

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 8:00 AM
Room 22 Upstairs, Recreation Center

Members:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Ruzzel Zullo, Vice Chair
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne
Steve Hooper
Paul Bocko
Suzy Krautmann
Dian Mathews

Staff:

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

Alternate:

Thomas Haynes

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of October 11, 2022 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
 - a. Invasive Species
 - b. Rain Garden
5. Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation
 - a. Ashuelot Green Space
 - b. Book Walk Installation
 - c. Public Art Installation
 - d. ArborScope Demonstration
 - e. Kiosk Information
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 8:00 AM

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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4
5 ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

8:00 AM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Ruzzel Zullo, Vice Chair
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne (arrived at
8:05 AM)
Stephen Hooper
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Dian Mathews
Paul Bocko
Suzy Krautmann

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

11
12 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

13
14 **2) Approval of July 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

15
16 Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 12, 2022, which was
17 seconded by Mr. Hooper and passed by unanimous vote.

18
19 **3) Finance Report**

20
21 Mr. Bohannon reported that Bartlett Tree has done their work. He continued that the Trustees
22 also approved the ArborScope; it was taken right out of this budget. The budget is up to date.
23 Current expenditures is \$6,558.23.

24
25 Mr. Hooper asked if everything is up to date with park maintenance for this year. Mr. Bohannon
26 replied yes, with one exception. They need to have a conversation about the beds, and whether
27 they are going to clean those out and hire someone to clean those out. He continued that last
28 year they left them/did not clean out the leaves, and it did not go as well as planned.
29

30 Leslie Casey, of the Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum, said that the Friends feel that in
31 the places where the leaves collect, the soil was improved, the plant growth improved, and it
32 helped cool the soil and keep it moist. She continued that the issue is that the plantings are not
33 dense enough now. The Friends have been trying to get some ground covers going to give the
34 soil some texture to hold some leaves. It was a dry year so the growth was a little inhibited. The
35 City needs to do what it feels is necessary, but she does not think anyone wants to abandon the
36 idea of using leaves to improve the beds.

37

38 Mr. Bohannon replied that this is an open conversation and he is not committed to anything. He
39 wants to know if he needs to hire someone to do some cleanup.

40

41 Bettina Chadbourne arrived at 8:05 AM.

42

43 Raynee Joy, of the Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum, spoke about grinding/shredding
44 leaves, and of the benefits of the shredded leaves being in the beds. Chair Winsor, too, spoke in
45 favor of grinding up the leaves. He continued that he thinks the ground up leaves should be
46 mixed with woodchips with a ratio of two parts woodchips to one part shredded leaves. It needs
47 to be a conscientious process.

48

49 Discussion continued. Mr. Bohannon stated that if they pile up the leaves, it will happen again,
50 so there needs to be a process. He asked where the leaves should go once they are shredded.
51 Chair Winsor replied that once they are shredded, they can sit for a bit, then in the spring they
52 can be mixed with woodchips and brought back to the park. He knows this is work. Ms. Casey
53 stated that she thinks that as long as the shredded leaves are not going to mat or blow around
54 excessively, they could go straight back on the beds and save that work. She does not think they
55 will hurt the plants.

56

57 Discussion continued. Mr. Haynes asked if it is possible for someone to shred the leaves on site
58 and blow them right onto the beds. Mr. Bohannon replied that he does not know. Chair Winsor
59 replied or they can be shredded in a big pile and then put onto the beds, but just getting them
60 shredded is a big step.

61

62 Mr. Bohannon stated that he will have a conversation and see if they can shred the leaves. He
63 continued that he thinks if they do the woodchips, they will get the same result as last year. He
64 asked if it would work for this year if they shredded the leaves and put the shredded leaves back
65 into the beds. ARPAB members replied yes. Chair Winsor stated that over time they can get
66 more sophisticated with the process. Mr. Bohannon replied that maybe there is a contractor out
67 there that uses this method.

68

69 **4) Report from the Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum**

70

71 Chair Winsor asked Ms. Casey for a report. Ms. Casey replied that Dian [Mathews] did not
72 prepare one for her, but she can give an update. She shared the following:

- 73
- 74 - Invasive species continue to be a major issue this year. The buckthorn trees are
75 problematic, and make birds sick. Soil quality is fine wherever it remains relatively
76 moist. They are trying to get ground covers to help the places where the soil is too dry.
- 77 - Some Friends participated in the Source to Sea cleanup at Ashuelot River Park. She
78 found fishing gear tangled in a tree, dangling over the river, which no one can get to.
- 79 - At a Cheshire County Conservation District event, she met the new River Steward for the
80 Connecticut River Conservancy. She will get more involved and one of her missions is
81 to get more engagement on the Connecticut River watershed in this area. She could be a
82 resource for the riverbank problems with invasive species.
- 83 - She has been digging up huge bittersweet vine roots and multiflora rose roots; there are
84 beds you would not even know were beds, because they were so covered with
85 bittersweet. The riverbank is too steep for her to be able to dig it all out.
- 86 - The Friends received a grant for the raingarden project, which she believes Ms. Mathews
87 got an extension on. In theory, it should have been completed with the report in by the
88 end of this year. The advisors told them that if they are going to use equipment close to
89 the river they need to get a DES permit by notification, and since they do not own the
90 land, that would be a City of Keene undertaking.

