



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



John “Jack” Madden, Chairman

Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison

12 School Street, Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • [Tel:603-886-6024](tel:603-886-6024) Fax:603-598-6481

Committee Minutes

Date: 09/19/2024 - 7:00pm

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

- **Call to Order:** at 7:00 pm by Vice-Chair Judy Brouillette
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Gary Williams
- **Attendance:** Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Gary Williams, Nate Muir, Sue Clement, Selectmen Liaison
- **Excused:** Jack Madden – Medically excused
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau
- **Public Input:**

Mark Samsel who had planned on attending did not show.

Amy Campell, from Merrimack who is a junior in high school and who has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten, would like to do her Gold Award project for the Girl Scouts in Benson Park. The gold award project is an 80-hour sustainable project. She networked with Sue Clement and they discussed the crumbling stone walkway as a project that she would like to fix as it is on the Girl Scout plot. She would build a team – Regis offered to help as a stone mason and also donate the mixer and some labor. She needs to submit the project to the Girl Scout council for approval. She wouldn't start the masoning until April and thinks it will end net September. Part of the project is to be the project manager and it must be sustainable and the stone work has to match for historical purposes. Ms. Clement makes a motion to have the committee approve Amy's request to take on this project in the park. Mr. Muir seconded the motion. It unanimously.

Mike Regis, Owner of Regis Landscaping. His team has provided an updated proposal. They decided not to use loam or seed. Wood chips can also not be used. We could get New Hampshire certified playground chips but it's expensive. Instead we will do 3/8

inch stone that is easily cleaned and people can pick up the poop. It is possible that this could be donated by Brocks. There's a place in Hooksett that rents out a curbing machine and perhaps they could donate time. Cape Cod berm enables 6-inch water flow. We can stake the berm for winter so that the plows don't hit it. Regis said this is the best price they can do. Judy will talk to Jack to find out how to get a letter of intention and then we would talk to Jay from the DPW and present it to the Board of Selectman. Gary inquired about timing and Judy said it probably wouldn't happen this year. Mike said they can do any work as long as the ground isn't frozen and it would take about a week.

- Natalie - Natalie commended Sue Clement and Nate and all the volunteers who worked at the shoe. It helped make family fun day a success. They gave out 250 lollipops so at least that many people attended. The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts were there and there were approximately 25 volunteers. It was well organized. Rogers Library came and did crafts. Benson Park also received donations at the shoe. October volunteer appreciation lunch is coming up October 25th

Approval of minutes:

August 22, 2024 – did not take place.

Old Business:

- A. Balance and Expenditures – \$1,100
- B. Contractor Briefing on Dog Park Rehabilitation – see notes in Public Input
- C. ID Card for Members not yet holding one – The Town Hall issues badges and you need to schedule it. Ms. Brouillette will follow up with the committee with instructions.
- D. Reports on Lead Paint and Mold & Moisture Inspection – Mr. Madden still needs to speak with inspector.
- E. Friends of Benson Family Fun Day – See Public Input notes
- F. Discuss with Jason at DPW proposed movement to Gorilla Cage – sue discussed this with Jay at the DPW and it looks like the move of the lions will happen in the beginning of October Judy will check with Jack for the contact information of the owners of the lion.
- G. Friend's of Benson Park – Inspect condition of Giraffes for possible use in museum. In regards to the giraffes, Jim Leach, who was a board member at the friends of Benson's is an artist and wants to look at the giraffes he will contact Gary. Gary is also asking a friend who works at an auto body place. Sue had previously collected some information that said it would cost \$6,000 to \$10,000 to fix. Once Friends of Benson sees the statues a determination will be made on if they will accept them – they also need to find out more about the cost to restore them.
- H. Donation of \$3,000 from Friends of Benson Park to Benson Park Committee for use in park. Sue and Nathan have created a list of potential projects priorities include purchasing a tiller or cultivator a mower chainsaw tire pump hedge trimmer. We will continue to prioritize and make a determination on how to spend the \$3000.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Request by Aimee Stevens to donate a memorial tree to plant in Benson Park - the type of tree requested is an October glory maple tree. Sue talked to her today and she's also open to an Adopt A Spot. Judy will be in touch with her about the amount. It is currently \$1200 to get a memorial tree and this does not count the cost of the plaque. The town will get it and coordinate where the trees go. All of this information can be found on the website.
- b) UNH Fisher Cat research project, Submission of Permit Form Approval by NHDOT and Town of Hudson – on hold
- c) Picnic Tables replacement: Picnic table donations instead of park benches. Sue talked to friends of Benson about doing picnic tables instead of benches. There is currently a waiting list for benches that cost \$900 each but they could buy a picnic table for \$1200 we would need to think about if a plaque could be put onto the picnic table. Sue makes a motion to use picnic tables instead of benches for memorial purchases. Sarah seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. Natalie will get all the information back to the committee with the details including cost shipping assembly et cetera.
- d) Cameras at the Old Shoe and Gorilla Cage – The old shoe camera has been installed and has been helpful. It has a microphone so you can talk to people through the camera and tell them to stop bad behavior. It has been effective and it is able to see in the dark. Judy has asked Sue if she can speak to Jay about getting another camera on the side of the gorilla cage and Sue said she would follow up.

Calendar

- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 17th, 2024
- Volunteer Clean-Up Day – Saturday, October 19th from 9am – 2pm.

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

Judy Brouillette – No comment

Sue Clement – SNHU has to do volunteer work for fraternities and sororities. There would be about 60 volunteers who would get bussed here - we just need to tell them what needs to be done. They have a budget to do the work and we have the tools. The planned date of this is October 26th from 10-2pm. Sue will not be here so we will need other people to volunteer to direct the work

Nate Muir – Can we use the people from SNHU to do some labor to get the Regis quote down? Let's think about this as an option. Nate also had been looking into grants for the park to get some state and federal funding. Natalie mentioned she has a friend who may be able to help with grants.

Gary Williams – He tried to previously contact the state about Open Green Space” grants, but he never was able to get guidance on what it entailed.

Ms. Petkiewicz – Family fun day was a great event with so many people. It would be good if we could advertise to more groups to participate as it does gather quite a large crowd.

Kara Roy – Great to see Benson as a community hub.

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Clement **Second by:** Mr. Muir 2nd the motion. Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Final