

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 8:00 AM
Room 22 Upstairs, Recreation Center

- This meeting will be conducted in person and by using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online at www.zoom.com and click on “Join A Meeting” enter Meeting ID 816 1971 6338
- To listen to the meeting, please dial (646) 876-9923 and when prompted enter Meeting ID 816 1971 6338
- If you encounter issues accessing this meeting, please call (603) 757-1835 during the meeting

Members:

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

Staff:

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

Alternate:

Thomas Haynes

Guest:

Kyle Bradford, Antioch

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Acceptance of March 8, 2022 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
5. Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation
 - a. Educational Signage
 - b. Book Walks
 - c. Public Art
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 8:00 AM

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, March 8, 2022,
2022

8:00 AM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne
Stephen Hooper
Ruzzel Zullo
Paul Bocko
Dian Mathews
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Suzy Krautmann

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

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12 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. He announced Mr. Haynes as an active
13 member in the absence of Ms. Sadoski.

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15 Mr. Bocko was present via Zoom.

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17 **2) Acceptance of February 8, 2022 Minutes**

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19 Councilor Chadbourne made a motion to accept the minutes of February 8, 2022 as presented.
20 Mr. Hooper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

21
22 **3) Finance Report**

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24 Mr. Bohannon reported that the budget has been accepted by the trustees as presented. He made
25 note that the correct Bartlett Tree contract is \$4,995 and will be reflected accurately in the budget
26 for next meeting.

27
28 Councilor Chadbourne asked why invasive species are included under the replanting program in
29 the budget, since they will be removing invasives. Mr. Bohannon stated they will be removing
30 them and putting black tarps down, which is part of the budget.
31

32 **4) Friends**

33
34 Ms. Mathews announced that they got the rain garden grant. She explained that they asked for
35 \$700.00 but the CCCC Committee liked the idea, and the fact that it will take place in a City
36 park, and will be granting more money than was requested. She went on to state that on May 4th
37 at 1pm the CCCC committee is coming to the park for a site visit and to discuss the proposed
38 rain garden installation. Lisa Lucigen from Soak Up The Rain will be attending as well. Ms.
39 Mathews explained that they will be looking at the spot behind the Starbucks snow mountain,
40 where there's a depression in the ground. She added that they will need to cite the location so the
41 snow plows are aware.

42
43 Ms. Mathews next mentioned the Garden Conservancy grant called "Gardens for Good," which
44 has diversity as a major component. She informed the board that they will apply for that grant
45 next year. Mr. Bohannon asked if it was diversity of plants or people. Ms. Mathews stated she
46 wasn't sure but she will look into the details.

47
48 Ms. Mathews requested permission to use \$59.00 to purchase the 3rd component of plantings
49 from Prairie Moon Nursery. She explained that when she went to purchase three Power Packs
50 they only had two left, so she would like to get one more; however, they raised the price up
51 \$10.00. Chair Winsor stated it is in the budget for her to be able to do that.

52
53 Last Thursday, Ms. Mathews stated she and Leslie Casey presented their Ashuelot Park project
54 to the new Master Gardener class at the Harris Center. She requested to be on the agenda at the
55 next ARPAB meeting so they can present it to the board as well. Mr. Bohannon stated he will
56 bring his laptop so they can share. Ms. Mathews reported that the other presenter, Leigh Kamm,
57 completed a signage project for Distant Hill Farm with paper that's waterproof. They recruited
58 her to come work with them as another Master Gardener, expanding the group to 7!

59
60 Ms. Mathews stated they are gearing up for spring and working on getting the thick, strong tarps
61 for the knotweed. Chair Winsor asked when they want to do the tarps project. Ms. Mathews
62 stated they will need quite a few volunteers and would like to have a delivery of compost to go
63 on the beds and on top of the tarps. They need to figure out when the snow is going away by
64 Starbucks and where they are going to place the compost.

65
66 Chair Winsor stated Hamshaw Lumber has a sale every April so if the project can coincide with
67 that it might be helpful. Ms. Mathews stated they need to time it with the volunteer availability
68 as well.

69
70 Mr. Bohannon stated he had a conversation with St. Joseph's School who sent volunteers to do
71 the pollinator garden last year. The principal stated any time ARPAB needs them to just let him
72 know because the kids need a certain number of hours of service. Ms. Mathews stated she
73 believed that was about 12 kids that volunteered from St. Joseph's School last year.

74

75 Next, Ms. Mathews stated they are going to start their education component of the master plan
76 and hold an invasives “walk about” during the summer. This will likely include using the black
77 bags for buckthorn, invasive identification teaching, etc. Mr. Bohannon suggested they buy the
78 longer ties for the bags and just snip them to adjust for the different sized trunks.

