

## Benson's General Committee Meeting May 28, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Selectman Shawn Jasper, Acting Chairperson at 7:05 pm

Roll Call: 8 attended, 1 absent

Acceptance of minutes after corrections. (Names misspelled)

Ken Matthews asked about budget and authority of Committee.

Shawn Jasper, acting chairman, told everyone that the Committee had no singular authority.

Recommendations could be made and presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval. There is no budget for this year. A budget could be submitted for the year 2011. There is money for some things now but no budget.

First order of business:

Shawn Jasper gave a hand-out for building repairs that need to be done before the park is open to the public stating that roofing is the #1 priority

Mark Pearson gave recommendations to repair the buildings and tried to prioritize the most immediate work to be done. This will be contracted out.

Much discussion on all of this and decisions are listed below:

**Office Building:** Roof (Wooden shingle) and Small roof membrane (rubber roofing)

**Hazelton Barn** (Bush Hill Road): South side needs to be replaced

Temporarily repair roof. Discussion on Cupola... This will be rebuilt and placed on the roof before the shingles are put on.

**Front Gates:** Electric gate opener/card access. Mark Pearson suggested this be a possible bid item, Jerry Desrosiers volunteered his expertise as a licensed electrician to do this. Shawn will let Mark know.

**Train Station:** Separate Grant for Train Station. Site to move this building will be decided at a future meeting.

**Gorilla House** not a priority. Question to stay with historical or change. Will stay with historical for now.

**Elephant House:** Part of building torn down.

**A Frame Building:** Keep A-Frame and overhang and tear down rest of building. The RFP would not replace windows at this time.

Electricity on the property was discussed and there would be none other than the Main Office building.

Discussed fencing around burned barn... whole area would be secured eventually.

Trail planning: not decided yet but think town would be responsible for upkeep.

Sub Committees were discussed; many sub committees would need a working knowledge of Safety, Buildings, Utilities, Gardens, Invasive Plant Control. A Volunteer Coordinator would be needed to place other volunteers that would like to participate in helping with the cleaning up or weed pulling, etc.

Shawn Jasper said that he would ask Curt Laffin to be a guest at the next meeting and give a presentation to the new Committee. This meeting will be televised and it will be a way to reach the many people who may want to volunteer to be a part of this exciting endeavor.

A letter will be sent to Hudson/Litchfield News announcing Curt as our guest and that the meetings will be televised and that anyone could attend.

Voting was held for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.

Ken Dickinson was voted Chairman

Ken Matthews was voted Vice Chairman

Pat Nichols was voted Clerk

Display of Benson memorabilia from Arthur Provencher's collection will be at the Hill Library building beginning June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Next Meeting will be held June 11, 2009 at 7:pm. Meeting room to be announced

Adjournment: 8:47 pm