

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 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 816 1971 6338
- To listen to the meeting, please dial (646) 876-9923 and when prompted enter Meeting ID 816 1971 6338
- 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 December 14, 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
 - a. 2022 Meeting Calendar
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, February 8, 2022 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, December 14, 2021

8:00 AM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Councilor Stephen Hooper
Judy Sadoski
Ruzzel Zullo
Paul Bocko
Suzy Krautmann
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Dian Mathews

8
9
10 **1) Welcome and Call to Order**

11
12 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

13
14 **2) Acceptance of November 9, 2021 Minutes**

15
16 Ms. Krautmann moved to accept the minutes of November 9, 2021 as presented. Mr. Bocko
17 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

18
19 **3) Finance Report**

20
21 Mr. Bohannon made a correction to the report stating the total should reflect a \$500.00
22 deduction for the public art project. He added that he hadn't heard back from the individual and
23 will reach back out to her to obtain the company information and move forward with ordering
24 the supplies. Ms. Krautmann stated the individual's quote will cover supplies for clay and
25 firing.

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

28
29 Ms. Mathews was not present so Chair Winsor read through her report. First up it was noted
30 that the Friends will not be meeting in December and that they got the legal go ahead for an

31 insurance policy and application. Their treasurer has agreed to be the Friends applicant for the
32 Wonder Casino grant. Mr. Bohannon mentioned that, for that grant in particular, when you
33 receive the check you also need to simultaneously give them a check equal to one third of the
34 earnings.

35

36 Next, Chair Winsor reported that Ms. Mathews learned that NH received AARP Community
37 Challenge grants and she will be looking to apply for the park.

38

39 Chair Winsor reported that the Friends are attempting to make seed bombs.

40

41 Mr. Bohannon stated he attended a webinar related to pollinator grants hosted by the Cheshire
42 County Conservation office and he sent all of the information to Ms. Mathews. He talked to
43 them about what the Friends and the board are looking to do and they love the idea. He and Ms.
44 Mathews will work on that grant, which is due February 1st and is a matching grant up to
45 \$1,500.

46

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

48

49 **A) Leaf Collection** - Mr. Bohannon stated they are taking all the leaves, shredding
50 them, and putting them at the maintenance garage located at 520 Park Avenue. They will
51 be held there and ready for mulching come spring.

52

53 **B) Public Art** - Ms. Kratumann repeated that Mr. Bohannon will purchase materials
54 for the public art project. She anticipates the art will be ready for spring. Mr. Bohannon
55 stated they should keep in mind that the work is being done by school children so there
56 may or may not be delays depending on what happens with the school year.

57

58 **C) JD Trail Entrance** - Mr. Bohannon stated he has been in contact with Peter
59 Poanessa, who is very busy and hasn't yet had time to get back to him. He reminded the
60 board that at the corner of Emerald and the Ashuelot Rail Trail, Mr. Poanessa did a recent
61 trail sign with a map and bench, and that is the look they are going for.

62

63 Councilor Hooper asked if Mr. Poanessa's work is volunteer and Mr. Bohannon
64 answered that his work is paid.

65

66

67 **6) New, Other Business**

68

69 Eloise Clark from the Asheulot River Local Advisory Committee (ARLAC) informed the board
70 that they are updating their management plan and wanted input from the board on anything
71 related to the park that should be incorporated into the plan. She also asked how recent their
72 master plan is.

73

ARPAB Meeting Minutes

74 Mr. Bohannon stated in May/June of 2020 the Conway School of Landscape Design completed
75 their climate resiliency plan, which can be found on the Parks and Recreation website. Mr.
76 Bohannon noted that he will send Ms. Clark the link.

77
78 Ms. Clark asked if there was anything else she should be aware of. Chair Winsor mentioned
79 concern about the dam but added that there was no new information as to what is going to
80 happen there.

81
82 Ms. Casey suggested Ms. Mathews should reach out to coordinate about invasive species
83 removal, such as knotweed and bittersweet along the bank and near the dam. Ms. Clark
84 mentioned that there's a lot of buckthorn as well, and added that she did an inventory and
85 documented it all. Ms. Casey stated allowing invasive species to flourish gives people the idea
86 that it's normal, so they don't want to miss out on an educational opportunity.

