



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



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

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Committee Minutes

Date: 08/22/2024 - 7:00pm

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

- **Call to Order:** at 7:02 pm by Vice-Chair Judy Brouillette
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Sue Clement
- **Attendance:** Jack Madden, Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Gary Williams, Nate Muir, Sue Clement
- **Excused:** Kara Roy, Selectman Liaison,
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau
- **Public Input:**

Dave Morin of 29 Library Street in Hudson arrived at 7:42 and shared pictures of Benson Park where the firefighter memorial would be. He shared an arial view of the park and where the pavers would be put. Ms. Brouillette asked about the time table to putting this into place and Mr. Morin said that work would start right away. They need to pull everything from the original site to the new site – he said it will take about a month and they will block off the area. They will try to be respectful around the 9/11 memorial as construction will happen around the time of the ceremony. Mr. Madden inquired if sledding down the hill would cause concern or an issue. Mr. Morin said he will discuss it with the DPW and Fire Chief about the possibility of placing hay bales around the monument to provide cushioning in the event that a child were to sled into it. He said that there would be light and electricity at the moment. Ms. Brouillette asked if there would be cameras and Mr. Morin stated he isn’t aware of plans for any. Natalie Newall from Friends of Benson discussed the 4th annual Family Fun Day from 11am – 4pm at the park. The new shoe has been renovated Paul, Tracy & Claudia cleaned it up. The shoe will be open and the ”Old Woman” will be there to do photos. Ms. Clement will lead a nursery rhyme walk with various areas and reading the kids.

There will be a mural to do photo ops for kids. Roger Memorial library will be set up a raffle for the kids. There will also be a petting zoo from 11-2. There will be two live bands. All the booths are free. Ice cream, t-shirts, and souvenirs will be available for ales. There is no rain date. The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will be doing face painting and have a mobile unit with games for the kids.

- **Approval of minutes:**

April Meeting – Not enough current members to approve the minutes. Mr. Madden will confirm how to proceed.

May 16, 2024 – Ms. Petkiewicz made motion to approved, Mr. Madden 2nd motion – minutes approved 4/0/2

June 20, 2024 – Ms. Brouillette made motion to approve, Ms. Petkiewicz 2nd motion. Minutes approved 4/0/2

July 28, 2024 – There is a spelling error in “Brocks” – it should be “Brox”. Once that change is made then minutes are correct. Ms. Brouillette made motion to approve, Ms. Clement 2nd motion. Minutes passed 5/0/1

Old Business:

A. Balance and Expenditures – \$1,100

B. Reports on Lead Paint and Mold & Moisture Inspection – Mr. Madden still needs to speak with inspector.

C. Friends of Benson Family Fun Day – See Public Input notes

D. Lion Statues – The board of Selectman have accepted the lion statues. Jason had proposed the field being the office building for the location. We should put a concrete pad underneath them. Ideally they should be placed where they can be protected. Ms. Brouillette suggested that we store them in the gorilla cage. Ms. Clement shared that the people who painted the shoe may also be able to paint the statues. Mr. Madden also said that there is someone at the VFW who repairs stone. Jay also suggested sealing them after they get repaired. Mr. Madden reminded everyone that we need to put a plaque about the family donating the lions next to them. Jay at DPW can move them. Ms. Brouillette made a motion to put the lions in the field behind the office building. Ms. Clemente 2nd the motion. The motion passed 6/0.

E. Acceptance of giraffe statues donated from Committee member Gary Williams. Friends of Benson wants to see the giraffe in person before they decide. Mr. Williams updated the committee that he recently backed into one of the statues with a lawn mower and the back is damaged. Mr. Madden suggested that we display the giraffe and the freight car that has a giraffe on it that goes up and down together. Mr. Williams said he could get a plaque from the company, but it would have a liquor name on it – the committee felt this wasn't appropriate. Once Friends of Benson sees the statues then a determination will be made.

