



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectmen Liaison

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### Meeting Minutes May 15, 2014

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:01pm, May 15, 2014, in the Board of Selectmen Room, Town Hall. A. Frank Cunniff led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

#### 2. Attendance:

R. Alio, Vice Chair, J. Barnes, K. Bowen, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, J. Leone, and Alternate Selectman Liaison P. Nichols.

Excused: S. Jasper

Absent: Selectman Liaison B. Nadeau

#### 3. Public Input - None

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of May 1, 2014

**J. Barnes made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 1, 2014.**

**K. Bowen second the motion**

**Six (6) Ayes**

**Two (2) Abstentions**

#### 5. Presentations

A. Frank Cunniff of Troop 20 came before the committee to seek approval for his Eagle Scout Project in the Dog Park. His agility equipment plans included a Dog Walk, Tetter Totter, Weave Poles, Tire Jump, and Bar Jump. He has been approved for his Eagle Scout Project and will hold a Spaghetti Dinner in mid June at the Hudson Community Center to raise funds. He has also contacted the Dog Park sub-committee who has accepted the task to maintain the equipment once it has been installed. The project should be finished in about 2 months.

**J. Leone made a motion to accept the Eagle Scout Project and to authorize H. Schibanoff to sign the necessary paperwork. J. Barnes second the motion. All in Favor – motion carried.**

## 6. Old Business

**A. RFP for the Shoe** – at this point in time there could possibly be one reply, and there are hopes for multiple bids by the submission deadline on next Thursday. In one week more information should be available so that the project could be brought before the Board of Selectmen for approval.

**B. Red Barn Area** – trees, brush, and the upper and lower fences have been removed. The Highway Department will spread loam and seed the slope with a retention material by Memorial Day. It was suggested that our committee enhance the area with bushes and trees.

**C. Highway Department Request for Maintenance** – K. Burns reported to the Board of Selectmen that a designated Maintenance Day at the park was not feasible for his department. (Example – emergency situations which suddenly arise in town, and his services are needed elsewhere.) A sign would be made that the Highway Department could not commit to a specified Maintenance Day. The day would be determined by the Road Agent. Discussion revolved around the \*rotating day\* as very unmanageable especially when it pertained to school field trips from surrounding areas and other large groups (with permits) visiting the park. The Hudson School System trips to the park will also be required to obtain permits to the park. It was suggested that the Recreation Department would be able to notify all school groups about closures for the 6 hours of park maintenance on their scheduled day. Many unforeseen situations were prime concerns for the committee members, and our intent would be to approach the Highway Department to arrive at a compromising resolution.

**D. Finances** – to close out the Account with approximately \$9000 remaining. Funding will be needed for the Old Shoe and Red Barn Area, and those figures should be ready by the first week in June. It was recommended that we take a closer look at our budget so that we would not be overextending and possibly defer additional expenditures until the next budget of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our 2014 -2015 budget will remain the same as last year.

## 7. New Business

**A. Volunteer Program** – How might we increase our volunteer program? K. Bowen, H. Schibanoff, and J. Leone volunteered to be on a committee to get the program started. K. Bowen stated that when he sends out over 435 email reminders for Clean-up Days, only about 70 of the emails are opened

**B. TD Tree Day Grant** – The park has received the grant, and the committee is looking towards Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> as possible dates to plant the 40 trees with the TD volunteers in the far left corner outside the fence along the Dog Park. (near Post #2) The preliminary work could be started at the August Clean-up Day. The prep work for the project would include removing invasive bushes, digging oversized holes, and filing them with fresh loam and soil enhancements such as peat moss. Much credit was extended to D. Empey for assisting H. Schibanoff with preparing the grant.

## **8. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

**P. Nichols** will report our concerns regarding Maintenance Day to the Board of Selectmen

**J. Leone** announced that he has been receiving requests from family members for additional park benches. It was suggested that the Friends of Benson Park conduct a survey in about 5 to 6 weeks to plan possible new locations.

**H. Schibanoff** stated that a Home School Service group would like to volunteer their service on May 23<sup>rd</sup> form 4-5pm.

### **Next Meeting**

June 5, 2005

### **Adjournment 8:14 pm**

**J. Leone** made a **Motion to Adjourn**

**R. Alio** - **Second the Motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**