

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 8:00 AM

Room 22 Upstairs, Recreation Center

- This meeting will be conducted in person and by using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online at www.zoom.com and click on “Join A Meeting” enter Meeting ID 819 7366 0123
- To listen to the meeting, please dial (646) 876-9923 and when prompted enter Meeting ID 819 7366 0123
- If you encounter issues accessing this meeting, please call (603) 757-1835 during the meeting

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 September 14, 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
 - d. Bio Blitz
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 8:00 AM

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

8:00 AM

Recreation Center,
Room 22

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Ruzzel Zullo
Paul Bocko
Dian Mathews
Suzy Krautmann

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Councilor Stephen Hooper
Judy Sadoski
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

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9
10 **1) Welcome and Call to Order**

11
12 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

13
14 **2) Acceptance of August 10, 2021 Minutes**

15
16 Ms. Krautmann made a motion to accept the minutes of August 10, 2021. Mr. Bocko seconded
17 the motion, which passed unanimously.

18
19 **3) Finance Report**

20
21 Mr. Bohannon reported that there were no new invoices and noted there will be minor expenses
22 reflected in the budget for the next meeting, including the Bartlett Tree invoice, Buckthorn bags
23 payment, and invoices from The Friends.

24
25
26 **4) Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum**

27
28 Ms. Mathews reported that The Friends sold two stones during Art in the Park, plus someone
29 sent in an extra \$25 donation. She mentioned that a lot of people showed interest in the park,

30 mentioning how great it looked, and took pamphlets home with them. They ended up receiving
31 a little over \$150 in donations for plants.

32
33 She mentioned that The Friends made a connection with the president of Monadnock Artists
34 Association, who is interested in having Plein Air Painting events next year. Mr. Bohannon
35 stated that in the past they did a Plein Air Painting event as a fundraiser for the Art Association
36 at the chapel, and it went very well.

37
38 Ms. Mathews then reported that 7 new people signed up to volunteer at the park and that she
39 has begun tracking volunteer hours and interactions. Beginning August 7th of this year, they
40 have had 32 people working in the beds, including Delta Gamma ladies, Old Homestead, the
41 Friends, and Links, totaling an estimated 61 volunteer hours. She mentioned the number is
42 likely underestimated and she will continue to keep track of this information for grant data and
43 reporting.

44
45 Ms. Mathews informed the board that Matt Kelly, the new forester in Cheshire County,
46 recently met with The Friends for an hour and a half and discussed invasive species. He
47 recommended they form partnerships, with organizations such as the Cheshire Conservation,
48 and noted that he would stay involved as well.

49
50 Next, Ms. Mathews reported that they tried the bagging mechanism on a glossy buckthorn. She
51 noted that the bags are made for one stem and their invasive species is a multi-stem, so the bags
52 didn't fit properly and 2 ties were required to secure them. She mentioned that the baggies have
53 language that identify them as a buckthorn baggies covering an invasive, stating they should
54 remain on for 1 year.

55
56 Ruth Smith, head of UNH Master Gardeners, had visited the park recently and gave them a new
57 Master Gardener named Robin Abbott. They will also be getting Joy Ackerman. Ms. Mathews
58 noted that they will have a separate group from The Friends made up of Master Gardeners. She
59 added that Ms. Smith also provided them with 2 signs for the park that say "UNH is working
60 here".

61
62 Mr. Bohannon suggested they put one sign on the shed and then the other at the kiosk when it
63 arrives.

64
65 Ms. Krautmann mentioned that she may have another Master Gardener for Ms. Mathews and
66 would pass the information along.

67
68 Ms. Mathews then mentioned that she saw Roundup in the shed and wondered who might be
69 bringing that in, noting that it's illegal.

70
71 She then reported that The Friends ordered plantings from Prairie Moon, which would be
72 arriving within the week. They ordered 18 plants for a total of \$98 and also purchased 6 or 7

73 plants at a total of around \$170 from Wild Seed Project in Portland, Maine. She estimated that
74 they have about 33 plants to plant and about \$10 remaining to spend. Ms. Mathews noted that
75 members of The Friends would be going to Nasami Gardens in Deerfield, MA to spend the
76 \$320 of the National Garden Club money on shrubs, and would love to be able to buy more
77 plants while there. She made a motion that the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board allow
78 representatives from The Friends to purchase no more than \$1,200 worth of plants at Nasami
79 Gardens. Ms. Krautmann seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

80
81 Ms. Mathews stated the next official park work day will be held on October 2nd and will start
82 with a bird walk led by Steve LaMonde at 7:30am, with a focus on fall migrants. They will also
83 be planting bulbs and laying down compost. Ms. Mathews added that they hope to talk Mr.
84 LaMonde into volunteering again in the spring. The bird walk will be open to the public and
85 The Friends will advertise. Mr. Bohannon asked Ms. Mathews if she would like the Recreation
86 Department to help advertise the event and she welcomed the assistance.

87
88 There was short discussion on how shredding leaves and redistributing them back into the beds
89 is the best way to go this fall. Mr. Bohannon stated he would talk to a contractor to see if they
90 could do that work. Ms. Krautmann asked if it would be a one-time process or would it need to
91 be done several times since leaves would be continuously falling during that time of year.
92 General consensus was to shred and redistribute the leaves in November. Ms. Casey wondered
93 if the City would pick up the leaves before they get to them for shredding and Mr. Bohannon
94 stated the City's annual leaf pick up takes place for a 2-3 week period in November, and the
95 Parks and Recreation crew will do the parks and cemetery areas at that same time, so they
96 should be all set.

