

City of Keene
Keene, New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

8:00 AM

Room 12, Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Jenna Spear-O'Mara
Judy Sadoski
George Foskett
Councilor Steve Hooper
Chuck Redfern
Susan Thielen

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation
& Facilities Director

Members Not Present:

1. Welcome & Call to Order

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

2. Approval of April 12, 2016

Mr. Foskett made a motion to approve the April 12th minutes as amended. Mr. Hooper seconded...which passed unanimously.

Chair Winsor noted that on pg. 4 a sentence reads, "Mr. Foskett stated that the LINKS Program will begin in July" should be changed to, ""Mr. Foskett noted that the LINKS Program will be in July". Ms. Thielen noted that she should be listed under the Not Present list.

3. Finance Report

Mr. Bohannon noted that the finance report recognizes the landscaping contract and the balance has been reduced accordingly. He stated that the company bills the city in increments of \$2,500 twice a year. Mr. Bohannon stated that proposed work has been added to the budget in the amount of \$2,025 which will be done in June.

Finance Report accepted as informational.

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

Mr. Foskett noted that the Friends of the Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park met on May 8th. He noted that Ms. Martinez is a new member. Mr. Foskett stated that she received an area of the park to maintain. He continued, noting that he met with Sue Silver and asked if the Lions Club would take over a large area of the park near the boat launch. Mr. Foskett stated that she will be presenting this to the Board.

Mr. Foskett inquired about the Homestead Garden Club and asked if a Board Member can connect him. He noted that he witnessed a scavenger hunt where children were climbing in the trees and this should be discouraged. Mr. Bohannon noted that people are not aware of the Arboretum and need to be educated. Mr. Foskett stated that he contact Elm City Rotary Club in reference to maintaining an area of the park. He noted that a sign can be placed in each area to recognize each maintainer group. Mr. Foskett noted that he is looking for a logo. Mr. Bohannon noted that he can get the logo recreated if necessary.

Mr. Foskett stated that he brought over the cobbles to Mr. Bohannon. Mr. Bohannon noted that he will look into this. Ms. Thielen noted that she is happy to help others in their area of the park but is not able to have her own area to maintain.

5. City Council-West Street Dam Presentation-June 2nd

Mr. Bohannon noted that West Street Hydro will be meeting with City Council on June 2nd at 7:00 PM. He noted that there is no public input at this meeting. Mr. Bohannon discussed the project for Councilor Hooper. Councilor Hooper inquired about documents to research online. Mr. Bohannon noted that most of the communication has occurred with the Conservation Commission. Ms. Foskett noted that with the dam removal traffic would not be filtered from West Street and it would not be aesthetically pleasing.

6. Park discussion

a. Bartlett Tree proposal

Mr. Bohannon noted that he talked with Frank and accepted all of the changes. He noted that the work would be done in June. Mr. Bohannon discussed inventory with Frank and noted that it was a three year service but information has not been provided yet. Mr. Bohannon noted that Frank created an agenda and is asking for Mr. Bohannon, Chair Winsor and any interested Board Member to view a webinar to understand the process. Mr. Bohannon noted that City Hall can provide a large screening for interested Members. Mr. Bohannon noted that he will schedule the webinar in the next couple weeks.

b. Ashuelot Green Space

No update at this time. Mr. Bohannon familiarized Mr. Redfern with the project. Mr. Bohannon noted that many people came to the public forum.

c. West Street Hydro

Mr. Bohannon noted that the presentation for City Council will be on June 2nd.

d. Irrigation System

No update at this time. Mr. Bohannon stated that he is looking at an early fall timeframe. Chair Winsor noted that the timeframe will work but the system should be run to ensure proper drainage before spring. Mr. Foskett asked if it would interfere with Art in the Park. Mr. Bohannon noted that the installation would occur after the event. Mr. Bohannon noted that Nancy Birch is retiring in June and has been working with the Board for many years.

e. KSC LINKS-Service Day-July 15 or 22

Mr. Bohannon noted that he was contacted by the KSC Program. He noted that Ashuelot Park was discussed as well as cobble work. Mr. Bohannon noted that all of the stones can be raised.

7. New Business

Ms. Thielen asked how many Ash Trees are in the Park and how the Board can monitor for the Emerald Ash Borer. Chair Winsor noted that all the Board can do is monitor the trees and stated that the Keene State College campus lost many Ash trees. Ms. Thielen inquired about the traps at Robin Hood Park and if the Board can install these at Ashuelot Park. Mr. Foskett noted that there are no traps in the Arboretum but they could be somewhere in the park. He noted that Peter Katchum would know where to look.

Mr. Bohannon asked if informational signage should be added to the Arboretum in reference to invasive species. Mr. Bohannon referenced the Jonathan Daniels Trail sign as an example. Ms. Thielen noted that invasive species are always changing and creating sign would be difficult to account for this. She continued, stating that people should be aware of specific insects but the sign would have to change. Ms. Thielen suggested general information on invasive species at a kiosk.

Mr. Bohannon noted that signage is in the budget. Ms. Sadoski suggested linking information to an online source. She continued, noting that there is another insect that looks similar to the Emerald Ash Borer and it is important that the public knows the difference. Ms. Thielen noted that the traps are very specific to the Emerald Ash Borer and when people inquire about the

purple trap they can read informational signs provided. Mr. Bohannon noted that Bartlett may be able to provide information on how to approach this concern.

The Board discussed maintaining an area by the Rachel Marshall section of the park. Mr. Bohannon noted that several viewing areas by the benches throughout the park have been cleared by Peter Katchum.

8. Next Meeting Date: June 14, 2016

Ms. Thielen and Ms. Sadoski noted that they will not be able to attend the meeting. Mr. Bohannon noted that he will keep the Board updated on when Bartlett will be conducting tree work. Chair Winsor mentioned tree coding with Keene State College students and will let the Board know how it goes.

9. Adjournment

Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lana Bluege, Minute-taker

May 10, 2016