87
88 Ms. Krautmann asked what the ARLAC is in charge of. Ms. Clark stated it was chartered by the
89 state in the early 1990's to set up local advisory committees for lakes and is under DES. She
90 further explained that when permits/projects come in, they are involved with that aspect and also
91 involved with annual cleanup of Ashuelot River, and discussions regarding dams as well.

92
93 Ms. Krautmann wondered if they could find an education grant to keep the dam and utilize it.
94 Mr. Bohannon stated in the past it was proven not to generate enough flow to create electricity.
95 Ms. Casey added that to remove the dam would negatively impact upstream ecosystems. Mr.
96 Haynes added that the RI School of Design had put together an extensive project with their
97 students showing how to keep the dam up in different ways. He noted that it was a great study
98 with visuals to help people see different alternatives.

99
100 Mr. Bohannon stated he believes fiscal year 24 or 25 is when the City will revisit the dam
101 process, and noted that they have a lot of money to remove it but zero money to keep it. He
102 stated he will look for the study to see if he can find it.

103
104 Chair Winsor thanked Ms. Clark and stated she is welcome any time.

105
106 Councilor Hooper stated he hadn't been in the parks recently to see if any bats had come in but
107 will continue to monitor and update.

108
109 Mr. Bocko stated he had a few Antioch students interested in doing the Antioch signage but they
110 are just graduating and scheduling didn't work out.

111
112 Mr. Bohannon reported that they are working with an Antioch student related to blue space
113 therapy. He explained that blue space is anything water related and the student will be guiding
114 hikes in the Keene area, targeting 20 to 50 year olds, to create a connection to nature. He stated
115 they will be pushing out more information in the near future as they are hoping to open
116 registration in January, and mentioned that the student created a video to introduce the subject to

ARPAB Meeting Minutes

117 everyone. Mr. Bohannon added that it's a great program for them as it's very different and an
118 excellent programming partnership with Antioch. He went on to state that the community
119 definitely wants programs like this and it's great that they can deliver and have people
120 understand the resources they have. Mr. Bocko added that he could bring the information to the
121 Active Living work group.

122

123 Mr. Haynes announced that they are doing another walk in February led by Matt Kelly, the new
124 county extension forester, which will take place on Saturday February 5th at Goose Pond. He
125 added that they are looking to possibly do a trail maintenance workshop where they bring
126 volunteers in to learn how to do basic trail maintenance work.

127

128 Ms. Sadoski asked about the space near the park that was recently grassed over, inquiring about
129 what is happening there. Mr. Bohannon stated the owners are looking to develop that private
130 land but are still pondering details, noting there is not much information to report at the time. Ms.
131 Clark stated in the past the group presented the idea of creating a natural outdoor play area,
132 farmers market, and possibly greenhouse. They had a design but were still looking for monetary
133 investors. Chair Winsor stated at one point there were plans for a condo complex in that area, so
134 this alternative direction is much better for the park.

135

136 7) Adjournment

137

138 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:37am.

139

140 Respectfully submitted by,
141 Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

142

143 Reviewed and edited by,
144 Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

145

**Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board
2021**

updated 12/20/21

	Budget	Actual To Date	Difference
Landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Replanting Program			
shrubs	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 859.06	\$ 640.94
bulbs	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 208.18	\$ 1,291.82
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>\$ 480.00</u>	<u>\$ 520.00</u>
Total*	\$ 9,685.00	\$ 7,271.24	<u>\$ 2,413.76</u>

Bartlett Tree - soil treatment	June		\$ 1,065.00
Buckthorn Bags	August		\$ 99.00
native plants pending receipts board approval Sept meeting			\$ 859.06
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
Bulbs - Dian reimbursement			\$ 208.18
Art - Brat Clayworks	Dec	12/16/2021	\$ 480.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
TOTAL			<u>\$ 7,271.24</u>



City of Keene
New Hampshire

Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board

2022 Meeting Schedule

January 11th

February 8th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

June 14th

July 12th

August 9th

September 13th

October 11th

November 8th

December 13th

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM and conducted in Room 22 (upstairs) Recreation Center 312 Washington Street

meeting dates, times and location are subject to change