

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

8:00 AM

Recreation Center, Room 12

Members Present:

George Foskett
Judy Sadoski
Dave Whaley
Suzy Krautmann
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks, Recreation
& Facilities

Members Not Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Councilor Steve Hooper
Paul Bocko

1) Call to Order

Mr. Foskett called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM, and welcomed new alternate member, Tom Haynes, who is representing the Conservation Commission and can act as an active member in the case of absences.

2) Approval of October 8, 2019 Minutes

Ms. Sadoski moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2019, which Ms. Krautmann seconded and the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report

Mr. Bohannon reported that the budget reflects the received Bartlett Tree invoice. All that remains unaccounted for is the fall clean-up, which is underway by AGM Landscapers (of Westmoreland). If the budgeted miscellaneous funds remain unspent at year-end, they will carry over into next year.

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

Mr. Foskett reported that an individual wants to donate for a memorial in memory of his father. The matter awaits determination if the Conway School will work with the park and what suggestions they might report for those who want to donate substantially for memorials. Donations go to the Friends, not the Trust fund.

Mr. Bohannon and Mr. Foskett explained the Friends' history for new members. The Friends had non-profit status in the past, and recently regained it. They created the park and when it was established,

significant donated funds remained that were donated to the City for park maintenance and expansion in two trusts. The first Ashuelot River Park Trust still contains \$200,000-\$300,000 and the Board works from that Trust's 10% interest annually. The second Ashuelot River Park Memorial Trust was a lesser amount and recently expended with the irrigation project. Today, the Friends are a non-profit responsible for organizing volunteers—from individuals, to churches, to businesses—to maintain garden beds in the arboretum. The Friends Chair is always a member of this Board. All donations to the park go to the Friends.

Mr. Bohannon shared that a man recently requested to perform community service hours cleaning-up the park and he collected more than a trash bin worth of trash. It was amazing what all he found. Mr. Bohannon will provide him a glowing recommendation.

5) Park Discussion
a. **QR Codes**

The QR code signs are in progress (3" x 1" with the code and tree name) and Mr. Bohannon apologized for them not yet being finalized.

b. **Bat Houses**

The bat houses are all installed and the one on the other side of the bridge now has a sign affixed, which also has a QR code; Ms. Sadoski said the house looks great.

c. **Conway School**

Mr. Bohannon awaits contact from the school. He thinks they have yet to plan their spring semester. He will update the Board when he knows more.

6) New Business

Mr. Haynes recalled the Rhode Island School of Design research team that conducted charrettes on how the public makes decisions about the West Street Dam alternatives. Their research is ongoing and they were soliciting survey responses from community members through November 20 in exchange for a \$20 Amazon gift card. Mr. Haynes shared the survey information with Board members.

7) Next Meeting – December 10, 2019

If the Conway School responds in time, the Board will meet in December to discuss the budget. If they have not responded, the Board will likely postpone meeting until January.

8) Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Mr. Foskett adjourned the meeting at 8:27 AM.

Respectfully submitted by, Katie Kibler, Minute Taker
Respectfully edited by, Andy Bohannon, Staff