



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



John Madden, Chairman      Dillon Dumont, Selectmen Liaison

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### Committee Minutes

**Date:1/18/2024 - 7:00pm**

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

- **Call to Order:** at 7:00 pm by Chairman John Madden
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Sarah Petkiewicz
- **Attendance:** Chairman John Madden, Vice Chair Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Mike Catanzaro, Erica Carreau, Dillon Dumont, John Leone & Scott Anderson
- **Public Input:**
  - Introduction of new member applicant Nathan Muir** – Nathan owns his own landscaping company behind California Burrito. He has been helping in the dog park to do clean ups and he is excited to keep Benson Park looking nice.
  - Introduction of student Tyler Ohanian who is seeking volunteer opportunities** – Tyler was unable to attend this evening due to a work commitment, but we welcome him to attend future meetings and to volunteer at other events.
- **Approval of minutes:** Reviewed minutes from 11/16/23. A motion was made to accept the minutes from Ms. Brouillette, 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion made by Sarah Petkiewicz. Passed 5/0/2. Ms. Carreau and Mr. Leone abstained as they were not present at the last meeting.

#### Old Business:

- A. Balance and Expenditures – Spent 17% of budget for full year for office supplies, printing and meals for volunteers. We have submitted a warrant article to add \$10,000 to the account.

- B. Train Station update – Three companies have expressed interest. One company, American Environmental Testing Services LLC in Bedford trying to set up a time for next week. Integrated Lead Services has provided a quote. Institute for Environmental Education - we sent a follow up. Once we have 3 quotes Mr. Madden will compile the quotes and we will vote. Then the Board of Selectmen will vote. These companies will determine where the lead is and recommend removal. Once removed we will need to get a different company to approve that the lead has been removed and it's safe. This would be a capital reserve expense. Train station is not a residence and so the removal requirements are lower.
- C. Approve Report on Actions Fund Raising Button - need to ask permission to do it. Then we propose it to the Town of Selectman. The monthly cost of it is \$100 per month. This doesn't make sense. We will explore if we can get this waived. Members review and will get back to Mr. Madden.
- D. Update on the golf cart from Scott Anderson. Guidelines and release to Steve and the attorneys have recommended changes. Mr. Anderson will take the lead on reviewing and making recommended changes. They have provided two samples that we will use to draft. The only people who are able to use it are the DPW, BPC, and FoB and all must sign a waiver in order to use it. This cart will allow individuals who have mobility issues to get through the park. We can also put a trailer on the back. Mr. Dillon recommended using the 8 page template that was provided as it most closely matched what we had put forward, but with some layout changes.
- E. Erosion Washout - Ms. Brouillette visited the park after the last rainstorm and determined that it wasn't too bad and after time it will get packed down. By spring they anticipate it will be back to normal.
- F. Adopt a Spot Signs - The names have been provided to Glenn from Ms. Brouillette. She is wondering if there are any limitations on the length of the sign. Should we put parameters around what people can on the signs to make it easier for those who are making the signs? Maybe we should provide a template in the future? Ms. Brouillette will reach out to Glenn to ask if he has suggestions around the length of the sign.
- G. Asphalt in Small Dog Park - Mr. Madden believes that the area of the asphalt is roughly 40x40 and it is broken up pieces that are uneven and broken. Once the weather improves we will bring a couple of people out there to break it up and dump it outside the fence where the DPW stated they would pick it up.
- H. Alternative Entrance - This is complete and it looks great. People are using it and we have received positive feedback from dog owners. Ms. Brouillette said she will put a sign to remind people of the age permitted in the dog park.
- I. FY2023 Annual Report - this has been sent to Lorrie on Monday. We added some historical pictures of the giraffe and someone feeding a giraffe.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Friends of Benson has volunteered to use some of their fund raising money to contribute to a capital project in the park. Right now they are focusing their money on the museum in the park, but at the last meeting they voted to set aside some budget to Benson Park. They are asking committee members to consider what they would like to be funded.

Perhaps the dog park and purchasing a rider tractor of maintenance? At the next meeting we can make a list of work items and we can select the top three.

- Committee Members - John Leone and Jack Madden appointments expire in April 2024. Mr. Madden has applied for renewal and Mr. Leone is planning to.
- Mr. Madden reported that there was minor vandalism on the vents of the train station. Someone contacted FoB through the Facebook page. Mr. Catanzaro took pictures and sent them to Mr. Madden who then sent them to DPW who came and fixed it. They are now screwed down so this will not be an issue again. Thank you to everyone involved in pointing out and coming to a solution.
- Mr. Madden shared that roughly 3 years ago the Conservation Commission planned to digitize the trails in Benson Park. Dick Empey made the original map where north is pointing down. The new version is orientated where north is facing up. They have provided us with a draft and we have found that some minor adjustments are needed like the Hazelton Barn and the numbers weren't included. Mr. Madden will discuss this with them. Ms. Brouillette pointed out that we have a lot of existing signage using the original maps so if we have to change it there will be a cost. Mr. Anderson believes that the committee could probably develop the signs. Mr. Madden suggested that perhaps we could add a QR code to show where people are on the map. Mr. Leone asked that Mr. Madden email the map out to the committee members.

## Calendar

- Next meeting – Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7 pm.

## Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

Mr. Dumont - Happy New Year to everyone! Looking forward to what we can accomplish this year.

Mr. Anderson – none

Mr. Leone - the 10 donated benches have been placed in the park. Not necessarily in the final spot, but close to it. The plaques are on them. Currently there is a waiting list - we are considering not doing benches next round, but rather doing picnic tables.

Ms. Brouillette – None

Ms. Petkiewicz – None

Ms. Carreau - There is a fallen tree blocking a trail - will DPW still come and take care of it in the winter. Mr. Catanzaro stated that yes they would and that Ms. Carreau should reach out to tell Jay.

Mr. Catanzaro – Ready for spring

Nathan Muir - appreciate you having me

- **Motion to Adjourn by: Mr. Leone Second by: Mr. Anderson** Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.