

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 7, 2018

8:00 AM

Room 12, Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
George Foskett
Judy Sadoski
Chuck Redfern

Staff Present:

Chuck Sweeney, Superintendent of Maintenance
Parks and Cemeteries

Members Not Present:

Jenna Spear-O'Mara
Steve Hooper, Councilor

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM and roll call was conducted.

2) **Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2018**

Mr. Foskett noted a correction on page two, third paragraph, fourth sentence, "...Mascoma would like an area to take care of in the park" changed to "...Mascoma would like to maintain a section of area in the park".

Mr. Foskett made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2018 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Redfern and carried unanimously.

3) **Finance Report:**

Mr. Sweeney provided the Board with a copy of the 2018 ARPAB Budget Report. He reported the contract is through Kirk Parsons of AGM Landscaping. Since the contracted amount is less than \$5,000 it does not need to go out to bid. Mr. Sweeney noted that Mr.

Bohannon likes the work of AGM and how this type of cleanup has been handled in the past.

Mr. Sweeney reported that AGM has started working in the park and is almost finished. The work is just for the arboretum that consists of clean-up in the spring, mulching, weeding and clean-up in the fall.

Chair Winsor asked if the contract included other areas within the City. Mr. Sweeney replied the work is just for the park.

Mr. Foskett noted the lights at the park have been on during the day. Mr. Sweeney explained that Hamblet Electric is aware and looking into the matter.

Chair Winsor asked if the lights are on Photocells or if they are on a timer. Mr. Sweeney replied the lights are on a timer.

4.) Friends of Ashuelot River Park Report

Mr. Foskett reported the group met on April 10th and the item discussed the most was the 501c(3). He noted the application has been forwarded to the NH Attorney General and they are waiting for a response.

Mr. Foskett explained that Friends approved an increase price for the cobblestones but the application for a cobblestone asks for an employer identification number (EIN). He noted Friends is unable to distribute the application because the EIN has not been issued.

The other items discussed at the meeting included the dam and what is going on with the parking lot. He noted both of these items are on hold.

Mr. Foskett reported Friends discussed Chuck Simpson's project at that the park. The project is located in the entrance to the park all the way over to Starbucks. He noted the work in this area looks great.

In addition, Mr. Foskett reported that he spoke volunteer, Peter Ketchum and one of the things Mr. Ketchum brought to his attention was his study on how to best control Japanese knotweed. The Board stated they would be interested in learning more about this study.

5.) Park Discussion

a.) Lighting

Mr. Sweeney reported that Hamblet Electric installed the lighting in the area as agreed by the Board. After the lighting was installed, Hamblet Electric suggested expanding the lighting. Mr. Bohannon denied this request and wanted to wait to see how this lighting would work. Mr. Sweeney reported that Mr. Bohannon discussed the possibility of including this lighting in a separate phase at a later time.

b.) Landscape Agreement

Mr. Sweeney explained the agreement for the landscape agreement totals \$16,670.00. This amount includes the landscape contract, lights, planning replacement program, and Bartlett Tree. He noted since the mulching and clean-up is \$5,000 it is considered an agreement within the total contract because anything \$5,000 or under does not have to go out to bid.

c.) Chuck Simpson

Mr. Sweeney reported that Mr. Bohannon is waiting to hear from Mr. Simpson.

d) Bartlett Tree

Mr. Sweeney reported that Bartlett Tree is scheduled to begin work sometime in June.

6.) New and Other Business

Mr. Redfern reported that he met with Mr. Bohannon to let him know there is a recreation trails grant being implemented through the NH Natural and Cultural Resources Department. Mr. Redfern stated that Mr. Bohannon was very interested in applying for this grant to fix up the bridge, resurface trails and to fix drainage issues. Mr. Sweeney reported that Mr. Bohannon was in the process of getting a quote from Pat Rawson Contractors.

Mr. Redfern requested letters of support from the ARPAB and Friends. Mr. Sweeney noted that Mr. Bohannon stated that he was applying for this grant with enthusiasm.

Mr. Redfern reported the minimum amount of the grant is \$50,000 with a 20% match and the announcement of the grant will be made in early fall.

Chair Winsor stated that a letter of support would be provided on behalf of ARPAB and Mr. Foskett stated would be provided on behalf of Friends.

Chair Winsor addressed the issue of the gazebo in the park and how residents avoid the park due to inappropriate behavior. He expressed his desire to keep this issue at the forefront in order to preserve the park.

The Board discussed several issues that have brought to their attention. Mr. Sweeney noted these issues are occurring at all of the parks, cemeteries and trails in the City. The Board discussed how Hundred Nights provides tents and sleeping bags to the homeless. Mr. Foskett recommended the Board reach out to Officer Tim Peloquin, who is also a member of the Board for Hundred Nights to have a better insight on the reason for providing the tents.

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In addition, Mr. Foskett reported that he saw the film “Hidden in Plain Sight” and recommends the Board watch this film. The Board agreed this was an important film to watch and placed this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Redfern suggested the Board write a letter to the Mayor and the City Council addressing the concern of the activity at the gazebo and the aide given to the homeless such as the use of tents. The Board agreed to place discussion of the letter on the agenda for the next meeting.

7.) Next Meeting-June 12, 2018

8.) Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Clark, Minute Taker