F. Status of Adopt-a-Spot T-Shirts – Ms. Clement got a price of \$12.50 per shirt. At the last clean up the Adopt A Spot people said they wanted shirts. They haven't been ordered yet. Ms. Brouillette suggested that people pay for them on their own right now. The Adapt A Spot signed have been mounted and they just need to be put on spots.

G. Dog Park Drainage Update – Mr. Williams informed the committee that the quote he originally received was not the complete quote. To have the full project done the

cost is \$30,314. The first part of the quote is for the run-off and that is \$4,410. Mr. Williams believes that the doing the first part would slow things down, but wouldn't solve it. Mr. Madden asked to see the park in person so Mr. Williams could explain the issues so they will meet on Monday, August 26th to go through the area and discuss the options.

H. Status of Proposed Mural – Natalie said that the decision right now is to hold due to construction concerns. Right now the Friends of Benson is still fundraising and aiming for construction to be complete at the museum in 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Family Fun Day – see Public Input above
- b) UNH Fisher Cat research project, Submission of Permit Form Approval by NHDOT and Town of Hudson – The submitted form needs to be signed by the land owner and we need a letter from the DOT. After that the form then needs to get approved by the Board of Selectmen. At that point we can approve it. The DPW has also requested a copy of the form once completed.
- c) New Maintenance Items:
 - o A-Frame – we should get someone to look at it who knows construction to make sure that the structural integrity will be long term.
 - o Picnic Tables – there is a picnic tables near the A-Frame that is broken. We had previously looked into picnic tables as another option for people who wish to purchase benches. The cost is \$1300 for a picnic table make by the same place that makes the recycled benches. Perhaps we could have two people share the plaque on that bench. Natalie said that there are still some boards down in the elephant barn that we could use to repair the bench for now. Previously the highway department relaced them. There are roughly 75 benches in the park right now and we are maxed out Ms. Brouillette and Natalie said that they will connect on the picnic tables.
 - o Cameras – Mr. Madden felt that cameras in the park may be possible. Ms. Brouillette stated that currently there are cameras in the bathroom hallway and one outside the bathroom. The hose is the priority for cameras. We could get a camera that is battery operated and solar charged. We need to confirm that there will be a wifi connection that the camera can connect to. Ms. Brouillette made a motion to investigate if this is an option and if wifi will get to the shoe to approved purchase of a camera if under \$100. Sue seconded the motion and it was passed 6/0/0.
 - o There is spray paint vandalism on the door to the gorilla cage. We need a DPW liaison so Sue said she would reach out to DPW about painting the door.
 - o Dog park box is broken – the suggestion was made to put a laundry basket in the shed and stick all the plastic grocery bags in there.

Calendar

- Friends of Benson Park – Family Fun Day – Saturday, September 14, 2024
- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, September 19th at 7pm.
- Volunteer Clean-Up Day – Saturday, September 21st from 9am – 2pm.

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

Judy Brouillette – Thank you for everyone who came to the booth at Old Homes Days and thank you to Jay for getting the barrels at the dog park. Pick up now comes on Wednesdays. Thank you to everyone who brings the barrels back in and to those who volunteer on clean up day. Troop 773 has been come in to rake up the loose rock.

Nate Muir – No comments

Gary Williams – There is a person pushing a shopping cart around in the park. There are homeless people tenting in the park. Ms. Brouillette said she had notified the police and they took care of it. She also reminded the public that if you see homeless people in the park to please notify police.

Sue Clement – The golf cart still doesn't work and Friends of Benson also had the same conclusion. Ms. Clement proposed that we remove the cart. Ralph found that the orange charger doesn't charge – the wires are corroded and chewed by mice. When we accepted it the cart worked. Mr. Madden doesn't want to give up just yet. The intent was to use it during park clean up and walk throughs and Mr. Madden is currently unable to walk long distances around the park and therefore he would like to explore options.

Ms. Petkiewicz – No comments

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Brouillette **Second by:** Ms. Petkiewicz 2nd the motion. Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.