



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



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

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### Committee Minutes

**Date:** 07/18/2024 - 7:00pm

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

- **Call to Order:** at 7:01 pm by Vice-Chair Judy Brouillette
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Sue Clement
- **Attendance:** Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Gary Williams, Nate Muir, Sue Clement
- **Excused:** Chairman John Madden – sick, Kara Roy, Selectman Liaison
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau
- **Public Input:**

Dave Morin of 29 Library Street in Hudson discussed that the Firefighters Memorial would be relocated from the corner of Lowell and Central Street in Hammon Park, into Benson Park. It would be placed on the grassy area across from the 9/11 memorial. Hudson Monument will relocate it and bring it to the park in the middle of August. There will be no additions made except for a tree that will be planted. There will be no cost to the town to move it. As it is a large monument it may take about a month to completely install it in the park.
- **Approval of minutes:** There were not enough people present from the last meeting to approve the 6.20.24 minutes, and therefore voting will have to wait until next meeting.

#### Old Business:

- A. Balance and Expenditures – did not discuss.
- B. Reports on Lead Paint and Mold & Moisture Inspection – On hold until Mr. Madden returns to provide an update.

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- C. 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. Natalie Newall stated that they are looking for volunteers for the event. Interested individuals can email [info@friendsofbensonpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbensonpark.org). All volunteers will get a t-shirt. They are also looking for corporate sponsorships.
- D. Lion Statues – We are waiting to hear back on the request to place it next to the kitchen area.
- E. Donation to Lady in the Shoe for \$100 – donation has been accepted.
- F. Giraffe statues donated by Committee member Gary Williams – we are holding on this determination until we get more information on the giraffes and the potential work that may need to be done to restore them. Ms. Brouillette said she would share pictures with Natalie at Friends of Benson so the Friends of Benson can review and determine if they might want them. Natalie stated that due to the current plans for inside the building that they would have to be placed outside.
- G. Status of Adopt-a-Spot T-Shirts – Ms. Clement contacted someone who could make the shirts – they still need to determine the color, but it is making progress.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Proposed Mural – Denise who painted the gorilla cage has proposed a mural approximately 4 feet by 5 feet. Natalie from Friends of Benson ran it by the board but because of construction it is difficult to determine where the mural would go to ensure it wouldn't be impacted by future construction. Possibly on the side of the building. Natalie will connect directly with Denise to discuss further.
- b) University of New Hampshire, Fisher Cat research project – Will Crispin and Frank Shivers presented a project that UNH is working on where they monitor fisher cats because the population seems to have dipped. They live trap and monitor and then determine the main causes of mortality. The cage traps will be set in the evening and get checked first thing in the morning. Traps would probably remain for 2 weeks in each location. If captured the team and field vet would collar the fisher on site. Ms. Clement inquired if we could put signs up about the traps and the team responded that they can put signs in the store and the dog park and also at the entrance. Mr. Williams asked if it could be filmed, but the team responded the institute has to approve it and there are a lot of regulations around recording animals. Mr. Williams also inquired why they selected Benson and what happens if they catch things other than fisher cats. The team responded that they chose Benson because they already have a camera in Benson and it has detected fisher cats. They typically don't catch other animals because they use beaver as bait and also proper placement of the traps. The team stated that this is a multi-year study and the collar on the fisher lasts 2-3 years which is roughly the life of the fisher. The project will probably run through 2027 and they are able to share the results once it is complete. Ms. Clement made a motion to approve and Sarah seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.

## **Calendar**

- Volunteer Clean-up Day – Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm
- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Volunteer Clean-Up Day – Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm.

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- Friends of Benson Park – Petting Zoo Family Fun Day – Saturday, September 14, 2024

**Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:**

Sue Clement – We would like to do an opening of the shoe once it's done. Perhaps have a storybook music and characters.

Judy Brouillette – The bushes near the dog park are getting high. She will clip them back because it's difficult to see when backing out and someone could get hit. Perhaps we could consider signage about going down the hill slowly. Maybe DPW has a sign that the park would use. In addition we need a new DPW liaison because Mike has left and now we don't have anyone.

Sue Clement – we also have more walkways to do. The paths by the pond and river will be done this weekend. We need mulch and more materials.

Nate Muir – Stated that he will ask for a donation of materials

Gary Williams – He has been talking to Mike at Regis and they will make a proposal and looking for partners and businesses to help them fix the dog park. Each company will donate a little to get the dog park fixed – maybe Brocks or Continental. It probably won't be able to be completed until the end of August. Part of the problem is that drainage is from the upper lot and it might be in the town interest to take care of it.

Natalie Newall – There is a feasibility study being conducted for a Benson museum and discovery center. The Nashua Regional Planning commission set up a device to track cars entering and leaving the park. One July 3<sup>rd</sup> there were 1,414 cars that entered the park. The week of July 4<sup>th</sup> had an average of 1,102 cards entering the park. If the museum had fees it could help bring people not the park and pay for the upkeep.

Sue Clement – Ralph got the keys of the golf carts, but we have learned that the cart needs a wire replacement because the battery doesn't start. Perhaps Friends of Benson may want the cart. It will cost money to repair and maintain it so it is worthwhile to the committee to keep the cart? We should discuss at future meetings.

Ms. Petkiewicz – No comments

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Clement **Second by:** Ms. Petkiewicz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.