



TOWN OF HUDSON
Benson Park Advisory Committee
12 School Street
Hudson, New Hampshire 03051

Benson Park Advisory Committee
May 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Attendance: Ellen Griffin, Susan Clement, Nathan Muir, Evan Maloney, Matt Pelletier, Harry Schibanoff.

Excused absence: Jan Horvath and Jake Baechemin.

Kim Allen Board of Selectman Liaison Kim Allen, Natalie Newell Friends of Benson Park

4. Public Input:

5. Approval of Minutes: Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2026 Motion made by Matt, seconded by Evan. Five in favor, zero against.

6. Old Business:

- a. Balance and Expenditures- May 2026, 845.00 Balance. The Benson Park Capital Reserve Fund Balance is 127,803.00 and \$667.35
- b. Update - Warrant article # 14 "Revise the Benson Land Capital Reserve Fund" was approved. This fund can now be used for repairs and maintenance of the park and all buildings within the park. Once it has been determined which projects the Committee would like to move forward with a memo will be sent to Roy Sorenson who will present the proposal(s) to BOS for approval. The three projects that were discussed were the Office and Kitchen, the Train Station and the Bridge.
- c. Update on our response to DHR review of Lead Paint and Mold Moisture removal. This was started by Jack who will provide package of information about what is needed and move forward then.
- d. Update on Proposed Charter changes of the Benson Park Advisory Committee – Jake is working on this. He is planning on reviewing the charter from the former Sustainability Committee to determine if there are any points that should be added to the BPAC Charter. The plan is to vote at our next meeting.
- e. Update- on Historical Building Post Markers for Hazelton Barn, Office/Kitchen and Train Station. Acceptance of the ~\$4,500 donation from Roger Pellerin at Gate City Monument Co. was accepted by the BOS and DPW- Sue Gate City Monument is planning to start after Memorial Day. Natalie and Sue will work together on this. Natalie is planning a Historical Hike from the Discovery Center (Elephant Barn) to the Hazelton Barn led by Dana Benner to unveil the markers. The hike will stop at historical sites at Bensons where the markers will be placed. The trail to be hiked is a rough trail that would be challenging

to push a stroller or wheelchair on. Three of the buildings are located in the parking lot and can be accessed with a wheelchair.

f. Update on Lions Pride restoration Project – A volunteer who redid the Shoe and has background in restoration has offered to help restore the lions, however, he is concerned about liability. The cost would be for materials only. Roy Sorenson would like to speak with Lee and then to he would present this to the BOS at the June 9 meeting. The project could start right way with cleaning of the Lions and then repairing them. Sue

f. Status of discussion with town Engineer Elvis Dhima concerning site preparation and design of the covered bridge replacement. - Jan Elvis and Jay are meeting with possible donors to cover the cost of repairing the bridge. There is a meeting set for next week. Jan will have more information after the meeting.

g. Review Ordinances listed on park usage form finding what other town parks are using. - Evan has been reviewing ordinances in other local cities and towns. Benson's ordinances need to be reviewed and updated. Several areas were discussed.

On the deed it states that the park can be used by the public for quiet low impact recreation – no vehicles or machines on the land unless they are on approved roads. The only approved roads are the parking lots. Public passive use includes activities like walking hiking, etc. Low impact means no baseball, soccer, etc.

Motorized or mechanical vehicles are prohibited. Bicycles or e-bikes are mechanical, but the Deed does allow cycling. According to NH law the first two categories of e-bikes are not considered motorized.

Requests to reserve specific areas of the park are increasing. Some are not aware that a form needs to be completed to have a large group at the park. Nashua does have specific areas in city parks that can be reserved. Enforcement of ordinances/rules in Nashua is handled by Parks and Recs and the police. How would reservation enforcement, leash law enforcement, noise violations, motorized vehicle violations be enforced? Are there Hudson town ordinances that cover the park ordinances? Once new park ordinances are written and in place who will enforce them?