79
80 Ms. Mathews asked if there had been any discovery of jumping worms in Keene. Chair Winsor
81 stated that he didn’t recall ever seeing any on campus. Ms. Mathews explained that she believes
82 they had one in the conifer garden, so it’s something to be aware of because they are an invasive.

83
84 Councilor Chadbourne asked for more information on the jumping worms. Ms. Mathews stated
85 they eat everything and take the nutrients out of the soil. There was short discussion about what
86 they look like. Ms. Mathews stated they only live for a season but they lay eggs in the soil. She
87 mentioned that they can kill trees because they take the protection away from the trunk. She
88 suggested they make sure the compost they get has been heated up because it’s the only way to
89 kill the eggs.

90
91 Chair Winsor suggested they use wood chips instead of compost because it will be cheaper and
92 more readily available. Ms. Mathews agreed that that was a good idea. She stated she’d like to
93 cover the whole strip of knotweed if possible.

94
95 Ms. Mathews reported that the Friends have decided they won’t do any planting this year
96 because they did a whole lot last year, and they want to see what comes up. She referenced the
97 section of Ashuelot Park over the bridge, where there’s a circle across from the bat house. The
98 area has a lot of invasives and she wondered if the Friends could have permission to go in there
99 and remove invasives and add a pollinator garden. Chair Winsor stated that would be nice. Mr.
100 Bohannon stated they could definitely do that because it’s in the park.

101
102 **5) Park discussion**

103 **A) Educational Signage** – Mr. Bohannon stated Kyle met with Ms. Mathews and
104 Chair Winsor in the park and did a walk around to give Kyle some guidance. On March
105 1st Kyle gave him an update on his project status and the direction he’s going in. Mr.
106 Bohannon stated he feels Kyle is doing great and on the right track, and has very good
107 examples already. Their next call is scheduled for March 11th. Chair Winsor stated he
108 gave Kyle a copy of the tree inventory and Mr. Bohannon gave him credentials to the
109 website. Mr. Bohannon stated Kyle will come to the next meeting in April to present a
110 final draft of his work.

111
112 **B) Book Walks** – Mr. Bohannon stated he was in communication with Gail
113 Zachariah from the library. He reported that the trustees have paid for book signs but that
114 doesn’t include the posts, so the ARPAB will need to pay for those. He added that they
115 will likely need to put concrete around the posts so there will be some labor and expense
116 involved with this project, but it’s for the better good. He stated they will need to research
117 pricing on the posts.

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C) Public Art – Mr. Bohannon stated they haven’t heard anything with regards to the sculptures, other than the project is going well so there’s no need for them to be involved just yet.

6) New, Other Business

Chair Winsor stated the company that plows the plaza by the park continues to dump snow in the park, even after having been asked several times not to do that. He wondered if they can talk to the bank or the contractor and noted that there’s plenty of room to have the snow dumped in other places.

Ms. Mathews agreed and stated they planted lilacs there but had to move them all except one because of the snow situation.

Mr. Bohannon stated they can write a letter to the branch manager.

Councilor Chadbourne suggested putting a fence up or extending the existing black fence. Chair Winsor felt that might look bad. Ms. Mathews stated if they put the black fence there on the edge of the tar, the plow might start putting snow right in the handicap parking spots. Mr. Bohannon stated he doesn’t feel access to the park in the winter is going to be impacted. Mr. Haynes asked if it was the same contractor year after year and Chair Winsor stated he believes so. Mr. Bohannon stated they likely do what’s easiest to get the job done when plowing.

Mr. Bohannon stated Benée Hershon from Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) is looking to host an event in the park during National Pollinator Week, focused on local pollinators. There will be 3-4 tables and it will take place on Tuesday, June 21st from 1-3pm. CCCD plans to host an educational booth where community members can build their own pollinator planting kit. The Harris Center would host a booth focused on education for kids and different pollinator themed games and activities. Additionally they mentioned bringing a cardboard butterfly cutout with the hashtag for the event, where community members can pose and promote the importance of pollinators on social media. They also hope to bring the Caterpillar Lab to host a booth. Mr. Bohannon suggested the Friends might want a booth as well. Ms. Mathews stated it sounds like a great event. Mr. Bohannon added that it fits right into their mission. There was general consensus that it was a great idea to have the event in the park.

Ms. Mathews brought up water and stated they need a solution, especially for the rain garden. Mr. Bohannon stated they will get a connection, there’s a very simple solution and he will take care of it.

7) Adjournment

Chair Winsor announced that the next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 8:00am.

ARPAB Meeting Minutes

161

162 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:29 AM.

163

164 Respectfully submitted by,

165 Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

166

167 Reviewed and edited by,

168 Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

169

Ashuelot River Sculpture Project

