

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, December 13, 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 November 15, 2022 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
 - a. Rain Garden
5. Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation
 - a. Ashuelot Green Space
 - b. ArborScope Demonstration
 - c. Kiosk Information
 - d. Pollinator Palooza June 22nd 1-3pm
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 8:00 AM

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

8:00 AM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Thomas Haynes, Alternate
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne
Stephen Hooper

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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. Roll call was conducted.

13
14 **2) Approval of October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

15
16 Mr. Bohannon noted that in the October 11 minutes, Raynee's middle name was inadvertently
17 used instead of her last name, Carlson, and this will be corrected.

18
19 Mr. Bocko made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 11, 2022, as amended.
20 Ms. Krautmann seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

21
22 **3) Finance Report**

23
24 Mr. Bohannon reported that everything is up to date. He continued that Ms. Mathews just gave
25 him the invoice for Prairie Moon, which was \$63. He will update that. The ARPAB budgeted
26 \$10,000 but only spent \$6,500. As a reminder, whatever they do not spend does not go away;
27 they can utilize it next year.
28

29 Mr. Bocko asked if there was something the ARPAB thought they were going to do and did not
30 do. Ms. Mathews and Ms. Carlson spoke about some of the items they expected to spend money
31 on but were fortunate to get for free.

32

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

34 **A) Invasive Species**

35 **B) Rain Garden**

36

37 Ms. Mathews gave the following update from the Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum:

38

39 *“The Friends board is composed of myself as chair and Karen Flavin as secretary.”*

40

41 She added that the Friends’ treasurer quit because there was not enough business. She
42 continued:

43

44 *“Other members of the board are Leslie Casey and Raynee Joy, both Master Gardeners; Julie*
45 *Barrett, owner of Julie’s Garden; Laura Andrews, our Antioch liaison; and Barry LeClair who is*
46 *in charge of the cobblestones. We are the core of the work crew we call The Friends. We also*
47 *have some volunteers: Doris LeClair, Barry’s spouse; Big Mike; Jennifer Greenstone from Old*
48 *Homestead Garden Club, and the three Mormon ‘sisters.’ In addition, we have floating*
49 *volunteers who show up when they can. But the listed people are the ‘usuals.’ This summer we*
50 *worked every Friday and the first Saturday of each month. The average was five gardeners per*
51 *workday. We logged at least 20 hours per month – that’s 150 worker hours per month. Plus,*
52 *each of us was maintaining our own gardens. During the drought we bought a wagon to ferry*
53 *the twelve water jugs around and managed to save most of the shrubs and perennials we have*
54 *planted. We watered every other day for two weeks.*

55

56 *At the last meeting Raynee explained to you what we have been doing with the Invasives Project.*
57 *The whole area behind Mascoma Bank has been cut down. You should go see how high the piles*
58 *of knotweed are.”*

59

60 Ms. Mathews stated that with the new idea of tarps and pallets, and piling up the knotweed, they
61 are up to four piles of knotweed.

62

63 She continued:

64

65 *“Our thanks to Chuck and his crew for their timely application of woodchips and the final tarped*
66 *area by the shoreline.”*

67

68 Chair Winsor stated that it looks really good. Mr. Bocko asked what the plan is with the cut
69 knotweed. Ms. Mathews replied that it has to stay there for at least four years. Brief discussion
70 ensued.

71

72 Ms. Mathews continued reading:

73
74 *“We divided some of the hostas and moved some to the garden behind the Old Homestead bench*
75 *because their plantings got walked on by curious visitors who needed to get close to the tree*
76 *tagged by the shoreline behind the bench. The same thing happened in the front corner by*
77 *Starbucks. One curious visitor even took off a ‘Buckthorn Baggie’ – we imagine s/he didn’t*
78 *know where it had come from so couldn’t put it back.*

79
80 *Leslie, with very little help, cleared the bittersweet and the multiflora rose from the entire section*
81 *between the shed and the bridge. Underneath the invasive vines she found what had been*
82 *another garden, with iris, ilex, bayberry, and blueberry all thriving. All the invasive maples, etc.*
83 *have been cut and/or dug out of the section we call Steve Hooper’s Garden, the round garden*
84 *right in front of the bridge walkway.*

85
86 *Our third set of nine plants from Prairie Moon arrived in October and were planted in the*
87 *OHGC spot by the big sign. The price went up to \$63 from \$59 last year. We have decided to*
88 *plant drought tolerant plants in this section because of the lack of a sprinkler for times when we*
89 *are not able to get to the Park to water.*