What would the cost of implementing a program to monitor park usage be was discussed. NH residents cannot be charged a fee. Out of state residents could be.

h. Safety in the parking lot near Friends of Hudson Dog Park specifically when first entering the park and going down the hill to the lower lot. Could DPW put in a speed bump? Or Sign? ~ Sue
A request made to the DPW was denied. No police report was filed and the DPW felt it was hearsay. Sue took pictures to send to the BOS . Dog park is blind to people coming down the hill. Could the DPW paint a crosswalk and put in signs or possibly remove some of the shrubs that block view? Another issue is that the rain has washed out the area to the right of the driveway. Can the DPW take a look at swail?

The 501(c)3 status for the dog park has been approved. The first clean-up day was a success. The next public meeting July 15 at 7:30 pm. All are invited.

i. Two areas at the Tiger Cage need to be addressed. There is damage to the stone on one of the corners of the base that needs to be repaired. The cage is currently locked because a teenager was hanging on one of the bars at the top of the cage and it broke. He was not hurt when he fell to the ground. Should the bars be removed? Roy Sorenson and the DPW will be notified. Steve Chasey of Chasey Steel has worked on the cage in the past. They can take a look and help repair if needed.

j. The acceptance of the Luggage Wagon from Windham is on hold as there may be an issue with storage. Sue went to measure the door in the train station to ensure the wagon would fit through the doors and learned that the door is a fake. Can a real door be installed?

k. Events schedule for Friends of Bensons Park

Cage Concert Memorial Middle School Tuesday, June 9 at 12:00. Will be moved to the Amphitheater if the cage has not been reopened.

New Discovery Center banner hung was hung on May 21. There will be a soft opening 100-year celebration – 9/12 – circus wagon and other memorabilia.

Historical Hike – May 23 9:00 led by Dana Benner

NH Give runs from 5:00 pm June 9 through 5:00 pm June 10. Natalies is working on obtaining matching sponsors. Interested sponsors can email info@bensonpark.com

Friends of Benson Park is the charity of choice at Nash Casino from June 7 through June 11. One sixth of the profits will be donated to Friends of Benson Park.

The Yankee Brass Band Concert will be held July 23 at 8:00 pm.

A Scavenger Hunt in conjunction with the Rodgers Memorial Library will be held this summer.

Saturday, June 6 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm Magic Hour with Jim Leach will be held in the Discovery Center.

Saturday, August 1 at 11:00 am there will be a live bird and raptor demo by the Audubon Society.

There are three new memorial donation picnic tables available. Pricing and information can be found at friendsofbendonpark.org.

7. New Business:

- a. Erickson Foundation Solutions will set up a date for the Fall to have their employees complete a day of volunteering at the park. The DPW has approved. They will look at the water damage in the Kitchen.
- b. An anonymous donation was given to Natalie. The donor request that the \$500 donation be split in the following manner: \$50 to Friends of Benson Park and \$450 to the Town \$200 for the Lions Pride, \$200 for the Train Station and \$50 for the 911 memorial. A motion was made by Matt to accept the donation and forward to the BOS for approval. Seconded by Ellen. Five in favor, zero opposed.

8. Calendar:

- a. Benson Park Advisory Meeting Thursday, June 18th - 7:00 pm 2026
- b. Volunteer Clean up Saturday, June 20th 9 -2 Lunch Provided. Girl Scout and Veterans – thank you – VFW – assembling new tables.
- c. Michael Seckla: Hudson Memorial Middle School Cage Concert 6/9 between 12:00 Hudson Memorial Jazz band and Woodwind choir & swing choir. - Natalie Possibly in Amphitheater if cage is not available.

9. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

John Madden is stepping down which leaves an opening for the position of Chair of the Committee. Matt nominated Sue for the position, Ellen seconded the nomination. Four in favor, zero opposed.

The position of Vice Chair was left vacant by the move of Sue to Chair. Harry nominated Nathaniel, which was seconded by Matt. Five in favor, zero opposed.

There is one alternate position available. Sue will check with Mallory to see if she is interested.

10. Adjournment A motion made by Evan and seconded by Harry to adjourn. Five in favor, zero opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.