

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, November 9, 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 October 12, 2021 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
5. Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation
 - a. Leaf Collection
 - b. Public Art
 - c. JD Trail Entrance
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, December 14, 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, October 12, 2021

8:00 AM

Recreation Center,
Room 12

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Paul Bocko
Dian Mathews
Suzy Krautmann
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Councilor Stephen Hooper
Ruzzel Zullo
Judy Sadoski

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

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12 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:08 AM.

13
14 **2) Acceptance of September 14, 2021 Minutes**

15
16 Mr. Bocko made a motion to accept the minutes of September 14, 2021 as presented. Mr. Haynes
17 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

18
19 **3) Finance Report**

20
21 Mr. Bohannon directed the board's attention to the budget in their packets, noting that it had
22 been updated but he hadn't yet received receipts from The Friends native plantings purchases.
23 He stated that out of the \$1,500 hundred granted, The Friends spent \$859. Additionally, Bartlett
24 tree was recently in the park and will be providing a bill soon. Mr. Bohannon added that the
25 invoice will be a bit higher than anticipated due to the pruning of more trees. Next, he went over
26 the status of the trust fund currently at \$497,759 at a principal, noting that they work off 10% of
27 the income.
28

29 **4) Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum**

30

31 Ms. Mathews reported that work had slowed down and that the tasks they are focused on next
32 are spreading compost in the beds, planting bulbs, cleaning out the loft in the shed and finding
33 a mouse deterrent. She listed the lineup of bulbs she chose as 50 Allium, 100 Brodiaea, 100
34 Erythronium and 40 Camassia. Additionally, Ms. Mathews stated they need to find a way to
35 protect the Mountain laurels and Rhododendron by the OHGC bench from the wind.

36

37 Next, Ms. Mathews reported that they are making a map of all plantings done this season and
38 have been diligently marking everything as they go. She noted that all plantings thus far had
39 been native. They purchased shrubs, perennials and groundcovers totaling \$859, out of the
40 \$1,500 they had been granted by the board to spend. She added that the bulbs purchased were
41 around \$120.

42

43 Ms. Mathews reported that Barry and Doris LeClair are working on creating a spreadsheet for
44 all stones planted since 2010. She noted that there were several stones that were out of order,
45 causing them to check and correct old lists.

46

47 They are also compiling a list of all volunteer groups who worked at the park in 2021, with the
48 goal of creating a calendar for planning and scheduling purposes. Additionally, they are
49 tracking persons and number of hours for grant writing.

50

51 Ms. Mathews reported that, over the winter, they are hoping to establish a coalition to work on
52 elimination of invasive species in the park. Groups they plan to contact include the
53 Conservation Commission, Ashuelot River Local Advisory, Cheshire Cooperative Extension
54 and the CT River Conservancy. Ms. Mathews mentioned a new invasive species called the
55 spotted lantern fly.

56

57 She stated that the early morning bird walk with Steve LaMonde went well and they even
58 added the 115th bird to the Park's list, a Swainson's Thrush. 8 adults and 3 children participated
59 and Mr. LaMonde expressed interest in doing a spring bird walk. Ms. Mathews mentioned
60 possibly obtaining kid binoculars to keep at the Recreation Department for people to check out
61 when needed.

62

63 As far as education, Ms. Mathews stated she'd like to start education talks on topics such as
64 pollinators, native plantings for a NH garden and the "Leave the Leaves" presentation. Lastly,
65 she noted that The Friends will be completing a program to become a certified pollinator
66 friendly garden. The program is 4 steps for \$10, with the option to purchase a \$30 certification
67 sign when completed.

68

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

70

71 Mr. Bohannon directed the board's attention to the Ashuelot River Park ARP Project spreadsheet
72 and pointed out expenses thus far. He mentioned item #4 titled More Seating and stated Keene
73 Monument will be installing 3 benches in the near future, noting labor shortages held them up a
74 bit.

75
76 Ms. Mathews brought up tree roots being impacted and wondered if they could add signage to
77 the kiosk with a message to be mindful of root protection zones. She also mentioned adding
78 stepping stones up to the tree markers to help people avoid stepping on plantings.

79
80 Mr. Bohannon suggested buying 12X12 concrete pavers from Home Depot for stepping stones.
81 Ms. Mathews stated she would walk around the park to survey how many pavers they would
82 need.