97
98 Mr. Bohannon stated EIM (Electronic Imaging Manufacturer) has 8-16 employees who will
99 come work in the park on September 24th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Ms. Mathews suggested they
100 could possibly have them do compost.

101
102 Ms. Mathews stated the CT River Conservancy are having their "Source to Sea Clean-up" and
103 wondered why the advisory board wasn't listed on their poster. Chair Winsor stated the
104 Conservancy works with the City to clean up trash in and along the river, and the City supports
105 them with trucks, etc. Ms. Mathews suggested it may be a good way to get their name out there
106 in the future.

107
108 Lastly, she mentioned that what appeared to be sprinkler head pieces were found in the park.
109 She had left the pieces at home but stated she would bring them in for Mr. Bohannon to see that
110 week.

111

112

113 **5) Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementations**

114

115 **A) Invasive Species** - This topic was covered previously in the meeting. Ms.
116 Mathews mentioned a video she was sent regarding knotweed. The video showed the
117 process of burning the knotweed and then layering over the area with cardboard and
118 compost. She noted the process would be very labor intensive and not viable for the park.
119 Mr. Bocko agreed. Ms. Mathews stated she will continue to make connections to try and
120 solve the issue for next spring. Mr. Bocko stated Antioch could be a partner in the work
121 on invasive species as a work day. Ms. Mathews and Ms. Casey stated they will start
122 tagging the Invasive species as they garden.

123
124 **B) Pollinator Gardens** - Ms. Mathews stated they are expanding the pollinator
125 gardens.

126
127 **C) Education** - Mr. Bohannon and Mr. Bocko revisited the idea of the board
128 providing match money for a work study position, which would allow an Antioch student
129 to work on educational components. Mr. Bocko stated that he hadn't yet received any
130 interest in the position and noted that Antioch asks for some overhead with a certain
131 number of hours. Mr. Bohannon stated for the next meeting he will review the budget and
132 make a proposal to the board related to this topic.

133
134 Ms. Mathews asked if education would include things besides signage. She further
135 explained that she has been getting requests for workshops and wondered if there's any
136 money in the budget if she were to find someone to put on lectures. Mr. Bohannon stated
137 they could likely fit that in the budget but it would need to be minimal.

138
139 Ms. Krautmann stated she contacted some people in the public schools last June about
140 doing some education and hasn't heard back. Ms. Mathews stated the logistics make it
141 difficult to work with schools in the park and onsite programming usually works better.
142 Ms. Krautmann mentioned that the middle school can access the park by walking, as well
143 as some other schools, without having to bus anyone. Ms. Mathews added that outdoor
144 education in the park is a great vision for the future and good goal. Mr. Bohannon stated
145 the hurdle will come from transporting the children off of school property, even prior to
146 the Pandemic that was a hurdle. Ms. Mathews suggested they do it on a Saturday
147 morning and parents could bring their kids.

148
149 Mr. Bocko mentioned that the Bat Bonanza on August 14th went very well.

150
151
152 **6) New, Other Business**

153
154 Chair Winsor asked Mr. Bohannon about the meeting with Ken Stewart. Mr. Bohannon stated he
155 is working on obtaining details and timelines from Mr. Stewart. A new landscape architect had
156 been hired to work on the site design. He mentioned that the application pieces for an LWCF
157 grant had been started, but there was not much else to report at the time.

158
159 Ms. Krautmann wondered if they could do something similar to the bat walk but Halloween
160 themed for kids. Mr. Bocko stated he'd have to check on staffing and mentioned it is getting late
161 in the season to do a bat walk.
162
163 Chair Winsor stated he recently visited Boothbay Botanical Garden and recommended it to the
164 board, as it had great ideas for the park including sculptures, trolls, etc.
165
166 Ms. Mathews stated they would really like to see a sculpture in the park and mentioned an
167 individual that she could approach with the idea of doing a great blue herring.
168
169 Chair Winsor stated the Rachel Marshall area would be a great spot to have sculptures as well.
170
171 Mr. Bohannon reminded the board to keep in mind that public art is very time consuming. Chair
172 Winsor stated this may be part of a second phase in the master plan.
173
174 Mr. Bocko suggested maybe an art teacher could do the project with students.
175

176
177 **7) Adjournment**

178
179 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:06 AM.
180

181 Respectfully submitted by,
182 Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker
183

184 Reviewed and edited by,
185 Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director
186

**Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board
2021**

updated 9/27/21

	Budget	Actual To Date	Difference
Landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Replanting Program			
shrubs	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ - ***
bulbs	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
invasives	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 99.00	\$ 1,401.00
Bartlett Tree - Pruning	\$ 3,185.00	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 2,120.00
Miscellaneous (not contract)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	<u>\$ 9,685.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,664.00</u>	<u>\$ 7,021.00</u>
Total*	\$ 9,685.00	\$ 2,664.00	\$ 7,021.00

Bartlett Tree - soil treatment	June	\$ 1,065.00
Buckthorn Bags	August	\$ 99.00
native plants pending receipts board approval Sept meeting		\$ 1,500.00 ***
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
TOTAL		<u>\$ 2,664.00</u>

