



TOWN OF HUDSON

Benson Park Committee



Judy Brouillette, Vice Chair Kara Roy, Selectmen Liaison

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Committee Minutes

Date: 11/21/2024 - 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:** Jack Madden, Judith Brouillette, Sarah Petkiewicz, Nate Muir, Sue Clement
- **Unexcused:** Erica Carreau
- **Excused:** Gary Williams (sick), Kara Roy, Selectman Liaison (scheduling conflict)
- **Public Input:**

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation: Sue Clement presented the following awards to individuals in the community who volunteered their time and talents to Benson Park.

Claudia and Paul Tracy – The Tracy’s contacted Benson Park in the early 2000’s to start volunteering. They offered to fix the Lady in the Shoe that was in great disrepair with broken glass and graffiti. They put all their own resources and time into fixing it and in the fall, we re-opened the shoe and over 200 visitors came and even met the lady. They traveled almost 100 miles to fix the shoe!

Volunteers of SNHU – On October 26th Roxanne Quinox organized a group of over 40 students from SNHU to help with manual labor in the dog park, adopt a spot sites and other tasks. It’s great to have people help us out in our beautiful park.

Mike Regis – Mike worked tirelessly to provide help to repair the Hudson dog park. He made a donation to re-grade and fix the outside of the dog park. He donated his time, equipment, and team to help this park. Mike lives and owns a business here in Hudson and we appreciate what he gave back to the park.

Keith Marshall of Sunshine Paving – Keith donated to the park the milling that was needed to spread in the parking areas to re-grade.

Astin Fortier from Regis – Astin helped the office staff keep up with all the bids and kept the communication flowing.

Dennis Witte Jr from Dirty Dog Enterprises – Dennis dropped clean fill and rock. He saw the need on Facebook and came by and did it on his own.

Approval of minutes:

October 28, 2024 -Ms. Brouillette makes motion to approve with changes (“Maggie Malloy from Greeley Street” in public input section), Ms. Clement seconds motion, 4/0 passes

Old Business:

- A. Balance and Expenditures – \$856.92
- B. Dog Park Rehabilitation; Dog park Drainage Update – The changes to the dog park were presented to be put on the Board of Selectman agenda. We were told to take it to DPW and the town. They waited to see if the DPW would do the work. Jay determined that DPW believes they can stop the erosion and work to address the issues. They are going to dig it out and re-grade it and change the drainage issue. If this doesn't fix it then we will work to fix it together. When DPW comes to fix it they may have to shut the park for a period of time.
- C. ID Card for Members – Ms. Brouillette reminded members to get their ID cards. Mr. Muir and Ms. Petkiewicz still need to get theirs.
- D. Status of Led Paint and Mold & Moisture Inspection – Hold for now
- E. Report on Friends of Benson (“FoB”) – This is the time of year the Friends of Benson Park asks for individuals of the community (and outside) to consider a donation to Friend of Benson Park. You can visit the website to make a donation. Donations will go towards building Benson Museum and Discovery Center. There will be animal education and party rentals and a family center. They need to raise \$500,000 by the end of next year to do a soft opening in 2026 which would be the 100-year anniversary. Please email info@friendsofbensonpark.org for additional information.
- F. Updates of the discussion with Jason at DPW regarding multiple items (lions, memorial tree, general upkeep of items, and golf cart) – Jay stated that the DPW will pick up the golf cart to see if they can fix it – if not they will dispose of it. The DPW also agreed to look at the equipment used in the park to see if they can fix and repair it. The DPW has accepted the donation of the memorial tree by Amy Stevens. Ms. Brouillette will follow up. It could be planted in the spring.
- G. Update on Friends of Benson Park – Inspect condition of giraffes for possible use in museum – On hold
- H. Update on donation for \$3,000 from FoB to Benson Park Committee – Ms. Clement and Natalie used the money to buy equipment at Lowes totaling \$1,906.96. They also ordered items online totaling \$501.84. They then purchased poop scoopers totaling \$74.97. All items came to a total of \$2,483.75. This means that the committee has about \$500 remaining. We need to tell Natalie what items we would like by the end of the year.
- I. Update – Picnic tables vs. Park benches – at the FoB board meeting it was agreed that there would be no more benches for now – picnic tables are the only option. They are getting a quote for 6 picnic tables made of recycled materials. They will then put this

out to the public. Natalie stated she has 8 people on the list for benches – once they have a quote they will ask if those individuals wish to purchase a table.