83
84 Discussion ensued about the trailhead and welcome Kiosk at the Jonathan Daniels trail entrance.
85 Mr. Bohannon noted that the kiosk alone will be around \$5,000, \$7,500 if they go wider, and that
86 they are looking to emulate the Walldogs kiosk at Railroad Square and the Ashuelot Park
87 entrance kiosk at Emerald Street. Main features would include an arch with trail name and
88 signage with room for a trail map and other education pieces. Mr. Bohannon stated he would talk
89 to Peter Poanessa and have him design a kiosk and bring it back to the board for approval. He
90 informed the board that the stretch of land there is in bad shape and the drainage is horrible,
91 noting that they may need to work with a contractor to accomplish making the entrance a main
92 focal point. He added that he is working with Mr. Bocko to obtain funding and set up an Antioch
93 student to work on the signage and educational components. Ms. Mathews requested that she be
94 involved. Chair Winsor summarized that the next steps would be talking to a contractor with
95 regards to drainage and then planning the kiosk design and exploring cost.

96
97 **A) Invasive Species** – Short discussion ensued with regards to eliminating knotweed
98 in the park. Ms. Mathews suggested chopping and clearing it, followed by laying tarps
99 and covering the tarps with 4 inches of compost. She stated they could add signage to let
100 everyone know what was taking place. Mr. Bohannon mentioned having goats come in,
101 stating it would cost around \$1,000 for the weekend, but they'd need to be ready to go
102 once the goats leave. Ms. Mathews agreed, stating after the goats eat the knotweed and
103 scour the root systems, it's important to immediately cover the area with tarps and throw
104 down the compost. Mr. Haynes asked for clarification on when this process would take
105 place. Ms. Mathews answered that it would occur in the spring so they could get the
106 knotweed right as it is beginning to grow up. Chair Winsor stated the invasive species
107 topic will need to be discussed in more depth.

108
109 **B) Pollinator Gardens** – Ms. Mathews stated pollinator gardens are an ongoing item
110 that don't need to be discussed each meeting.

111
112 **C) Education** – Ms. Mathews asked about funding for speakers. Mr. Bohannon
113 stated they could likely make room for that in the next budget as they won't be spending

114 all of the replanting program money. Ms. Mathews stated she would find out the rate of
115 speakers she had in mind and bring it back to the board.

116

117 **D) Bio Blitz** – Mr. Bohannon stated the Bio Blitz is an event that the NHRPA
118 sponsors to get departments to be more environmentally conscious. The idea is to have
119 the community explore outdoor parks in Keene and document pollinator gardens and
120 pollinators as a contest. Ms. Mathews was very excited about this event and fully on
121 board to plan it for next year. Mr. Haynes stated he would discuss it with the
122 Conservation Commission and see if they would be equipped to be involved.

123

124 **6) New, Other Business**

125

126 Chair Winsor inquired about leaf collection timing in the park. Mr. Bohannon stated he put it on
127 Mr. Sweeney’s radar to plan with his staff and that the goal is to mulch the leaves and repurpose
128 them back into the beds.

129

130 Mr. Bohannon reiterated that he is working with Mr. Bocko to bring on a student and believes
131 they can fit it into the budget and it will be matched by Antioch University. Mr. Bocko noted that
132 it has been difficult to find students to work but he will begin advertising as soon as funding is
133 confirmed.

134

135 Ms. Krautmann stated she has someone interested in creating a sculpture for the park. She
136 suggested the board do a walk around and choose a few locations where they’d like the art
137 placed, and then they could allow artists to pick from those spots.

138

139 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 8:00AM**

140

141 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:09 AM.

142

143 Respectfully submitted by,
144 Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

145

146 Reviewed and edited by,
147 Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

**Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board
2021**

updated 10/26/21

	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	\$ 5,625.00	\$ (2,440.00)
Miscellaneous (not contract)	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total*	\$ 9,685.00	\$ 7,224.00	<u>\$ 2,461.00</u>

Bartlett Tree - soil treatment	June	\$ 1,065.00
Buckthorn Bags	August	\$ 99.00
native plants pending receipts board approval Sept meeting		\$ 1,500.00 ***
Bartlett Tree - pruning ornamental underplanting	9/29/2021	\$ 1,375.00
Bartlett Tree - magnolia, katsura, kentucky coffee, english oak	9/29/2021	\$ 3,185.00
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
TOTAL		<u>\$ 7,224.00</u>