



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



John "Jack" Madden, Chairman      Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison

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### Committee Minutes

**Date:** 05/16/2024 - 7:00pm

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

- **Call to Order:** at 7:01 pm by Chairman John Madden
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison
- **Attendance:** Chairman John Madden, Sarah Petkiewicz, Nathan Muir, Gary Williams
- **Excused:** Vice Chair Judith Brouillette
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau & Mike Catanzaro
- **Public Input:**

Joe Undercofler of 137 Musquash road attended the meeting to discuss the maintenance of the dog park. He was part of the original dog park committee and he wanted to remind everyone that when the park opened there was an agreement that the town would not have to fund the dog park. Originally there was a Dog Park Committee, but it was disbanded in 2016. Mr. Undercofler agreed to maintain the park in order to ensure that the park stays open. He mows it once a month and takes out the trash weekly. He is retiring at the end of the summer and he wants to be traveling and therefore someone needs to take on his duties. It is critical that the trash gets emptied weekly or we will have a problem. Mowing the lawn is less critical but it takes about 3 hours to do and he uses an old tractor because there's a risk to equipment since the area is uneven and rocky. The committee needs to come up with a solution by August 2<sup>nd</sup> when he retires. Laurie Canata of 46 Island Ave wants to donate her stone lions that were originally at Benson Park. DPW is current seeking a way to move them. We need to get permission from the Board of Selectmen to accept the donation – it will probably be towards the end of the summer. Ms. Canata acquired them from an auction in 1991. On May 4<sup>th</sup> Mr. Madden met with Friends of Benson to review potential locations. We may find a place for them that isn't the original location as we want to try to limit the chance of vandalism.

- **Approval of minutes:** There were not enough people present to make a quorum and therefore voting will have to wait until next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- A. Balance and Expenditures – There is \$69.86 that will be reimbursed to Judy from the annual fund.
- B. Reports on Lead Paint and Mold & Moisture Inspection – the inspection took place on March 28<sup>th</sup> by AETS of New England. The BPC should go through all the materials that were sent out. After everything is reviewed we will contact the vendor and do a conference call and make a plan.
- C. Golf Cart Use Procedures and New Liability Form – Mr. Catanzaro was absent but it makes sense to do the training on the golf cart this Saturday since it is the volunteer clean up day.
- D. GPS Maps – New additions have been made to the maps and the maps have been shared with the committee. Mr. Catanzaro will be the project officer. There is a QR code that you can use to view the maps. .
- E. Integra Biosciences – Sue Clement was not present, but provided BPC with an update via email. She stated that she had about 20-30 volunteers who did gardening. They went to disassemble the tree fence that had been created ,but it was gone. The company states that they will make a donations and some volunteers said that they would like to Adopt A Spot.
- F. Report on Flagstone Repairs – Keith Leavitt Masonry repaired the steps at the Old Lady in the Shoe and also the patio at the A Frame. Mr. Madden shared images of the work that had been done and they look great. This change will help so that the area is level and water will no longer gather and create puddles.
- G. Benson Parking Permits – Parking permits are still available for volunteers.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Right to Know – The attorney General issued a 168 page document to the committee under New Hampshire’s Right to Know law. The committee needs to review this document to determine if any of the contents require actions from the committee.
- b) Dog Park – New BPC member Gary Williams shared that he works for Sunshine Paving and he is very concerned about the state of the park. Sunshine Paving has provided a rough draft of what they could do to help the erosion around the dog park. They could install a berm to keep water out of the park and insert a dry well. Sunshine offered equipment, trucks, and labor but they would ask BPC to pay for the asphalt and the dry well. We are currently waiting on price. The asphalt millings need to be steam rolled because right now it is washing down into the wetlands. Mr. Williams would like to know if DPW could do the dry well – it would cost roughly \$20k if Sunshine Paving does it. The issue is the rock base and if it is even possible to make a well. Sunshine paving removed the asphalt from the small dog park but it needs to be built up to prevent erosion. Mr. Williams said that if we could even just do the berm that this would prevent further erosion as diverting the water is the biggest priority.

## Calendar

- Volunteer Clean-up Day – 9am – 2pm Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>  
*Mr. Madden will not be in attendance at the clean up day as he will be attending the celebration of life for BPC member Mr. Anderson. This is being held at Luk's Bar and Grill. His widow would like to purchase a bench in his honor and is working with Friends of Benson to hopefully make that happen.*
- Next meeting – Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Friends of Benson Park – Petting Zoo Family Fun Day – Saturday, September 14, 2024

## Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

Ms. Roy – Excited to be part of the committee

Mr. Williams – What are the next steps with the dog park? If something isn't done soon more erosion will continue and the dog park will ultimately be unusable.

Mr. Muir – nothing

Ms. Petkiewicz – nothing

Mr. Madden – Ms. Brouillette was unable to make today's meeting, but wanted me to share that the niece of the individual who originally painted the gorilla cage mural will be returning to the park to touch up the mural.

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Mr. Muir **Second by:** Ms. Petkiewicz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.