



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



John Madden, Chairman Dillon Dumont, Selectmen Liaison

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Committee Minutes

Date: 08/17/2023 - 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 Erica Carreau
- **Attendance:** Chairman John Madden, Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Erica Carreau, Scott Anderson, Mike Catanzaro, & Selectman Dillon Dumont
 - Excused: John Leone
- **Public Input:** Joe Undercofler from 137 Musquash Road in Hudson attended. He had been watching the meetings and wanted to give his input. He was the one who has been cutting the grass in the dog park. He was involved as a committee member when the dog park was being constructed and he continues to do the maintenance and volunteer. He mows the grass once a month on clean up day. A couple of times earlier this year he was unable to do it. When he mows he must close the dog park to do it and since it is thick grass it takes him 2.5 hours. He does have someone who helps him and uses a hedge trimmer to get the edges. He uses his own equipment – a tractor. His other tools are stored in the office building. He’s not currently ready to retire but one day he would like to retire and travel. In regards to the trash bins, Joe stated that there are 3 bins in the main dog areas. These smaller size totes were picked because they heavy and difficult to lift when fill. On Saturday and Sunday he empties the bins into the dumpster – they are quite heavy. The cost of the bags are funded by the donation box. The donation box raises about \$30/month and Joe tracks all these funds in Quicken. He uses the money for trash bags and mower blades. Joe pays for gas on his own. Joe will send the report of the costs to Judy. He doesn’t believe that there is any alternative to having the dumpster. He also emptied the recycle bin twice on the weekend and takes the recycling and empties it into his own bin. Dillon will asked DPW if that’s possible. Judy then took a moment to thank Joe for all the work that he does on behalf of the dog park. She wanted people to know who he is and to recognize his hard work. She said she would like to see people come together to help relieve the burden. Joe said he

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would like to see a back-up plan but it takes commitment. He also shared that he doesn't even have a dog but he felt a responsibility to keep it up.

- **Approval of minutes:** July 2023 – Ms. Brouillette made motion to approve. Scott 2nd the motion. Motion passed 6/0.

Old Business:

- A. Balance and Expenditures – no update as there wasn't a new report available. Mr. Madden stated that there was approximately \$62,500 remaining in the capital reserve.
- B. Train Station Lead Removal: Mr. Madden made calls to two more people. Next month we will hopefully have an answer.
- C. Status of temporary storage in Haselton Bard of Shelving/display cases – this item is closed as Friends of Benson doesn't have any use to the items – they will be discarded by DPW.
- D. Fund Raising – Mr. Madden shared that the request for the donation button on the town billing page has been put on the selectman agenda to find out what is needed to make it happen. Once they respond we will then seek approval. The meeting will take place next Tuesday and Mr. Madden will be attending.
- E. Back-up grass cutting – Ms. Brouillette suggested that we ask volunteers who do the Saturday clean up if anyone wants to do it. Ms. Petkiewicz suggested that perhaps a landscape company would do it in exchange for free advertising. The committee will explore these suggestions.
- F. Donation of Golf Cart – Dillon sent an email and Scott followed up. We are waiting on getting the title and formal approval to go forward by the Board of Selectman. The golf cart is a 2017 electric Club cart with standard 3 prong charge. This will help the committee to be more mobile and allowed for Friends of Bensons to travel more quickly up and down the hill to transport their signage for the store to other locations in the park. The cart is currently in the DPW. It will be on the Board of Selectman Agenda to get final approval. Mr. Anderson made a note to call out that it is important to top of the battery with water and remove the key when not in use. He also suggested that anyone who drives it signs a waiver of liability.
- G. Identification of new spot in Park for benches – Mr. Leone is absent and therefore unable to provide an update.
- H. Damage on Little Tykes platform structure – Ms. Carreau confirmed that this has been fixed and the part was replaced.
- I. Removal of dead trees on Haselton and Deer Run – No update
- J. Erosion Washouts in Dog Park – Mr. Madden confirmed that he would reach out to Jay and ask if the DPW can dump some gravel into the dog park to fix the areas of washout.
- K. Restoration of hand water pump - Mr. Catanzaro shared that the water would not be potable and could not be given to dogs or kids and they would need to have a sign to confirm that. It would be water for garden use only. Mr. Catanzaro will follow up.
- L. Standardization of Adopt-a-Spot Signs – Mr. Catanzaro confirmed that the person who used to make the signs isn't doing it anymore. They were made at Make labs in Nashua. Mr. Madden stated he would reach out to a person he knows at the VFW who is a member at Make It Labs to see if that would be willing to make the signs.

New Business:

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- Ms. Brouillette created a list of new ideas for dog park improvements by speaking with people at the dog park. One idea was to add an entrance/exit at the back of the dog park. This would allow for patrons to exit/enter the dog park directly from the hiking trails and would also provide as an alternative exit should there be any reason that the main entrance is blocked. Mr. Brouillette mentioned that previously there had been an incident where a dog fight broke out at the entrance of the park and therefore people were trapped and felt unsafe. Ms. Brouillette stated she would look into the cost. Another suggested improvement was the little dog park. The asphalt there should be removed. It might take a team of people with tools, but it should be able to be done. It will be added to the list for the next clean up. Ms. Brouillette stated that she is still researching the sponsorship idea for the park. It would provide a reliable revenue stream for the park. Ms. Brouillette will continue to explore this idea.

Calendar

- a. Volunteer Clean Up – 3rd Saturday, August 19th, 9am – 2pm
- b. Volunteer Clean Up – 3rd Saturday, September 16th, 9 am - 2 pm
- c. Next meeting – Thursday, September 21st at 7 pm

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

- Mr. Madden stated that Susan Piper expressed interest in joining the park committee. He will follow up.
 - Mr. Anderson reminded everyone that on September 11th at 6:30 there will be a 9/11 memorial ceremony at the park.
 - Ms. Brouillette reminded everyone that Friends of Benson's would be having a Family Fun Day on September 9th at 11am.
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- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Brouillette **Second by:** Ms. Carreau Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.