90
91 *At the last meeting, Leslie brought you up to speed on the Rain Garden Project. We can discuss*
92 *how to proceed over the winter months. We will have to have something to show the Grant*
93 *Committee when they question the lack of process. Leslie has made a spreadsheet of possible*
94 *plants that can go in the Rain Garden and three potential design schematics. So as soon as we*
95 *can work out the kinks we’ll be ready to go.”*

96

97 Chair Winsor asked if they should talk now about handicapped access.

98

99 Ms. Mathews stated that when she went around the Park with the people from the Library,
100 figuring out where to put the story things, Chuck Sweeney (City of Keene Parks Maintenance
101 Superintendent) said there were concerns expressed about the location of the Rain Garden. She
102 continued that she thinks they should be included in the planning. The Friends moved the chain
103 from the back where the big snow pile goes, so all of the asphalt is now behind the chain, so the
104 snowplow operators can dump the snow on the asphalt. The idea of the Rain Garden is that the
105 runoff will go through it and lose the pollutants before going in. Mr. Sweeney is concerned
106 because there are still granite posts where the chain was. They have to get a truck in so they can
107 go pick up two benches and a garbage can. Ms. Casey suggested the benches be lifted by people
108 or a hand truck, and Mr. Sweeney needed to review. They talked about taking out the granite
109 posts so they have more room. Thus, the Friends have to think about how they are impacted by
110 where the Friends are putting the Rain Garden, which they had not considered.

111

112 Mr. Bohannon replied that when Ms. Carlson sent the description of the Rain Garden that
113 flagged him, because he knows they utilize the area. He continued that he thought the Rain
114 Garden would be further back into the Park; he thinks he did not understand the location the

115 Friends meant. There needs to be a discussion about the location, because maintenance people
116 have to get in there. He wonders if there is a way to get the Rain Garden in there without even
117 going into that area. He suggests they meet there to discuss it. Where the granite posts are there
118 is also a paved buffer and a curb, and maybe they could get rid of the curb. Discussion
119 continued about the location and the logistics. Mr. Bohannon explained his idea and Ms. Carlson
120 and Ms. Mathews explained their thought process with the Rain Garden's location. Ms. Carlson
121 stated that she agrees with Mr. Bohannon that they should all stand together in the location to
122 discuss it. Mr. Bohannon replied that he will set that meeting up.

123
124 Ms. Mathews stated that they are talking about the maintenance people getting in, but they may
125 not be the ones who do the work, because scheduling with them has been difficult. Discussion
126 continued. Ms. Mathews spoke about removal of barberry bushes.

127
128 Ms. Mathews stated that she read in last month's minutes that the ARPAB and the Friends were
129 talking about leaf shredding, and she thinks they need to talk about it more. Where will the
130 money come from and how will they use it? Will the ARPAB help the Friends with this? The
131 Friends did not do a lot of fundraising this year. It will cost money if they do not use the
132 machinery of the Parks Department and have to have machinery come in. The barberry cannot
133 just be cut down; it requires a machine.

134
135 Mr. Bohannon replied that the Parks Department staff is fully capable of doing this. Ms.
136 Mathews stated that the Parks staff is busy. Mr. Bohannon stated that the Park is the
137 responsibility of the City of Keene, and when maintenance needs arise, it is the Parks staff's
138 responsibility. Discussion continued. Ms. Mathews and Ms. Carlson asked/spoke about when
139 the Parks staff could remove the barberry, and Mr. Bohannon suggested they talk about it more
140 when they have their meeting [at the Park regarding the Rain Garden location].

141

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

143 **A) Ashuelot Green Space**

144

145 Chair Winsor asked if more is known about Green Space. Mr. Bohannon replied no. He
146 continued that they can keep this on the agenda, but it is almost at rest. It is in Ashuelot Green
147 Space's hands; they have not done the zoning aspect of it. The landscape designer reached out to
148 him yesterday and asked him what the status is. He (Mr. Bohannon) told him he pulled the
149 application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). It is a minimum of a year away
150 from revitalizing that conversation, unless something happens over the course of the winter. The
151 big piece of this is the conservancy, on the ownership side. They have to figure that out.

152

153 Chair Winsor asked about the kayak area Mr. Bohannon had talked about. Mr. Bohannon replied
154 that he explored just doing the kayak launch. He continued that he pitched a presentation to a
155 funding source and they opted not to do it.

156

157 **B) Book Walk Installation**

158
159 Mr. Bohannon reported that the books are in. Discussion ensued, including about how the
160 Library staff did not use all of the poles installed for the stories (unclear on whether that was
161 intentional or not), and about publicity, which Mr. Bohannon stated is up to the Library.

