

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, September 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 July 12, 2022 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
5. Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation
 - a. Ashuelot Green Space
 - b. Book Walk Installation
 - c. Public Art Installation
6. New, Other Business
7. Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, October 11, 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, July 12, 2022

8:00 AM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Ruzzel Zullo, Vice Chair
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne
Stephen Hooper
Dian Mathews
Suzy Krautmann
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Paul Bocko

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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. He made Mr. Haynes a voting member for
13 the meeting.

14
15 **2) Acceptance of June 14, 2022 Minutes**

16
17 Chair Winsor made a correction to the minutes, stating that on line 47 it should read “obtaining a
18 contractor,” rather than “obtaining an air compressor.”

19
20 Ms. Krautmann made a motion to accept the minutes of June 14, 2022 with the aforementioned
21 correction. Councilor Chadbourne seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

22
23 **3) Finance Report**

24
25 Mr. Bohannon reported no changes to the budget and stated Bartlett Tree has fertilized and will
26 be doing their tree trimming within the week, but he does not yet have the invoice.

27
28 Mr. Bohannon announced that they are due to renew their annual service agreement with Bartlett
29 Tree related to ArborScope, which is \$500.00 a year for three years and they would have to pay
30 \$1,500 up front. He explained that ArborScope is the software for the QR tags they use on the
31 trees and also a platform which helps users find the value of trees and evaluate them properly. He

32 also mentioned that it is a multiuser platform. Chair Winsor added that it has other capabilities
33 beyond what Mr. Bohannon mentioned and it has already been utilized. Mr. Bohannon stated if
34 they terminate the contract they will need to find a new home for the QR codes. He explained
35 that he would need their approval to go back to the Board of Trustees and request the money, or
36 they could take it from their current budget.

37

38 Chair Winsor asked if they could take the cost out of their current budget and Mr. Bohannon
39 stated it depends on whether or not they want to mulch in the fall. Short discussion ensued and
40 general consensus was to leave the money in their budget just in case.

41

42 Ms. Mathews made a motion to go back to the Board of Trustees and request \$1,500 for the
43 Bartlett Tree Inventory platform. Councilor Chadbourne seconded the motion, which passed
44 unanimously.

45

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

47

48 Ms. Mathews mentioned that she is working on changing their meeting time. She reported that at
49 the most recent work meeting they did a lot of weeding in the front of the park and used a spray
50 can to mark the parameters of the rain garden. She noted that a good half of the Starbucks asphalt
51 section was full of water so it's proving to be an ideal spot for the garden.

52

53 Ms. Mathews and Chair Winsor briefly discussed obtaining a contractor for clearing around the
54 tree roots with an air compressor, and potentially paying for that using the grant money for the
55 rain garden. Ms. Mathews stated she will look into any grant restrictions with regards to how the
56 funds are utilized. Mr. Bohannon wondered if some of the money could go to rain garden
57 signage/education and Ms. Mathews stated she doesn't believe so but would rather wait on
58 signage until a later time.

59

60 Ms. Mathews mentioned that the Antioch University building is being sold so she was able to go
61 obtain some plants from the property. There was short discussion about the pergola and Mr.
62 Bohannon asked that they don't have any plantings attached to the pergola; however, a trellis in
63 the back would be okay. Mr. Bohannon informed Ms. Mathews that there is a group who
64 maintains the plantings surrounding the pergola and has done so for quite some time, which they
65 are appreciative of and try to respect their desire to do their own thing. Mr. Bohannon stated they
66 offered to help with adding a bench to the pergola, potentially for Brian Mattson.

67

68 There was short discussion about bed irrigation with Ms. Mathews noting that most of the beds
69 are not getting a good amount of water and some are getting very little to none at all. She and
70 Mr. Bohannon decided to explore this more outside of the meeting.

71

72 Ms. Mathews reported that the Pollinator Palooza was well received and is hopeful that it'll grow
73 year after year.

74

75 Ms. Casey and Ms. Mathews stated they found a Dogwood tree near the handicap spot that's
76 doing badly, as well as the Crabapple tree closest to the bridge. Chair Winsor suggested they
77 check to see if the trees are inventoried and pass that information along to Mr. Bohannon.

78

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

80 **A) Educational Signage Installed** – Mr. Bohannon reported that all the signs are
81 installed and look great in the park.

82 **B) Book Walks** – Mr. Bohannon stated his parks crew is working on the book walk
83 and they will likely go out and take one more walk through before final installation.

84 **C) Public Art** – Mr. Bohannon stated the public art project will take place in
85 September.

