

City of Keene  
New Hampshire

**ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**8:00 AM**

**Room 12 Recreation Center**

**Members Present:**

Arthur Winsor, Chair  
George Foskett  
Judy Sadoski  
Chuck Redfern (Arrived at 8:05 AM)  
Councilor Steve Hooper

**Staff Present:**

Andy Bohannon, Director Parks, Recreation,  
& Cemeteries

**Members Not Present:**

Jenna Spear-O'Mara  
Susan Thielen

**1) Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM and noted that Ken Stewart would not be in attendance as indicated on the agenda.

**2) Approval of July 12, 2016 Minutes**

Mr. Foskett made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2016, which was seconded by Councilor Hooper and carried unanimously.

**3) Finance Report**

Mr. Bohannon stated that since the July meeting, the Bartlett Tree invoice has been paid. He is awaiting fall clean-up which usually occurs around Veterans Day. He said this is the end of the contract so it will undergo review. Chair Winsor asked if it will go back out for bid. Mr. Bohannon replied there is an option for two-year renewal and he is considering reviewing that. He said the park is a lot of work for a one person crew and while a good job has been done, it is something being evaluated in the long-term. He said he will have a more definitive answer at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Foskett stated there have been more volunteers and the Friends are discussing signage to acknowledge the work of volunteers such as the Rotary and Lion's Club. He

also sent a letter to the editor of the Sentinel to thank the KSC LINKS volunteers for their participation

Mr. Foskett continued that more cobbles are being sold. He said in the past cobbles have just been placed in the park after they are created by Keene Monument. However, now that the Jonathan Daniels trail is complete, they are placing cobbles at that entrance; he said he thinks they will look nice in that location.

Mr. Foskett added that he has also contacted Art in the Park because they normally make a monetary contribution but have not for the past two years. They are aware of this discrepancy and will discuss it at their board meeting. Chair Winsor asked if there is a mechanism to charge them. Mr. Bohannon replied that he has always been discouraged from billing for use of the property. Some years, depending on weather conditions, the maintenance that takes place after Art in the Park would have to be done anyway. He said if the Board is so inclined, there can be a motion to do so but he hopes the Friends can work it out with them. Chair Winsor said to wait and see what develops but after two to three years of not giving, the Board could assess a minimum fee. Mr. Bohannon noted that this is a good discussion because the Council is working toward better understanding the City fee structure and there is not a fee structure for the park. Mr. Bohannon will go before the FOP Committee in the next cycle about fees for Parks, Recreation, and Facilities.

Councilor Hooper asked if friendly reminders are sent to those using the park requesting a contribution. Mr. Foskett replied there is now because of similar difficulties but there had not been a need in the past; the fee is only \$100. He said the fee could be assessed retroactively but thinks there should be discussion of a fee schedule for the park. Ms. Sadoski noted that a fee schedule can limit who you can say no to. Mr. Bohannon said a fee is something to consider for park activities that require additional maintenance. Chair Winsor added there were difficulties with someone charging for yoga class in the park. Mr. Bohannon noted that Mr. Foskett explained that to the individual and no one has done that in some time. He said that this discussion can continue when the green space is completed.

Mr. Foskett concluded his report noting the sprinkler system is not scheduled for fall but hopefully for spring. He said they were lucky to get through this year without it.

Mr. Bohannon will include a discussion on fees on the next agenda.

##### **5) Park Discussion**

Mr. Bohannon noted that in fall 2015 there was a maintenance workshop with Purely Organic and Chip Osborne who discussed more organic turf management and practices. They conducted some of those practices at Ashuelot and Fuller Parks and there have been positive, more sustainable results because of the changes (long-term lime release, different mowing patterns). The Department is pleased with the work and will continue

the practices. Chair Winsor said his crew also attended a session with Mr. Osborne and the results have been reduced need for irrigation systems.

Mr. Bohannon continued that Peter Ketchum is a park volunteer who continues doing a lot of work on Jonathan Daniels trail between the boat launch and the inlet by Keene Housing Authority. Mr. Ketchum has a great rapport with the homeless and has been encouraging them to remove litter. Mr. Bohannon walks the trails with Mr. Ketchum approximately twice per month and noticed on their last walk that another volunteer had removed a large pile of knotweed, lessening work for his crew. He said not as many cans are being found, but they are still an issue. Mr. Bohannon took photos of maintenance concerns and will send a report of those to the Board to start addressing them. Mr. Foskett asked if he was referring the maintenance in the park or arboretum. Mr. Bohannon replied the Jonathan Daniels Trail and Rachel Marshall Learning Lab; he did not look at maintenance in the arboretum.

Councilor Hooper asked if the homeless stay in the park overnight or just pass through. Mr. Bohannon replied they stay overnight on the other side of the river. Mr. Ketchum is trying to open some areas up to be less enticing hangout areas. Councilor Hooper noted that Greg Pregent is doing a documentary on the homeless in Keene and has contacted several Councilors to contribute. It will be an in depth analysis and he will be working with the Community Kitchen. Mr. Bohannon noted that Mr. Pregent has done some drone photography of the park which he will share on the website.

Chair Winsor asked if there has been more use of the Rachel Marshall Learning Lab since Mr. Ketchum began working on it. Mr. Bohannon said there is interest in turning the Learning Lab into a Pump Track for mountain biking. He said it would not be that expensive to build and he is open to considering it if there is interest; it would increase use significantly.

Mr. Foskett asked Ms. Sadoski if LINKS ever received the pictures she took. Ms. Sadoski replied she sent them to the coordinator, Mark. She will send them to Mr. Bohannon and Chair Winsor will ask Mark if they received them. The Board agreed that group has done a lot of work for the park lately and deserve recognition.

#### **6) New Business**

Chair Winsor asked if there was any new information about the dam. Mr. Bohannon replied no, he has a meeting soon with Ken Stewart and they will review the numbers before a more public campaign.

Mr. Redfern asked about the greenspace. Mr. Bohannon replied it is moving forward and has momentum.

#### **7) Next Meeting Date November 8, 2016**

The Board will meet on Election Day, possibly in a different meeting room.

**8) Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

Respectfully edits provided by,  
Andy Bohannon