



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



John “Jack” Madden, Chairman

Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison

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Committee Minutes

Date: 10/28/2024 (rescheduled from 10/17/2024) - 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 Jack Madden
- **Attendance:** Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Gary Williams, Nate Muir, Sue Clement, Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau
- **Public Input:**

Nick Vent from Mark Street in Hudson came to share that he is at the dog park almost every night. He has met wonderful people there and developed a community. He said that recently the park has hurt his dog’s paws. He also had a friend who tripped on the roots and hit his head. Nick wants the park to be repaired so people can enjoy it safely again.

Maggie Malloy From Greeley Street in Hudson came to share that she is invested in the success of the park as well and enjoys going to it on a regular basis. She asked if there was any way we could possibly allow for advertising by Brox or Regis to help defray the cost of the repairs. Ms. Brouillette informed Maggie that it is difficult because we can’t do anything that would provide profit outside of the park, but maybe we could do sponsorship – the committee could consider it. Maggie shared that she has been to the dog park every day since her dog was adopted 9 years ago. She would love to see some acknowledgement in the park of what Regis is offering to do.

Approval of minutes:

August 22, 2024 – Ms. Petkiewicz made motion to approve, Ms. Clement 2nd motion with the request to remove the notation of “late” next to Mr. Williams’ name. Minutes approved 6/0

September 19, 2024 - Ms. Clement made motion to approve, Mr. Muir 2nd motion. Minutes approved 5/0/1 abstain (Jack Madden)

Old Business:

A. Balance and Expenditures – \$1,100

B. Dog Park Rehabilitation – Mr. Williams’s shared that the parking lot of the dog park has been completed by Regis for no cost. He said that the students from SNHU did a great job on the park side and spread dirt and moved benches. In regard to the quote, Mr. Williams shared that Mike at Regis is willing to drop the total price down to around \$16,500 if the town allows us to their trucks. Sunshine Paving also offered to pitch in. Using the town trucks would bring the labor cost down to zero and would make the project go much faster. The quote provided from Brox for \$9,605 is the most that we would use – most likely it will be closer to ~\$7,000. Mr. Williams reiterated that if we don’t do this rehabilitation for the dog park then it will continue to erode and the cost of goods and labor will continue to rise. Ms. Petkiewicz inquired if the funds would come from the Capital Reserve and what the current balance is. Mr. Madden confirmed it would come from Capital Reserve where the balance is roughly \$65,000.

Mr. Williams made a motion for the committee to approve \$21,574 to be taken from the Capital Reserve fund to pay Brox and Regis to re-build the dog park. Ms. Clement inquired if the swale was included in that cost and Mr. Williams confirmed that it was, but that the asphalt curbing was not included in the price. Ms. Brouillette reminded the committee that no improvements have been made to the dog park since it was built so we need to address this in order to keep it maintained. Mr. Muir seconded the motion and it passes 6/0.

After the vote, Nick inquired if the general public could help to fund the improvements. Mr. Madden stated that if you write a check to Benson Park then we will need to accept it, but it is possible.

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 – Hold until November meeting

F. Discuss with Jason at DPW proposed movement to Gorilla Cage – Ms. Clement shared with the committee that the individual who is donating the lions would like for them to be outside and she would like a picture of her mother riding on the lion as a child to be part of the exhibit. The DPW has also stated that they do not want them inside the gorilla cage, but if they are to be located outside of the cage the DPW would need to put the lion on a slab and we would need a structure around them. For the moment we will put the lion in the kitchen and come to a decision next year.

G. Friends of Benson Park – Inspect condition of Giraffes for possible use in museum. – On hold

H. Donation of \$3,000 from Friends of Benson Park to Benson Park Committee for use in park. Ms. Clement confirmed that we need to provide the Friends of Benson Park

with a list before the end of November or they will revoke their donation. She shared that we will definitely get dog trash bags. Possibly a tractor with towing ability. Perhaps a rototiller. Ms. Clement and Mr. Muir will work on it together and then submit the list to Natalie.

I. Memorial Tree – No update

J. Update – Picnic tables vs. Park Benches – Holding this for now, however, Ms. Clement shared that she had learned that people who were waiting for a bench do not wish to have tables instead because the cost is higher, and they don't wish to share a memorial space with someone else.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Volunteers to man the desk during clean up days – Ms. Clement shared that we needed people to man the table during the clean-up days. Ms. Petkiewicz stated she came to work the table from 12-2 but was informed that she didn't need to, so she raked leaves instead. The committee agreed that we need to determine how this will work and be aligned on process.
- b) October 26th was SNHU volunteer day – Ms. Clement shared that a large group came to work and gave a big thanks for Mr. Muir and Mr. Williams for working with the volunteers and ensuring that everything went smoothly. We received feedback that the group was very pleased and felt welcome and that everyone was so kind.

Calendar

- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 21, 2024
- Volunteer Clean-Up Day – Ended until spring

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

Judy Brouillette – There will be voting for positions at the beginning of the year. Mr. Madden is stepping down for right now for Chair and Ms. Brouillette is stepping into the Chair role for now.

Kara Roy – Kara reminded the committee and the general public that they should attend public meetings and give input to the decisions they care about. She also reminded the committee that they will need to submit the warrant article for the additional \$10,000 to go into the Capital Reserve soon as it is budget time for the town.

Sue Clement – Sue asked if there was a way for us to count how many people go into the dog park. Ms. Roy said that the library has used a counter so she suggested that Ms. Clement reach out to them.

Nate Muir – None

Gary Williams – None

Ms. Petkiewicz – None

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Mr. Williams **Second by:** Ms. Clement 2nd the motion. Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.