

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

**ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA**

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8:00 AM  
Room 22 Upstairs, Recreation Center

**Members:**

Arthur Winsor, Chair  
Judy Sadoski  
Paul Bocko  
Suzy Krautmann  
Ruzzel Zullo  
Dian Mathews  
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

**Staff:**

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Acceptance of August 10, 2021 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
5. Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation
  - a. Invasive Species
  - b. Pollinator Gardens
  - c. Education
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 8:00 AM

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

3  
4  
5 ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

8:00 AM

Recreation Center,  
Room 12

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair  
Judy Sadoski  
Ruzzel Zullo  
Paul Bocko  
Dian Mathews  
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,  
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Suzy Krautmann

8  
9  
10 1) Welcome and Call to Order

11  
12 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM. He informed the board that Thomas  
13 Haynes would act as an official member for the meeting in Suzy Krautmann's absence.

14  
15 2) Acceptance of July 20, 2021 Minutes

16  
17 Mr. Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2021 as presented. Ms. Sadoski  
18 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

19  
20 3) Finance Report

21  
22 Mr. Bohannon directed the board to the last page of their agenda packet and noted that the bags  
23 he purchased were not yet reflected in the budget. He added that he had not yet received invoices  
24 from Bartlett Tree. There was nothing more to report with regards to the budget.

25  
26 4) Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum

27  
28 Ms. Mathews reported that water had not been an issue in the past month due to all the rain. She  
29 recommend that several more beds be added into the sprinkler system to avoid tampering issues  
30 with faucets or water barrels. Chair Winsor inquired about the snap valve idea they had discussed

31 in the previous meeting. Ms. Mathews answered that they had decided on a sprinkler system so  
32 all plants and beds can get water. Mr. Bohannon mentioned that the system is doable but will  
33 take a little work to connect everything.

34

35 Ms. Mathews next reported that there were 9 volunteers at the Park on Saturday, August 7th.  
36 They weeded mostly grasses from the beds. She mentioned that they met with a Keene police  
37 officer about an individual who has let his dog off the leash and allowed it to run into the people  
38 working in the park on several occasions. They were told to try and obtain the individual's car  
39 make and license plate number for the police to handle the situation.

40

41 The Friends have a new treasurer, Jane Parent. Ms. Mathews stated they will be doing some form  
42 of fundraising to possibly pair with Art in the Park on September 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be to attain  
43 funds for their 501c3 filing with the state, board liability insurance, and PO Box fees.

44

45 Ms. Mathews stated several members of the Friends have been away on vacation so no action  
46 has been taken with regards to the soil analysis report and fertilizing of the beds.

47

48 She next informed the board that they have plans to continue the first Saturday work days and  
49 potentially add a first Saturday bird walk. She stated that they hope to engage a local birder to  
50 lead the walks. Mr. Bocko suggested Steve Lamonde and mentioned that Antioch University has  
51 a bird club that could be a good partnership as well. Mr. Bohannon added that for events like the  
52 bird walk, information can be passed along to him and the Recreation Department can help  
53 advertise.

54

55 Lastly, Ms. Mathews reported that Matt Kelly is the brand new forester at the Keene Cooperative  
56 Extension Office. He plans to go to the Park on Thursday, August 19th at 9 AM for a preliminary  
57 walk to identify invasive species. Ms. Mathews stated after that original meeting with Mr. Kelly,  
58 they will plan a walk with the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board, the Friends, Conservation  
59 Commission, and the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Commission.

60

61 **5) Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation**

62 **A) Invasive Species** – This item was previously covered by Ms. Mathews. Mr.  
63 Bohannon suggested, for the second walk with Mr. Kelly, that they select a date in the  
64 first part of September, ideally around 5pm, with enough time to give notice.

65

66 **B) Pollinator Gardens** – Ms. Mathews stated they plan to purchase plants for a  
67 pollinator garden located in the area of the park near Mascoma Bank. The total expense  
68 for 2 sets would be \$300. She is waiting to hear back from Prairie Moon Nursery to see if  
69 they can plant them soon or if it would be better to wait until spring. Chair Winsor  
70 suggested planting in the fall.

71

72 Ms. Mathews made a motion requesting permission for the Friends to spend \$300  
73 through the replanting program on 2 sets of plants from Prairie Moon Nursery for  
74 Ashuelot River Park. Mr. Bocko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.  
75

76 Mr. Haynes asked if the sets were made up of different groupings of plants. Ms. Mathews  
77 believed that there will be 15 different plants for each set and the idea is to mix them up  
78 to have continual blossoms.  
79

80 C) **Education** – Mr. Bohannon reported that he will need to get back to Mr. Bocko  
81 with regards to possibly hiring an intern for the educational signage. He added that the  
82 bird walk idea was great and suggested they coordinate it with the work days so that the  
83 participants see people working in the park. He mentioned that Steve Hooper is looking  
84 to come back onto the board, which will be helpful as far as education.  
85

86 Mr. Bocko announced the Bat Bonanza event set to occur on August 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30pm.  
87

88 6) **New, Other Business**  
89

90 Chair Winsor asked if there were any updates on the Ken Stewart property. Mr. Bohannon stated  
91 that he had an upcoming meeting with them and will have more information at the next board  
92 meeting.  
93

94 Chair Winsor showed the board his mixture of fish fertilizer and seaweed extract (Nature's Nog  
95 and fish oil) that he uses for organic fertilizer, and reported that it works very well. After brief  
96 discussion with Ms. Mathews it was decided that he would mist the bed nearest to Starbucks to  
97 test results. Ms. Mathews stated that she felt compost still needed to be added and Chair Winsor  
98 agreed, mentioning that his fertilizer interacts well with compost. He gave credit to an old  
99 colleague, Chris, who originally introduced him to the mixture.  
100

101 Mr. Bohannon stated the Keene State Links program is looking to go to the park on August 24<sup>th</sup>  
102 from 9:30 to 11:30am with 20 people total. Ms. Mathews requested a pile of compost be left so  
103 she could have them weed and use the compost.  
104  
105

106 7) **Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8:00 AM**  
107

108 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:39 AM.  
109

110 Respectfully submitted by,  
111 Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker  
112

113 Reviewed and edited by,  
114 Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

