

**ADOPTED**

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

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

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

**8:00 AM**

**Room 12, Recreation Center**

**Members Present:**

Arthur Winsor, Chair  
Judy Sadoski  
George Foskett  
Councilor Steve Hooper  
Chuck Redfern

**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 8:07 AM.

**2. Approval of February 9, 2016**

Mr. Foskett made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016. Councilor Hooper seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**3. Finance Report**

Mr. Bohannon noted that the updated finance report is in the packet. He stated that Hamblett Electric fixed the light timers as well which cost \$260.58. Mr. Foskett and Mr. Bohannon noted that they will be checking in with the contractor in reference to finishing the mulch.

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

Mr. Foskett noted that a book in reference to the cobble stone project was delivered to Mr. Bohannon on March 8<sup>th</sup>. He continued, stating that this book allows people to easily navigate to the stone they are looking for and will be formatted digitally as well. Mr. Foskett noted that the

Links Program will be in July. Mr. Foskett stated that the requests for proposals will be going out in reference to a new irrigation system and the park will have one more year with the old system.

#### **5. Keene Hates Heroin Event- Jessica White**

Mr. Bohannon stated that an email conversation with Jessica White was included in the packet and she was invited to the meeting as well. Mr. Bohannon stated that it was important to include this Board in the discussion. Mr. Bohannon noted that the Keene Hates Heroin event will occur in mid-September. Ms. Sadowski stated that two or three bands were mentioned for the event in the email and noted that the magnitude of the event does not seem appropriate for the park. Mr. Bohannon agreed and stated that the arboretum is an attractive location but passive events like Art in the Park are more appropriate. He continued, noting that other locations are more appropriate for the event and were suggested via email.

Councilor Hooper agreed that a large crowd with a lot of noise is not appropriate for the area and suggested the event hire different bands if they want to be in the park. Ms. Sadowski noted that there are other venues more appropriate. Mr. Bohannon stated that he suggested Fuller Park as an alternative which has a new band stand and bathroom accessibility. Mr. Bohannon noted that a time for noise was not specified for the event. Chair Winsor stated that the arboretum is not set up for large crowds and bands. He suggested Railroad Square.

Mr. Foskett made a motion for the Ashuelot Park Advisory Board to deny the request from Keene Hates Heroin Group. Ms. Sadowski seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Bohannon discussed the event details and noted that its goals are to gain volunteers for the various groups in Keene and promote conservation. Mr. Bohannon stated that the event will have tables for each group and Rhett Lamb will discuss community involvement.

#### **7. Park discussion**

##### **a. Bartlett Tree proposal**

Mr. Bohannon stated that the proposal is included in the packet. He stated that the proposal estimates exceed the Board's budget but the tasks can be done over time. Mr. Bohannon read through the items which included soil/fertilizer and tree and shrub work on three Maple trees, three smaller Maple trees, Katsura trees, Ornamental Magnolia trees, and two Pin Oaks. He continued, stating that one maple was pruned last year and there is a significant difference in reference to light and air circulation through the tree. Mr. Bohannon noted that Bartlett Tree Experts prune strategically to promote healthy growth.

Mr. Foskett asked if the fertilizer can be done by the Board and volunteers. Chair Winsor advised against it because deep root fertilization will likely be needed. Mr. Bohannon noted that the three tasks of Magnolias, Maple trees and soil/fertilization would be \$1,775. Chair Winsor stated that the Board may want to focus on some of the specimen trees. Mr. Bohannon noted that with that addition the project would cost \$ 2,025 with \$600 left in the miscellaneous fund. Mr. Bohannon noted that the other two items will be put on hold. Chair Winsor stated that the Pin Oaks need to be done next year.

Councilor Hooper inquired on the timeline for pruning and soil work every year. Chair Winsor stated that Bartlett conducted an inventory of trees in the park and they were asked to give an estimate for trees that need work. He continued, noting that he, Mr. Bohannon and Mr. Grano of Bartlett Tree Experts, walked together through the park to determine priorities. Chair Winsor stated that this is something the Board should do every year.

Mr. Bohannon noted that the budget has already been approved and about \$1,500 was discussed for Bartlett Tree Experts; this would exceed that original proposal. Mr. Bohannon noted that this is an improvement on the Board's mission. Ms. Sadowski stated that the front trees are significant to the park and should be maintained. Mr. Bohannon stated that the work would be done in June.

Mr. Foskett made the motion to approve \$2,025 be paid to Bartlett Tree Experts to maintain soil/fertilizer, Maples in front of the park, Magnolia tree, and the Katsura tree. Ms. Sadowski seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### **b. Ashuelot Green Space**

Mr. Bohannon stated that things are in the works but before they address the public further details need to be completed. There is no timetable at the moment.

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

Mr. Bohannon noted that further studies are necessary. Mr. Bohannon stated the Board's disapproval is noted of dam removal is noted but will ultimately be up to City Council. Mr. Bohannon stated that is the project moves forward-the dam would stay in place. He continued, stating that the question is the feasibility of a hydro station. Mr. Bohannon stated that he will keep the Board updates on new developments.

#### **d. Irrigation System**

Mr. Bohannon stated that the spec draft needs to go before the Finance Department. The timeline would be after the Art in The Park event.

### **8. New Business**

Mr. Bohannon noted that the request from the Cheshire Housing Trust will be coming in for use of the park for the garden tour which is similar to Art in the Park and usually occurs in June.

Chair Winsor asked if any other group can help plant annuals because Cheshire YMCA used to assist. Mr. Bohannon stated that he has been in contact with Eversource about voluntary services and the Link Project is available to assist as well.

Mr. Redfern asked if Peter Ketchum will be volunteering in the park this year. Mr. Bohannon noted that he has been doing work and focused on the Rachel Marshall Learning Lab and the understory. Ms. Sadowski inquired about interact groups from Keene and Monadnock. Louise Zerba was suggested as the contact. Mr. Bohannon stated that Cheshire YMCA worked with Agway as a fundraiser in previous years.

**9. Next Meeting Date: May 10, 2016**

**10. Adjournment**

Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lana Bluege, Minute-taker

April 12, 2016

Edits submitted by:

Andy Bohannon 5.4.16