J. October 26th SNHU Volunteer Day – Mr. Muir shared that there were 6 groups each assigned to a team to a space in the park and they were fantastic! They all did good work and hopefully they will come back. Ms. Clement shared that the volunteers said that this was one of the better experiences they had with volunteering and that it was fun. She also shared that she had an additional small group from Rivier University come to pick up trash and other things. If the public wishes to volunteer they can email Bensonpark@hudsonnh.gov.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Volunteers to man the desk during clean up days – Someone needs to be at the desk the whole-time during volunteer days. Individuals who run the desk can communicate with Ms. Clement and she will tell them what work they should do. The shift for this would be from 9-2. There is a lunch from 11:30-12 and this person would also assist in the setup. Volunteer days will start back up in April.
2. Picnic Chair Request – Judy Vankleef has request that a bench be placed next to the current bench dedicated to her brother. Unfortunately, the park is no longer adding any benches. The suggestion was made to put an additional plaque on the bench or perhaps put a new plaque on the brother's bench that would have both names. Natalie will take these suggestions to Ms. Vankleef to see what she would prefer.
3. Bridge signage request – Alex Yoksh and Dillon Dumont – Hudson resident Alec Yoksh has requested to dedicate the bridges by the shoe to Brett Reid who originally built those bridges by the shoe and he has recently passed. The Park does not allow for monuments to be put through the park unless it is on a memorial tree. Could we put a plaque that educates people on who built the bridge – he did it for an Eagle Scout Project. Ms. Brouillette said that she will find out if this is something they would like. Ms. Brouillette made a motion to put small signage plaque on the bridge. Mr. Muir 2nd the motion and it passes 4/0.
4. Volunteer Luncheon – FoB Request - Natalie also asked if the committee would pay for half the volunteer appreciation luncheon help in October. The total cost was \$286.53. Ms. Clement made a motion to discuss the cost – Mr. Muir 2nd the motion. Ms. Clement stated that we pay for all volunteer lunches currently on the Saturday volunteer days and that included FoB volunteers. We may not have enough to pay for future volunteer lunches that is our tradition to provide. Ms. Brouillette agreed that if we knew about the cost then we could've planned in advance. Natalie stated that next time we will put a plan together to do it as a group and perhaps we could even have people donate. Ms. Clement mentioned that Cahill subs had previously donated and so had White Birch. The committee did not pass a motion to pay for the cost – it was unanimously rejected.
5. Eric Carreau – removal from BPC. The Committee hasn't seen Ms. Carreau in over 6 months and she is not responding to committee members when they reach out. Ms. Clement makes a motion to remove Ms. Carreau. Mr. Muir seconds the motion. It passes 4/0.

6. Paul Tracy to provide update of state of lions – Paul inspected the lions to assess current conditions. Paul and Claudia work to restore gravestones and they reported the following: The male lion is in worse condition – he is completely missing his tail and his back legs have been repaired multiple times. There are also multiple stress fractures which will eventually cause pieces to fall off. The female lion has a crack up her back and circling the neck – it is quite severe. They also show signs of weathering and discoloration. Additional preservation efforts are recommended – they should not be outside and exposed to freeze thaw cycles – this will cause them to further degrade. They should be indoors. The lack of a pedestal also causes stress damage. Moisture up and down and wicking into concrete. They should be installed on durable water-resistant base and if outside they should be sealed, but ideally, they should be inside. When they are relocated, they should be tightly wrapped and bubble wrapped and inside moving blankets. They should also minimize the number of times they are moved and should utilize dollies and lifts. The fractures should be addressed immediately with epoxy to prevent further damage. Once stabilized they should be monitored.
7. New email address – Bensonpark@hudsonnh.gov
8. New Volunteer Opportunities – Liberty Utilities is trying to coordinate a volunteer group. The public is welcome to volunteer even in the off-season. We are always looking for volunteers.
9. Annual Report – Ms. Brouillette reminded the group that we need to provide a summary of everything that the committee has done in the past year. This needs to be completed by the beginning of January. Ms. Brouillette said she would coordinate and share. She also reminded the committee that April is voting time on positions in the committee.

Calendar

- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, December 19, 2024
- Volunteer Clean-Up Day – Ended until spring

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members:

None

- **Motion to Adjourn by:** Ms. Clement **Second by:** Mr. Muir 2nd the motion. Passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.