162
163 **C) Public Art Installation**

164
165 Chair Winsor stated that this went very well, and it was nice to have the kids who worked on it
166 there. Ms. Krautmann stated that Carl Jacobs has a half hour radio slot on Saturday and wanted
167 to do something about art in the Park, but Forest (Bencivenga) is not available, so it would be
168 great if Chair Winsor and Mr. Bohannon could do that. Discussion ensued. Ms. Mathews stated
169 that she will talk with the Friends. Mr. Bohannon stated that he will be there, and if someone
170 from the Friends cannot do this, he and Chair Winsor would be happy to cover what the Friends
171 are doing. Discussion continued.

172
173 Mr. Bohannon praised Ms. Krautmann's work with the public art installation and thanked her.
174 Others agreed. Mr. Bohannon stated that there was conversation about possibly pointing lights
175 on the art. He continued that the art was strategically placed right next to a light, but the ARPAB
176 could consider spending the money to put a light on the art. Discussion ensued about
177 inexpensive options. Ms. Mathews stated that it would be nice if there were a sign giving credit
178 to Ms. Bencivenga and the students. She continued that the Friends purchased 12 black posts
179 and they have waterproof paper. They could make such a sign. Discussion ensued about the
180 options. Mr. Bohannon asked if he should get a small plaque. Others agreed. Mr. Bohannon
181 stated that he will talk with Keene Monument about getting something, which they certainly
182 have the budget for. It will thank Franklin School and Forest Bencivenga, include the year, and
183 so on and so forth. He will create some verbiage and send it to Ms. Krautmann.

184
185 Ms. Krautmann asked if they would be interested in pursuing another person to do something in
186 another area. Mr. Bocko asked if she has someone in mind. Ms. Krautmann replied yes,
187 Miranda (Nelken), the KMS art teacher. She continued that this would be really down the road,
188 but she thought she would mention it. Mr. Bohannon replied that he thinks they should explore
189 it. Mr. Bocko stated that it is an opportunity to collaborate with indigenous people, and Ms.
190 Nelken is tied in. Others agreed.

191
192 **D) ArborScope Demonstration**

193
194 Chair Winsor stated that you can do a lot with ArborScope, but they need to learn how to do it.
195 He continued that when he used it every day at the college, it was easy, but it takes some effort to
196 re-learn it once you stop using it so frequently. At the ARPAB's next meeting, they can do an
197 ArborScope demonstration, and everyone can contribute, by taking photos while they are at the
198 Park. The photos can be entered into the inventory, so when people scan the QR code, the
199 photos come up. He wants to dig deeper in ArborScope. Ms. Mathews had asked about having a

200 map, and they could have a QR code at the beginning of the Park that has a map pop up on
201 people's phones.

202
203 Ms. Mathews asked if the locations of people's stones could be put on ArborScope, too. Chair
204 Winsor replied that it is a lot of work, but yes, it could happen. Discussion ensued. Mr.
205 Bohannon suggested a map identifying, say, "Row A," but not each individual stone. They
206 already have this.

207
208 **E) Kiosk Information**

209
210 Mr. Bohannon stated that Peter Poanessa is ready to do the kiosk, but does not have the
211 information the ARPAB wants to put on. He continued that he would like the ARPAB to come
212 back at the next meeting with information that needs to go on the kiosk, and they can lay it out.
213 Certainly, it will include Park rules and that sort of thing. The Book Walk map, as Ms. Mathews
214 mentioned, might be great to have on the kiosk. The purpose is education. Chair Winsor asked
215 Mr. Bohannon to email the rendering again.

216
217 Chair Winsor stated that he knows that Kyle (Bradford) is not happy with the layout of some of
218 the words on the signs. He and Mr. Bocko were looking at it and wondering if they could do a
219 vinyl overlay in some places to fix it. Discussion ensued. Chair Winsor stated that a sign-maker
220 in Swanzey, Mark Johnson, has done overlays for signs at the college and they look great. He
221 can approach him to see what it would cost. Discussion continued about how Mr. Bradford and
222 Mr. Poanessa both did great work but sometimes this just happens.

223
224 **6) New, Other Business**

225
226 Chair Winsor asked if anyone had new business to bring up. Ms. Mathews stated that some of
227 the QR codes for ArborScope are in places that result in people walking through flowerbeds to
228 get to them. She continued that she would like to discourage that as they go forward; she does
229 not want people tromping on plantings. People need to understand that this is an arboretum and
230 it is not okay to go tromping through gardens. Brief discussion ensued. Ms. Mathews asked that
231 this stay as an item of discussion. Mr. Bohannon suggested creating little mulch paths for people
232 to walk on instead.

233
234 **7) Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 8:00 AM**

235
236 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM.

237
238 Respectfully submitted by,
239 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

240
241 Reviewed and edited by,
242 Andy Bohannon, PRF Director



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Signature: _____ Date: _____

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