

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

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

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

**8:00 AM**

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Arthur Winsor, Chair  
Judy Sadoski  
Dave Whaley  
Paul Bocko  
Suzy Krautmann

**Staff Present:**

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,  
Recreation & Facilities

**Members Not Present:**

Councilor Steve Hooper, Vice Chair  
George Foskett  
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

**1) Welcome & Call to Order**

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 AM, read the executive authority to conduct a remote meeting, and conducted roll call, for which all Board members stated their location and whether alone.

**2) Acceptance of July 14, 2020 Minutes**

Ms. Sadoski moved to accept the minutes of July 14, 2020, which Mr. Bocko seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

**3) Finance Update**

Mr. Bohannon reported no updates to the finance report since the last meeting, having spent \$18,729.20 of the \$22,000 budget. He did report, however, that the QR code tree tags were installed in the park the week before this meeting. The public response to the Facebook announcement of the tags was very enthusiastic, having reached over 8,000 people compared to the typical average reach of 1,500 people for most posts. Mr. Bohannon thought the post's focus on outdoor education especially now with Covid-19 helped, with many comments from educators saying they would utilize the tags for class projects. Unfortunately, after installation, it was discovered that the tags installed were not what the Board ordered and so Mr. Bohannon has requested that the tags be replaced correctly. Chair Winsor added that the tags were an excellent

upgrade to the park just by including the QR codes, but the Board had commissioned tags that included along with the codes the tree genus and species names, which were missing.

**4) Bat House Update**

Vice Chair Hooper was not present to provide an update. However, Mr. Bocko advertised evening workshops about comparing habitats on Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Ashuelot River Park and Horatio Colony Nature Preserve, respectively. Both programs would serve 10 people or less following all other social distancing and mask guidelines; if registration is higher there could be two groups of 10. Mr. Bocko said that while Vice Chair Hooper was eager to have the bat houses relocated to their final appropriate locations in advance, the workshop does not depend on their moving.

**5) Conway Review and Action Plan**

Mr. Bohannon recalled meeting with the Friends some time ago and agreeing to navigate through the very comprehensive Master Plan by focusing on the four park quadrants outlined in the Master Plan individually and phased over time. He recalled that many conversations surrounding the Master Plan focused on needing a more welcoming and defined entrance from the Mascoma Savings Bank parking lot into the park (including green infrastructure for flood absorption); for those reasons, Mr. Bohannon thought that was a good place to start. He recently presented the Master Plan to Council, where it was well-received and adopted. Chair Winsor agreed on a three-to-five year phased plan. The Chairman recalled Mr. Bohannon suggesting a new additional sign (perhaps from Keene Signworx) that includes the name – Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park – and possibly an informational kiosk. Ms. Sadoski said that the entryway signage on West Street is a landmark in Keene and said it would be a shame to move it because it is attractive and pulls the area together; she supported a second entryway and second sign. Mr. Bohannon agreed it would be a lot of work to move the signature formal entry; he and the Chairman confirmed the sign in question to duplicate was the one near Starbucks and not the formal entryway.

Mr. Bohannon said that once he soon finished a grant application for Russell Park, he could devote more time to this project. He suggested creating a spreadsheet of the various park projects, with a priority ranking system and action plan to begin in the spring after the Friends have an opportunity to spend the winter fundraising. Members agreed with phasing projects as a way to develop collaborations – particularly with student groups – and thought the spreadsheet would be a helpful way to prioritize ideas. Mr. Bohannon would create the spreadsheet and share it before the next meeting.

**6) Park Discussion**

**a. Master Plan**

No further discussion.

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

There was a Friends workday on Sunday, October 11.

8) **Adjourn – Next Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 8:00 AM**

There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker  
October 19, 2020

Respectfully edited by,  
Andy Bohannon, Staff Liaison  
October 28, 2020