91

92 Mr. Bohannon replied that a permit by notification is simple and not too expensive. In order to
93 do it, staff will need to know the exact location and the details. Ms. Casey replied that it is
94 between the apron near the Starbucks parking lot and the river.

95

96 Ms. Joy asked if there were any updates on the air compressor. Chair Winsor replied that he was
97 going to show the arborist the location, but Ms. Mathews let him know the markings were no
98 longer there. If it gets marked again, the Friends can let him know and he will show the arborist
99 so he knows what is involved. Ms. Joy explained the area and stated that they had talked about
100 assessing whether they need to get a small backhoe; it is really solid there. Chair Winsor replied
101 that he thinks [the arborist] can handle the whole thing. Ms. Joy stated that she will do the
102 markings again on Friday morning when she is at the park.

103

104 Ms. Casey stated that if they get that area excavated and cleaned up, and they want to bring in
105 some crushed stone for a walkway or some good soil to put in so they can put in plantings, they
106 want to have a landscape company deliver a yard or two of these materials. She asked if it is
107 okay with the City if the Friends do that. Mr. Bohannon replied yes.

108

109 Chair Winsor stated that he wants Ms. Mathews to know he did not fertilize the plants this
110 summer, feeling that it would have done more harm than good. He continued that he kept
111 waiting for a good window, and could not find one. Ms. Casey replied that growth was so
112 limited because of the drought, anyway.

113

114 Ms. Joy gave an update on the Friends' knotweed project. She spoke of the work they will do
115 this Friday, and their intention to start the next phase, which is dependent on whether they can

116 get chips. That is a question for Mr. Bohannon. She continued that they need more chips on the
117 old site. In some places, it is not four inches as it is supposed to be. Mr. Bohannon asked what
118 they need. Ms. Joy replied that she does not know how much was dumped last time; maybe one
119 dump truck load before. Mr. Bohannon replied that the department has plenty. Ms. Joy replied
120 that the Friends are not quite ready for it; they have work to do on Friday to prepare. She
121 continued that they probably will need the chips at the end of the month. Mr. Bohannon asked
122 for her/someone to tell him when they want the chips, and his department will have them
123 dumped.

124

125 Ms. Joy stated that she went to the invasive species conference in Concord, and was advised that
126 the Friends should keep the cut down knotweed on site. Two or three weeks ago, they made a
127 site on the pathway going toward the bank. They cut down a lot of knotweed there, and laid it on
128 pallets on a tarp. They want to cut behind the old outhouse and put another set of pallets there,
129 for everything cut in phase two. In areas where they cannot cover, they will try to cut about 12
130 times a year, especially in the spring, to keep the knotweed to a foot or below. They will not dig
131 up the roots. The cuttings will go into those piles. They will try that method in the little area to
132 the right of the path out to the bank. Discussion ensued about knotweed. Ms. Casey spoke of
133 how the Friends/Ms. Joy's work has been a gratifying project to see, uncovering native plant
134 species, and cleaning the banks to the point where members of the public are returning to them.
135 Discussion continued.

136

137 Councilor Chadbourne asked why the knotweed cuttings cannot be brought to the dump. She
138 continued that her second question is why they do not dig up at least some of the roots. Ms. Joy
139 replied that in the section they are working on now, they have dug up many roots. She continued
140 that it is just too much to try to dig up the roots [in the other area]. Ms. Casey added that the
141 roots can be 10 feet deep. Ms. Joy stated that when she dug up roots she was afraid to just leave
142 them to dry, so they bagged them and put them in a dumpster, the contents of which go to an
143 incinerator. She continued that many people have knotweed in their yards, because other people
144 put it in the compost piles at the dumps and people who did not know what would happen
145 brought that "great compost" home to their gardens. Councilor Chadbourne replied that she
146 meant "dump" as in dumpster that gets taken away. Discussion continued about the roots. Ms.
147 Casey stated that knotweed does not need to grow from a root, because it can grow from just a
148 piece of leaf or stem. Chair Winsor stated that it is about just waiting until it disintegrates.
149 Councilor Chadbourne asked if that is what happens, eventually, when you keep cutting it down.
150 Ms. Casey replied yes, it starves the root and the root dies. Ms. Joy added that it takes constant
151 cuttings, for years. Their goal is to not allow it photosynthesis. Chair Winsor added that digging
152 up the roots on that bank could cause erosion, which they do not want. Others agreed, and
153 discussion continued. Ms. Joy spoke of the benefits of putting in some native plantings that
154 could withstand the knotweed to strengthen the bank.

