

**ADOPTED**

**City of Keene**  
**Keene, New Hampshire**

**ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016      8:00 AM      Room 12, Recreation Center**

**Members Present:**

Arthur Winsor, Chair  
Jenna Spear-O'Mara  
George Foskett  
Councilor Steve Hooper  
Chuck Redfern (On the phone)  
Judy Sadoski (Arrived at 8:13)

**Staff Present:**

Andy Bohannon, Director Parks,  
Recreation & Cemeteries

**Members Not Present:**

Susan Thielen

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**2. Approval of January 12, 2016**

Mr. Foskett made the motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016. Ms. Spear-O'Mara seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Ms. Spear-O'Mara made a motion to elect Mr. Winsor as Chair of the Ashuelot Park Advisory Board. Mr. Foskett seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Foskett made a motion to elect Ms. Spear-O'Mara as Vice-chair of the Ashuelot Park Advisory Board. Councilor Hooper seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**4. Review of 2016 Meeting Dates**

Mr. Bohannon stated that the new meeting dates are listed in the packet which will be on the first Tuesday of every month. Ms. Spear-O'Mara stated that she has a conflict with the August meeting. Mr. Bohannon noted that there is not a lot of activity in August. Mr. Foskett noted that

the August meeting is prior to Art in the Park. The Board decided to leave the August meeting on the agenda and was accepted as informational.

## **5. Finance Report**

Mr. Bohannon noted that the finance report was accepted. Mr. Bohannon stated that Hamlet Electric was notified that the lights were not working in the front of the park as well but this has been resolved. Mr. Bohannon stated that Bartlett Tree Company has been contacted and will be in touch.

## **6. Report from Friends of the Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park**

Mr. Foskett that the Friends of the Arboretum met on Tuesday and discussed the Jonathan Daniel Trail as well as the Friends of Open Space's Event. Mr. Foskett stated that the group agreed to join the Parks and Recreation Department at the event. He continued, noting that Barry LeClaire has joined the Friends of the Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park. Mr. Foskett brought up the Links Program. Mr. Bohannon explained the Links Program to new members and the benefits of having Keene State College students assist the Friends group.

## **7. Friends of Open Space Event-April 12**

Mr. Bohannon stated that there is no update at this time. He continued, stating that his department will be creating a poster.

## **8. Park discussion**

### **a. Ashuelot Green Space**

Mr. Bohannon stated that this is not being publicized yet. He continued, stating that he has meeting about Ashuelot Green Space this Thursday. Mr. Bohannon stated that he will share the details with the Board in the March meeting if possible.

### **b. Rachel Marshall Area**

Mr. Bohannon stated that Peter Ketchum has been doing a lot of work trimming branches in the area and additional trimming has occurred from the city as well. He continued, stating that this should bring a decrease in homelessness and public drinking. Mr. Bohannon stated that dead trees will also be removed in the spring. He continued, stating that it is now a matter of maintaining the area and there is a plan in place to do this.

### **c. West Street Hydro**

Chair Winsor stated that he and Mr. Foskett went to the Conservation Commission in January where they stated concern about what would happen to the park without the dam. Chair Winsor stated that Kurt Blumquist explained that the meeting did not focus on park changes but understood the concern. Ms. Spear-O'Mara asked when a decision would occur in reference to the dam. Chair Winsor was not sure on this. Mr. Bohannon stated that there will be more information on this. Mr. Foskett stated that losing the dam would be devastating to the park. Ms. Sadoski agreed and stated that the issue is complicated and species may be affected by the dam removal as well. Chair Winsor stated that the boat landing would also be affected.

Mr. Redfern asked about the Committee taking a vote on the matter. Mr. Bohannon stated that that type of action has occurred in the past. He continued, stating that the Committee wrote a letter to the City Council when the discussion of the dam removal began.

### **9. New Business**

Councilor Hooper stated that he is willing to take photographs for the park. Chair Winsor stated that he can take pictures of the dam for the event as well. Mr. Bohannon stated that any pictures of the park would be great. Mr. Foskett noted that pictures of volunteers would be great as well.

### **10. Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2016**

### **11. Adjournment**

Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lana Bluege, Minute-taker

February 9, 2016

Edits by Andy Bohannon