86

87 Mr. Bohannon reported that, during the recent pollinator event, Steven Lamonde, in partnership
88 with Moosewood Ecological, took children around Ashuelot River Park and documented 16
89 species of pollinators, and several were new additions to the 256 species already documented in
90 NH. Ms. Mathews added that Mr. Lamonde would like to come back and do a pollinator
91 workshop.

92

93 **6) New, Other Business**

94

95 Ms. Krautmann inquired about what's going on with the Monadnock Conservancy. Mr.
96 Bohannon stated Tom Hanna, who represents JRR Properties, LLC, brought forward to City
97 Council a request to accept a land donation of a portion of Ashuelot Street for use as a City Park,
98 contingent on quite a few things related to the 2.5 acres within the current green space. The plan
99 is for the lot to be used as a playground and City park and have access to the river for kayak and
100 canoe launching. The private lot, above the 100 year flood plain, will be the site for the 4,000 to
101 5,000 square foot Monadnock Conservancy building. This will house the Conservancy and likely
102 a meeting space and educational center. Mr. Bohannon explained that adjacent to the building
103 there will be parking and an acre of solar panels, with the goal of having a net zero building as
104 well as taking care of the electrical needs for the park. Due to the size of the solar array they
105 have to go before the Zoning Board of Adjustment and request a variance. Mr. Bohannon stated
106 there is still a lot of work that needs to be done, including developing the scope of the project.

107

108 Ms. Krautmann mentioned that there has been some discussion about the property not being
109 taxed. Mr. Bohannon stated the Monadnock Conservancy is a non-profit and believes they can
110 request to waive taxes. He added that donations back to the City or park would not require taxes
111 to be paid on that lot.

112

113 Ms. Krautmann asked if solar panels can negatively impact animals, especially birds. Mr.
114 Bohannon stated that, to his knowledge, they do not. Mr. Haynes added that there's already
115 fencing around that area limiting entrance for a lot of animals, aside from birds and squirrels. Mr.
116 Hooper noted that birds tend to have problems with higher objects so they should be safe with
117 the solar panels.

ARPAB Meeting Minutes
Month Date, 2022

118 Ms. Krautmann asked if the board would have anything to do with the new building and park. Mr.
119 Bohannon stated they won't on the private side but on the park side they could certainly discuss
120 involvement.

121
122 There was short discussion about the playground and Mr. Bohannon stated they would love to have a
123 natural playground but it's a lot budget-wise. He went on to state that he plans to do a Land and
124 Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application and natural playgrounds are not necessarily
125 supported by the Federal Government LWCF program because of the uncertainty in how long natural
126 elements will last. He went on to state that certain types of more expensive wood can last quite a long
127 time but he has to combine elements carefully and figure out how to go about it. Mr. Bohannon
128 explained that LWCF is funded by offshore oil and gas and can only be used for development state,
129 municipal, or federal park lands. He stated it's a 50/50 match and this particular round is \$500,000.
130 They distribute the money yearly to each state and the states take what they need for state parks to
131 develop their state master plans, and then money is pushed down to municipalities.

132
133 Councilor Chadbourne asked if the public will share the same boat landing right of way and Mr.
134 Bohannon stated that is part of the discussion because of the grant funding and property line.

135
136 Chair Winsor stated it's an exciting plan and property tax may have people upset but they truly
137 couldn't ask for a better tenant than Monadnock Conservatory. Mr. Bohannon stated he will put this
138 item on the agenda for more discussion at their next meeting.

139
140 Mr. Haynes asked about the dam and kayak access downstream. Mr. Bohannon stated discussion
141 about the dam likely won't happen for another 3 to 4 years. Councilor Chadbourne added that
142 removing it would change the river flow dramatically and wondered how feasible kayaking would be
143 then. Mr. Bohannon stated they would definitely still be able to kayak with the dam removed and
144 noted there are several different scenarios for dam removal or adjustment.

145
146 Chair Winsor mentioned that he did not fertilize out at the park yet because it's been so dry and
147 stated he will do that when there's been more rain. He briefly discussed his process of soil building
148 and mentioned figuring out how to do that on a larger scale.

149
150 7) Adjournment – General consensus was to skip the August meeting and meet next on
151 September 13, 2022.

152
153 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 AM.

154
155 Respectfully submitted by,
156 Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

157
158 Reviewed and edited by,
159 Reviewed and edited by,
160 Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

**Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board
2022**

Updated 6/7/22

	Budget	Actual To Date	Difference
Landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Replanting Program			
shrubs	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
bulbs	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
invasives	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Bartlett Tree - Pruning	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Miscellaneous (not contract)	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total*	\$ 10,500.00	\$ -	<u>\$ 10,500.00</u>

Bartlett Tree Contract	\$ 4,995.00		\$ -
Friends - Praire Moon Nursery	\$ 59.00		\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
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			\$ -
TOTAL			<u>\$ -</u>