155

156 Councilor Chadbourne asked if the City could do something to remove that fishing line tangled
157 in the tree. Mr. Bohannon replied yes, if it is safe enough to take down. He continued that he

158 will send a crew down there to check out the location. Discussion ensued about possible
159 methods of removal.

160

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

162

163 Chair Winsor stated that before getting into the Master Plan conversation, he wanted to get an
164 update on some items. He asked how Art in the Park went. Mr. Bohannon replied that it went
165 well. He continued that it is nice to have Foskett and Delisle taking over that operation. Ms.
166 Casey stated that the Friends had a table there. Mr. Bohannon stated that someone reached out to
167 the City related to joining the ARPAB, but they actually meant to ask about the Friends. He will
168 connect with Ms. Mathews related to that.

169

170 Chair Winsor asked if any other events happened in the park since the ARPAB's last meeting in
171 July. Mr. Bohannon replied that Art in the Park was the big one.

172

173 **A) Ashuelot Green Space**

174

175 Chair Winsor asked if anyone has an update on this. Mr. Bohannon replied no, he has not heard
176 anything. He continued that Rotary International is celebrating 100 years, and the Keene Rotary
177 Club is looking to do some type of 100-year gift. They want to do something in the park. Part of
178 this Green Space project was a kayak launch, so he has talked with Keene Rotary about that
179 particular option. He does not know where it will go, what kind of funding Keene Rotary has,
180 and so on and so forth. He hopes to have more information for the ARPAB at the next meeting.
181 The kayak launch, if it happens, would be an ADA-compliant dock and have to go through
182 several steps. He will keep them posted.

183

184 Mr. Haynes asked if he is talking about the adjacent land. Mr. Bohannon replied that the kayak
185 launch area would be actually in the City's space. He continued that there is no push with the
186 Ashuelot Green Space. It is quite complicated, with potentially a non-profit organization
187 building a building there, and the group wants a solar array to be net zero, and there are many
188 things that would need to happen for them to make everything work. Chair Winsor asked that
189 they just keep it on the agenda.

190

191 **B) Book Walk Installation**

192

193 Chair Winsor asked if there is any update on this. Mr. Bohannon replied that he has been out for
194 three weeks, but he touched base with Chuck Sweeney before he left, related to the installation.
195 He was looking to connect with the Library to walk and mark the spots again. He continued that
196 Ms. Mathews is probably the only person who has the map. He wants to get a copy. Ms. Joy
197 replied that last week, Ms. Mathews said something about meeting with the Librarian. Mr.
198 Bohannon replied that he does not know if they connected. However, the book walk installation
199 will happen this fall.

200

201 **C) Public Art Installation**

202

203 Chair Winsor stated that Suzy Krautmann is not here to give an update. Mr. Bohannon replied
204 that the last conversation he had with Forest Bencivenga at Franklin School was that she was
205 looking for the installation to happen on the 19th, or for the holes to be dug on the 14th and to
206 have the actual unveiling on the 19th. He continued that he has not heard anything since. Ms.
207 Bencivenga was involved with a couple different craft fairs recently, and was waiting for some
208 items to come back from a kiln. He does not know if the pieces have been completed yet. He
209 will email everyone as an FYI when he learns more.

210

211 Ms. Joy asked why there are cement circles out back by the knotweed. Mr. Bohannon replied
212 that he does not know. It is not related to this art installation.

213

214 **6) New, Other Business**

215

216 Mr. Bohannon stated that an organization planted a lilac bush. He continued that he did not steer
217 the organization in that location. They were to be connected with Ms. Mathews and meet in the
218 park, and the organization skipped that step and did it on their own. He knows that ruffled a few
219 feathers. They can move it if necessary. Discussion ensued. Ms. Joy stated that the stone has
220 been removed, into the shed. She continued that it says “In memory of –.” Mr. Bohannon
221 replied yes, that is not acceptable.

222

223 Mr. Bohannon stated that Peter Poanessa is finishing up the kiosk that they had commissioned
224 him for, in the entryway. He continued that Mr. Poanessa asked him if there was any additional
225 content they wanted him to add to it, and he told Mr. Poanessa he would get back to him. Chair
226 Winsor asked to see an image/artist rendition of this, if Mr. Bohannon has that to send out again,
227 because he did not see it. Mr. Bohannon replied that he will see if he has it.

