



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



John “Jack” Madden, Chairman      Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison

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### Committee Minutes

**Date: 06/20/2024 - 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 Gary Williams
- **Attendance:** Chairman John Madden, Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Gary Williams
- **Excused:** Mike Catanzaro – work conflict & Kara Roy, Selectman Liaison – out of town travel
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau & Nate Muir
- **Public Input:**

Natalie Newall from the Friends of Benson came to discuss the placement of the stone lions that were donated. Ultimately the DPW will decide, but right now the location being considered is the place in the southwest corner of the park in a grassy area near the kitchen/barn. It’s easily seen by police for surveillance. Mr. Madden will ask DPW if that location is good. We will then get the official acceptance from the donor. The donor would also like to have a plaque placed with their names on it and also a sign to tell people not to play on the lions.
- **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 – Current FY24 budget year (-\$1,898.27) overbudget & Capital Reserve Fund (\$84,086.12), of which we have short term access to \$50,000.

5/16/2024

The mold and mildew inspection was paid out of the general fund so we are overbudget. It should have been paid out the capital reserve.

B. Reports on Lead Paint and Mold & Moisture Inspection – Jack will go through the report with the inspector. Will put out bid on removal and then select the vendor. Once we select a vendor we will have to present to the Board of Selectman to get approval. Nothing can be done inside the building until the lead/mold are removed.

C. Golf Cart Use Procedures and New Liability Form – On Hold

D. GPS Maps – On hold

E. Report of June 15<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Clean Up – Sue Clement reported that there was a large mulch delivery thanks for Mr. Muir. Almost 30 people signed up and two people adopted spots. Mulch around the shoe was completed. Trails next to spot that were over grown were dug up and raked up and new gravel was put down – it was very productive. Ms. Brouillette said it looks great. Mr. Williams suggested that we should make a list in the Hudson Times to advertise about what tasks in the park need volunteers and when the cleanup days are. We should also tell people what tools we may need although those are limited to hand tools and hand power tools and everyone needs to sign a release. If we can communicate to people more about what is needed on these days we may get more volunteers.

F. Friends of Benson Family Fun Day – the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual family fun day will be Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a traveling petting family farm from Carriage Shack Farm that will include chickens and ducks. It will start at 11am and last for 4 hours.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Lions in the park – See above notes under “Public Input”.
- b) Donation of \$100 for Old Lady in Show Repairs – Mr. Madden will figure out how to process the donation.
- c) Donation of Giraffe Statues from Committee Member Gary Williams – Mr. Williams would like to donate two 8-foot giraffes and one 22-inch baby giraffe. They were not a part of the original park, but Mr. Williams thought they would be fitting for Benson. He shared that they need some work – the paint has peeled off a bit – the heads come off and water is seeping into the neck. They weigh over 200 pounds each. While they are large they would not withstand kids climbing on them. They should be stripped and redone with paint. Unfortunately, Natalie shared that the elephant barn has limited space for these inside and the FoB park would need to vote to make a decision. Ms. Brouillette said she would send Natalie pictures. For now, we will table accepting them and Ms. Brouillette will ask Denis (Who painted the gorilla cage) if she has any suggestions for painting the giraffe. Mr. Williams said he would try to find more additional information about the giraffes – he knows they came from Scotland from a liquor company.
- d) Adopt a Spot T-Shirts – Sue was asked if we could consider having adopt a spot t-shirts. It would be nice to give people shirts to wear with information on it – maybe a park picture on the front and information on the back. It would be good if we could get them paid for. Right now we have over 50 spots that people have adopted. Sue will research companies and quantities. Maybe whoever pays for it will get to advertise on the shirts.

## Calendar

- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Volunteer Clean-up Day – Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm
- Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Volunteer Clean-up Day – Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm
- Friends of Benson Park – Petting Zoo Family Fun Day – Saturday, September 14, 2024

## Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

Natalie Newall – at some point we should consider charging a fee for the park once the museum opens. Maybe it's only free to Hudson residents? Perhaps we could allow vendors and food trucks to make a profit. Mr. Madden reminded the committee members that any money earned in the park has to stay in the park.

Sue Clement – The people painting the shoe are almost done. Is it possible for us to get a camera on it? Or maybe just motion sense lighting with a fake camera? The trailhead at the bottom of the dog park was vandalized and the sign needs to be completely redone. The sign near the nut trees also needs to be replaced. Sue also shared that she has applied to be a board member and hopefully will become a member.

Mr. Williams – Sunshine Paving is unable to get volunteers to the paving. The owner feels badly but we have no way to complete this. Perhaps another company will volunteer. The water runoff is causing damage to the park and people are tripping and falling. The rental place would rent a machine for \$200 for the day but we would need a large pick-up truck and trailer to haul it. Natalie suggested that perhaps we should charge a fee for the dog park like Nashua does.

Ms. Petkiewicz – No comments

Mr. Madden – No comments

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Brouillette **Second by:** Mr. Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.