



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



John Madden, Chairman Dillon Dumont, Selectmen Liaison

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Committee Minutes

Date: 06/15/2023 - 7:00pm

Location: HCTV Meeting Room, 19 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, NH 03051

- **Call to Order:** at 7:03 pm by Chair John Madden
- **Attendance:** Chairman John Madden, Sarah Petkiewicz, John Leone, Erica Carreau, Scott Anderson & Selectman Dillon Dumont
- **Excused:** Judith Brouillette
- **Absent:** Mike Catanzaro
- **Public Input:** Sue Clement, Chair of the landscape committee attended the meeting to provide an update.
- **Approval of minutes:** April 20th 2023 – Approved Mr. Leone made motion to approve, Ms. Petkiewicz seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0. Mr. Anderson abstained as he was absent from that meeting.
May 18th 2023 meeting meetings – Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the meeting, Ms. Petkiewicz seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

Old Business:

- A. Balance and Expenditures were reviewed by Mr. Madden. Committee currently has balance of \$1,004.92. There were no expenses since the last meeting.
- B. Train Station Lead Removal: this is still pending, Mr. Madden has a list of approved vendors from the state. Mr. Madden explained to Selectman Dumont, who is attending his first committee meeting as the Selectman Liaison, that the asbestos has been removed but that we still need to get a lead paint inspection before anything more can be done to return the building as close to its original 1916 state for historical accuracy.
- C. Hazelton Barn – Mr. Leone visited the Hazelton Barn to see if it would be suitable to store the goods donated to FoBP that are currently being held at the DPW as well as additional goods that are in a storage container on park premises. Mr. Leone observed that the access to the building is limited and the door is small. He stated that the items

from the DPW would fit there, but that the items from the storage container would not fit. Mr. Madden inquired if we could explore replacing the door, but Mr. Leone felt this would be a very large and expensive project and as accessibility to the barn was limited with it being on a big hill it may not be worth it.

- D. Fund Raising – Mr. Madden has not yet submitted the proposal for the fund raising barn to be placed on town bill payment pages, but agreed to do so before the next meeting.
- E. Landscape Committee – Sue Clement, Chair of Landscape Committee, provided the committee with her background and involvement with the Girl Scouts who adopted areas within the park to care for. Ms. Clement reviewed materials given to her that outlined where potential “adopt a spot” locations are throughout the park and observed that those spots are no longer there. In addition she stated that there are still many spots that are available for adoption so she will take the action to take pictures and try to get the word out. She advised that this is a great way to get kids involved or even the horticulture group at Alvirne. Mr. Anderson said that he observed that some of the areas were quite large and may be overwhelming to potential adopters so they are going to try to split up the space to encourage people. Ms. Clement also stated that she would work with people and their schedules to help make it possible. Mr. Leone said that FoBP would be happy to post information about Adopt a Spot on the Friends of Benson Park Facebook page. Ms. Clement also shared with the Committee that while she was in the park, she noticed that there was non-biodegradable material hanging from a tree in the adopt a spot so she removed it in order to prevent it from injuring wildlife.
- F. Planning Board recommendation for a Youth Center in Benson Park – Mr. Anderson provided an update that while this idea for a youth center came up during the Master Plan for the town it has been agreed that using the park for this purpose is not feasible per the Deed. The town will be forming a sub-committee to put the center somewhere else. Mr. Madden suggested that while directly in the park is not an option for a youth center, there may be the possibility to do something park-adjacent, but this would need to be further explored.
- G. Gorilla Mural Warning Sign & Interpretive Sign with volunteer restorer’s business card – The committee agreed that the language on the sign for the Gorilla cage to remind visitors not to use chalk as it damages the painting as proposed by Ms. Brouillette is approved and it can be posted. Mr. Madden addressed the request by Denise who painted the mural to place her business cards there. He said that this could be permitted by the deed as long as it spoke to her work on the mural and reasons for it. Ms. Clement suggested that rather than business cards, which could contribute to park litter, that Denise places a QR code next the mural that individuals could scan and then be taken to her website. The committee agreed that this would be a better idea and the committee would share this with Ms. Brouillette to communicate that to Denise. Ms. Clement also mentioned at this time that the adopt a spot still has Ralph listed as the contact for Adopt a Spot. She will review wording and then give to Ms. Brouillette to post.
- H. Parking Passes for Committee Members and volunteers – Mr. Madden shared with the committee that there are parking passes available for volunteers to allow them to park in the upper lot. Mr. Madden recommended that each committee member takes a pass to use on volunteer clean up days.

New Business:

- Mr. Madden reported that the grass will be cut in the dog park. There was a slight delay in the usual cutting due to scheduling conflicts of the volunteer.
- Mr. Leone mentioned that the park clean up is scheduled for this Saturday. Unfortunately, there is currently 90% chance of rain. Ms. Clement suggested that clean up be canceled and the committee agreed. Mr. Leone stated he would notify the FoBP and Natasha would send out a notification.

Calendar

- a. Next meeting – Thursday, July 20th at 7 pm.
- b. Volunteer Clean Up – 3rd Saturday, July 15th, 9 am to 2 pm

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- a. Mr. Anderson brought up to the group that there is a large dead hemlock tree located behind the barn near the old lady in the shoe. The top half is entirely dead and this will become a safety issue soon. Mr. Madden stated that we would need to contact DPW for advice regarding removal as the tree may be upwards of 75 feet tall. Scott stated he would call DPW to get this addressed.
- b. Mr. Leone reminded the group that there will be a Beatles tribute band playing in the park on Saturday July 22nd with a rain date of Sunday, July 23rd. He also stated that there is still a waiting list for people who wish to support the park by purchasing a bench. Mr. Leone states that we need to identify some new spots within the park for these benches and then we can proceed. Ms. Clement volunteered to walk through the park with Mr. Leone to identify spots.
- c. Ms. Petkiewicz – no comments this time
- d. Ms. Carreau - noticed that there is damage occurring on the Little Tykes platform structure and inquired what she should do. Mr. Madden said that she should take some pictures and she should send them to him. He will then work with DPW to determine how to fix the structure.
- e. Ms. Clement – no additional comments.
- f. Mr. Dumont – stated he was appreciative of the warm welcome to the committee. He also offered his thanks to previous Benson Park Committee Selectman Morin. Mr. Madden echoed the thanks and said that Mr. Morin was unflappable and incredibly dedicated to the town and the committee. He said that the committee appreciated his dedication and effort.

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** John Leone **Second by:** Scott Anderson Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.