228

229 Discussion ensued about the kiosk. Mr. Bohannon stated that the file Mr. Poanessa received was
230 not a very high level graphic, and sometimes when you enlarge an image, it gets distorted. If the
231 signs need to be replaced, it is on “our” dime [ARPAB]. With some of the signs Kyle Bradford
232 did, some of the colors did not come out correctly, and there were other minor details that most
233 people would not notice, but the person who created it noticed and asked for it to be redone.

234 Chair Winsor replied that most people would not even notice, but people should take a close look
235 at the signs, before the next meeting, and see what they think, e.g. whether there is a particular
236 sign or two that does not look right. Mr. Zullo asked if there is a warranty or guarantee they can
237 tap into because of the misprint. Chair Winsor replied that his understanding is that Mr.

238 Poanessa did exactly what Mr. Bradford gave him, so it is not his fault. The file resolution was
239 an issue. Mr. Bohannon replied that when you go from copy to print, it does not always
240 translate, if the file is not correct. That is what happened in this case. In order to get it corrected,
241 he cannot just send the same file over. It has to be higher resolution, and he does not think Mr.
242 Bradford has the capacity in his software to do what Mr. Poanessa needs. Hiring Mr. Poanessa
243 to do that [might not work], because he is very booked right now.

244
245 Discussion continued. Ms. Joy asked if someone with a good camera with a card can take that to
246 Mr. Poanessa, if the issue is one of the photos. Mr. Bohannon replied that he can send Ms. Joy
247 some of the things Mr. Bradford was worried about, so she can find that particular sign. He
248 continued that he understands that Mr. Bradford does not want his name on something that does
249 not look good, but he himself thinks they all look great and Mr. Bradford did a fantastic job. It is
250 just the resolution that threw it off a bit.

251
252 Ms. Casey stated that to return to the subject of the Master Plan, one of the volunteers for Art in
253 the Park was talking about how one of the Keene social service agencies moved from one site to
254 another and as a result no longer has a community garden. She continued that this volunteer said
255 it would be great for the community to have, and she would love to see Monadnock Conservancy
256 build out their concept, put some thought into engaging socioeconomically disadvantaged
257 families who live near the park, which is part of the Master Plan. It would be great to have some
258 kind of interactive community garden, particularly oriented to vegetables. Mr. Bohannon replied
259 that those are good to have. He continued that community gardens had a very good year in the
260 space behind the Monadnock View Cemetery but many gardeners reported theft. That is
261 problematic. Councilor Chadbourne asked if the City has more than one community garden.
262 Mr. Bohannon replied no.

263
264 Chair Winsor stated that regarding ArborScope, he would be happy to take some photos of the
265 trees while they look as good as they do, and he can add those in, if Mr. Bohannon gives him the
266 login information. Mr. Bohannon replied that that would be great. He continued that the license
267 has up to five users, so he would be glad to add users. Chair Winsor told Mr. Hooper to send
268 him any photos he wants him to add, if he takes any. Mr. Hooper agreed.

269
270 Ms. Joy asked if there is a map of the trees on the ground. Chair Winsor replied yes, with the
271 ArborScope. Mr. Bohannon stated that he can give one of the Friends the password to
272 ArborScope, and they can go in and see that. He asked if they want that. Ms. Joy replied yes,
273 that would be great. Ms. Casey added that many people at Art in the Park expressed that they
274 did not know there was an arboretum in the park, and if the Friends had a map to show them or
275 something to print and give them, people could do a self-guided tour. Chair Winsor replied that
276 a future agenda item could be about putting the ArborScope map online. Mr. Bohannon replied
277 that they can put this on the next meeting's agenda, but in the meantime, he will send Chair
278 Winsor and Ms. Joy the ArborScope password.

279
280 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

281
282 Chair Winsor stated that the next scheduled meeting is on Election Day. He asked if people want
283 to move it to the following week. Others agreed. Chair Winsor stated that the next meeting will
284 thus be on November 15, 2022.

285
286 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:05 AM.

ARPAB Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022

287

288 Respectfully submitted by,
289 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

290

291 Reviewed and edited by,
292 Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

**Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board
2022**

Updated 9/14/22

	Budget	Actual To Date	Difference
Landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Replanting Program			
shrubs	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
bulbs	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
invasives	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Bartlett Tree - Pruning	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,058.23	\$ (58.23)
Miscellaneous (not contract)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (500.00)
Total*	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 6,558.23	\$ 3,941.77

Bartlett Tree Contract	\$ 4,278.23	401691122-0	\$ 4,278.23
Bartlett Tree Contract	\$ 780.00	401691121-1	\$ 780.00
Friends - Praire Moon Nursery	\$ 59.00		\$ -
Bartlett Tree Arbor Scope	2/8/1904		\$ 1,500.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
TOTAL			\$ 6,558.23