
- b. Selectman S. Jasper gave an update to the appraisal of the Benson Memorabilia. The appraisal has been done and there will be a private discussion on fund raising for this project.

4. Old Business

- a. **Sub-committee and Organization:** John Leone was present for a volunteer interview. Questions were asked by Committee members and John asked the committee a few questions also.
Selectman S. Jasper made a motion to ratify all sub committee members from 09/10/09 plus J. Leone to the Public Outreach Committee.
Seconded by J. Barnes
All in favor...Motion Carries

b. Benson Park Opening Plan checklist:

#2-Change to add a pedestrian gate at parking lot.

#3-Discussion about striping or assigning Handicap parking.

#4-Selectman Jasper will look into fixing Kiosk and check with Selectmen.

#5-Vice Chairman K. Matthews handed out pictures of 3 Benson Signs found in Hazelton Barn. No other signs found. Selectman S. Jasper will speak to the Assistant Town Administration to investigate other signage and see about updating the present signs.

#8-Poison Ivy Treatment must be approved by the state. Check with companies and get info on materials used. Chairman K. Dickenson will get info from 3 companies. J. Desrosiers said to see if they would volunteer their services.

#10-#14-electman Jasper said to combine these two numbers because of sanitary facilities.

#11-was moved to low priority.

#12-#13-Selectman Jasper asked to combine these two tasks

#15-Discussion on Dig Safe to look into all utilities.

#17-Discuss Graffiti

#18-#19-remove fence around Elephant Barn and add Safety fence to Circus Barn for safety.

#20-Deleted

A Discussion followed on how to set up the plan for the opening to present to the Board of Selectmen.

5. New Business

Sub Committee Report:

- a. **Trails Sub Committee** report given by S. Rumbaugh. A walk was again taken by the Trails Sub Committee. The perimeter route for the Trails has been changed and a map of this was given to the Committee. Bridge and safety issues were discussed. Another walk is scheduled for September 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. S. Rumbaugh identified five (5) projects for the clean-up on Saturday. Another issue was signage for the trails and maps if opened in Spring 2010.
- b. **Buildings & Structures Sub Committee** report given by Selectman S. Jasper. Selectman Jasper spoke to Betsy Hahn about an RFP for the Train Station and Clerk of the Works. Does not know when she will get back to him. Possible meeting next Thursday. Must be posted by noon of the 16th. Chairman K. Dickinson will email us if this is going to happen. Hazelton Barn will be put on hold at this time. Question if structure to be fixed first and roof later. Can have a metal roof. Question of using Elephant Barn for a Museum. Selectman S. Jasper stated the he thought the Historical Society could be care takers of this due to their expertise.

P. Nichols made a motion to endorse the concept of the Elephant Barn being used for a Museum for Benson Memorabilia.

K. Matthews seconded the motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries.

Recess at 8:45 p.m.

Back in Session at 8:54 p.m.

- c. **Volunteer Sub Committee** report given by J. Desrosiers. Meeting was held in CD Room to finalize plans for Clean-Up on September 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. J. Desrosiers stated that if the Committee wanted clean-up days they would have to speak to him. He would not randomly set up clean-up dates.
- d. **Outreach Sub Committee** report given by Vice Chairman K. Matthews. Meeting was held with Sub Committee and Vice Chairman K. Matthews presented his plan of what is needed now and in the future. Vice Chairman K. Matthews is looking to see where funds donated or collected can be placed. He stated that the Committee could use The Historical Society's 501 (C) (3) Tax free account. Selectman S. Jasper stated that an Enterprise Account can be set up through the town. Vice Chairman K. Matthews liked the idea of using both accounts. Discussion followed.
- e. **FY2011 Budget**
Selectman S. Jasper discussion of grounds keeper, caretaker, electricity, restrooms, heat for caretaker building, alarms, etc. To look into this so a budget can be presented to the Board of Selectmen. Some of the Committee Members would work on this with him.

6. Approval of Minutes

Selectman S. Jasper made a motion to accept minutes of August 13th and August 27th.

H Schibanoff seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

7. Other Input

- a. Pat Nichols read her Mission Statement for the Benson Park Committee. This can be changed or thrown out as the Committee wills.

Selectman S. Jasper made a motion to table this to a later date.

Vice Chairman K. Matthews Seconded the Motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

- b. H. Schibanoff mentioned bad publicity about the Park and we should send a letter to offset this. P. Nichols said she would write a letter to the paper letting them know what the Committee is planning for a future soft opening for the public.
- c. Leo B. stated that he could put info about the clean-up on HCTV and who had donated lunch, etc.
- d. Selectman S. Jasper mentioned that someone offered to donate a Lion Cage to Benson Park but the Board of Selectmen said no.
- e. Selectman S. Jasper was tasked by the Chairman of the Selectmen, Roger Coutu to look into a Senior Center on the Benson Park Grounds. The Governor wants to see this happen. Discussion followed.

Selectman S. Jasper made a motion to have the Committee endorse the idea of a Senior Center at Benson Park and if the Hudson Seniors Council on Aging endorses this then we can ask the Board of Selectmen to petition the Department of Transportation to change the deed to allow a senior center to be built in the Park.

Vice Chairman K. Matthews seconded this motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

- f. J. Desrosiers made a statement that was taken as derogatory to a Committee Member. Selectman S. Jasper reprimanded J. Desrosiers for his speech. Heated discussion followed.

S. Rumbaugh made a motion to recess

J. Barnes seconded the motion

8 in favor...P. Nichols did not vote

Motion Carried

Recess at 9:50

Back in Session at 9:55

Adjournment:

J. Barnes made a motion to adjourn.

Vice Chairman K. Matthews seconded the motion

All in favor...motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 9:56 pm

Next Meeting: September 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Community Development Meeting Room.