



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Advisory Committee

12 School Street.

Hudson, New Hampshire 03051

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### Meeting minutes

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: HGTV Studio

#### 1. Attendance

John Madden – Excused Absence

Susan Clement – Excused Absence

Jake Beauchemin – Present

Nathan Muir – Present

Matthew Pelletier – Present

Harry Schibanoff – Excused Absence

Evan Maloney – Present

Ellen Griffin – Present

Heidi Jakoby (BOS) – Present

#### 2. Public Input

a. Gary Gasdia from Hudson Lions club presented a check for \$200 for the Lion's Pride restoration project.

b. Kaden Chafe, Hudson Eagle Scout provided an update and shared pictures on his Benson Dog Park agility course Eagle Scout project. He presented a check for \$50. Heidi signed the project completion form.

c. Todd Pollack and Judy Brouillette provided an update on the work done to re-open the dog park.

### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Jake Beauchemin and seconded by Matthew Pelletier to accept the minutes as written. All members approved.

### Old Business

a. Balance & Expenditures – February 2026 balance not available. The Benson’s Park Capital Reserve Fund balance is \$120,660.66

b. Update on our response to DHR review of Lead Paint and Mold & Moisture removal postponed. Review of documents to determine if BPAC has responded or if a response is still needed.

c. Site preparation and design of “covered” bridge replacement over Merrill Creek. Postponed to a later date where Town Engineer and DPW can plan without snow covering location.

d. Review of proposed charter of the Benson Park Advisory Committee. Postponed until next meeting. Members are requested to review charter between meetings.

e. Review Ordinances listed on Park Usage Form. Discuss possible language/rewording for review by DPW, HPD and Town. Heidi spoke about moving forward developing policies around usage at the Park with a subcommittee. How to plan an event, who approves, are the DPW or police needed at an event due to size, etc.

f. Update on Lion’s Pride restoration project. Lion’s Club presented \$200 check to fund the review of the lions to determine what the cost will be to repair/restore.

g. Update on Benson Park Advisory and Friends of Benson Park upcoming events in the Park – Natalie shared that plans are underway to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Benson Wild Animal Farm.

1. Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Inner Dragon Martial Arts and the Hudson Lions Club on March 28. Rain date is April 4.

2. Monthly Volunteer Clean Up Dates have been scheduled for the third Saturday of the month. The first one is scheduled for April 18. Sponsors are needed for lunch.

3. A documentary is being created on the 100 years of Bensons.

4. A Family Fun Day is scheduled for September 12 to celebrate 100 years.

h. Update on mounting historical registry signs to three granite posts (identifying the buildings listed on the State Register of Historic Places) donated by Roger Pelling, Gate City Monument. Approved by DPW who will help Gate City with installation in May.

i. Update on Adopt A Spot. Adopters can email [bensonpark@hudson.gov](mailto:bensonpark@hudson.gov).

j. Update on roof repairs and painting of Historical Office Building. DPW is handling. Repairs and painting falls into historical guidelines.

#### **New Business**

a. Closure of Benson Dog Park – a group has formed to establish a non-profit to obtain the required liability insurance and oversee the maintenance of the park.

b. March 10 is election day. There is a warrant article to rename and clearly identify the purpose of the Benson Park Capital Reserve Fund.

c. Discussion occurred regarding potential revenue sources for the upkeep of the buildings and the park. Sponsorship signs are not allowed. Other sources? Nate would like to take this on.

d. The stairs in the office flood and freeze in the winter. Nate will send a note to Heidi who will request DPW to look at the issue.

A motion was made by Jake Beauchemin and seconded by Matthew Pelletier to adjourn at 7:52 pm. All members approved.