



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



John Madden, Chairman      Dillon Dumont, Selectmen Liaison

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### Committee Minutes

**Date:** 07/20/2023 - 7:00pm

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

- **Call to Order:** at 7:01 pm by Chair John Madden
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Mike Catanzaro
- **Attendance:** Chairman John Madden, Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, John Leone, Erica Carreau, Scott Anderson, Mike Catanzaro, & Selectman Dillon Dumont
- **Public Input:** None
- **Approval of minutes:** June 15, 2023 – Mr. Leone made motion to approve, Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0. Ms. Brouillette abstained as she was absent from that meeting.

#### 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. Committee has only used 8.644% of budget. Mr. Leone mentioned that he does have some receipts to submit and will do so.
- B. Train Station Lead Removal: Mr. Madden called 3 inspectors. In the next two weeks an assessment will be arranged where they will come to look at the site and then provide the estimate. As the train station is not a dwelling the requirements will be less than they would be for a home. After we receive the 3 quotes we will make a decision on what actions to take.
- C. Status of temporary storage in Haselton Bard of Shelving/display cases donated to Friends of Benson Park & stored in DPW Pickleball Park Building, Melendy Road – Mr. Leone met with Jason at DPW two weeks ago and viewed the materials stored in DPW. The FoB board then determined that they did not want these cases and they

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should be disposed of. If anyone in the community wants these display cases they can contact the DPW. The cases were donated by the Museum of Science.

- 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. Gorilla Mural Warning Sign & Interpretive Sign with QR Code - Sign – Ms. Brouillette posted the new sign that reminded park visitors to not use chalk in the gorilla cage – unfortunately the next time she visited it had been ripped up. Ms. Brouillette has additional copies so her plan is to use putty to attach them next time. Ms. Brouillette did mention that she hadn't seen any new graffiti so perhaps it was helping. In addition Ms. Brouillette mentioned that the artist (Denise) took the suggestion of the committee and put a sign up with a QR that is still there.
- F. Large dead Hemlock tree near Old Lady and Shoe - Mr. Anderson spoke with Jay at the DPW. Due to the size of the tree it will require special equipment so the DPW will add this tree to the list of other trees that need to be removed as well. They anticipate that it will be done in the fall when the park is less busy.
- G. Identification of new spot in Park for benches – Mr Leone and Sue identified a couple of spots and some FoB members also did it. Mr. Catanzaro will work with Mr. Leone to confirm the chosen spots.
- H. Damage on Little Tykes platform structure – Mr. Madden stated that he look and couldn't find it. Ms. Carreau and Mr. Catanzaro agreed to go to the park after the meeting to take pictures.
- I. Removal of dead trees on Haselton and Deer Run – Mr. Catanzaro put ribbons around the trees that need to be removed as they were ready to come down and/or hanging over trails. He cut about 90% of them but there are a few left still to remove.

### **New Business:**

- Ms. Brouillette brought up several issues concerning the dog park: grass cutting, dumpster, and dog park sponsorship. Ms. Brouillette thanked Joe for being such an amazing help to keep the park well-mowed, but Ms. Brouillette was concerned that there isn't a back-up person to cut the grass in the dog park. She suggested that perhaps DPW could mow the park. Mr. Catanzaro said he would check with DPW. It was also suggested that we look for volunteers at our park clean up day. In regards to the dumpster, Ms. Brouillette said that while at the dog park another patron mentioned to her that she was witness to someone backing up a trailer to the dumpster and dumping personal items. This behavior was recorded and reported to the police, but the question was asked if we still need a dumpster. The dumpster is the receptacle for all the other trash cans in the park but it's unclear if the park could possibly move to a smaller option – like barrels. Mr. Catanzaro said he would check the dumpster prior to trash pick up day to see how full it is and we could discuss next meeting depending on the results. In regards to dog park sponsorship, Ms. Brouillette said that she learned that some other dog parks hang banners in the park with local business names on it. It is a fund-raising tactic where local businesses purchase the ability to have their name on the banner for one year. She suggested that we consider this as it would be a recurring revenue stream. Mr. Leone mentioned that historically we haven't wanted a lot of signage in the park that may detract from the natural beauty so if we do this it should be limited it. It was suggested that maybe we could put some benches in the park in the shade and have those be

sponsored. Ms. Brouillette is going to think through these suggestions and come back to the committee with a plan.

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**Calendar**

- a. Next meeting – Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
- b. Volunteer Clean Up – 3rd Saturday, Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm

**Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

- a. Mr. Dumont stated that he would email Jay to see if DPW can support fixing the washout that is currently happening in the dog park and he would check about the possibility of DPW mowing the park.
  - b. Mr. Anderson – No remarks
  - c. Mr. Madden – The town planned has identified an electric golf cart that the committee could possible have but there is no charger. Mr. Anderson said he would look it up to see if we can get a charger. He will talk to Brian to see if it's possible to have it and to assess the condition.
  - d. Mr. Leone – On July 22<sup>nd</sup> there is a ukulele band and a Beatles cover band that will be playing in the park. Rain date is Sunday. Check FoB page for details.
  - e. Ms. Brouillette – Sue had asked if it was possible to put the water pump back in to allow people to water their plots of land. Mr. Catanzaro stated he would look into it. Ms. Brouillette also stated that there was a query regarding the adopt a spot signs. Mr. Catanzaro stated that he would check with Dick to find out who made them so we could be consistent with signage.
  - f. Mr. Catanzaro – Inquired what is inside the storage container that sits in the park. Mr. Leone responded that there is a large circus wagon and other items. Mr. Catanzaro asked if the wagon could be moved indoors so the storage container could be removed from the premises, but Mr. Leone stated that at this time there isn't a better solution due to the size of the wagon.
  - g. Ms. Carreau & Ms. Petkiewicz – No comments
  - h. Mr. Leone – Stated that we need to update the student volunteer form as this is outdated. Ms. Brouillette said she would take it to town hall to get it updated.
- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Brouillette **Second by:** Ms. Carreau Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.