

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

8:00 AM

**Room 22,
Recreation Center**

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Paul Bocko, Vice Chair
Ruzzel Zullo
Dian Mathews
Suzanne Krautmann

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities
Frank Anderson, Manager of Parks and
Cemeteries

Members Not Present:

Stephen Hooper
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

1) Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM and roll call ensued.

2) Approval of March 12, 2024 Minutes

Suzanne Krautmann was present at the March meeting although the minutes stated otherwise. With the aforementioned amendment, Ms. Krautmann motioned to approve the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes which was duly seconded by Vice Chair Paul Bocko. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Finance Report

Mr. Bohannon stated that there were no changes to the finance report.

4) Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum

Leslie Casey from the Friends was present at the meeting.

Ms. Mathews reported they had a very interesting meeting at the Keene Library that included Leigh Kamm, a member of the Master Gardener Class. They were contacted by another master gardener who asked about mentoring new gardeners in the class. They now have six master gardeners in the Friends of Ashuelot River Park.

Ms. Mathews stated that they had lined up their projects and would start at 9:00 AM that Saturday, April 13. They would be looking at the rain garden and had volunteers to assist. Barry LeClair would also be there to give directions on how to lay stones. They would move plants from the beds into the Rain Garden. The Friends would also start on the invasive plants project on both sides of the bridge by laying down cardboard, putting down landscape, and covering the area with woodchips. There would be Antioch University student volunteers to assist as well. The Friends decided that the Pollinator Garden project would take place in the Summer of 2025.

Ms. Mathews stated the Pollinator Palooza would be June 25, 2024 at the park. She estimated 20 vendors and it was expected it to be a great event. The pruning demonstration would take place at the park on Monday, April 15, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Mathews also mentioned that jumping worms would become a problem in June when the worms' cocoons begin to hatch, as they take all of the nutrients out of the soil.

5) Budget Development

Mr. Bohannon stated that the proposal from Bartlett Tree (\$10,395.00) was a bit high for their budget. The ARPAB agreed that they needed the root collar surgery at a cost of \$1,450.00. The micro nutrient treatment would cost \$220.00 and the annual soil treatment would cost \$665.00. The pruning would be the largest expense at around \$6,900.00. They expected a lot of the cost to come from pruning the area near Starbucks. Bartlett Tree would have to come early in the morning to prune the trees before the business opened to customers at 6:00 AM. The groundcovers for the West Street beds would cost \$1,000.00 and the Bird Ecology Project would cost approximately \$1,000.00. The removal of invasive plants would come to approximately \$1,500.00 and planting a new tree would be \$1,000.00. The ARPAB's anticipated budget would be \$19,000.00.

Mr. Bohannon stated that he would contact Frank from Bartlett Tree to negotiate the prices in the proposal. He would have to give the proposal to the Trustees by the following day, April 10, so they could put it on their April agenda.

Mr. Bohannon stated he would contact a landscaper they had worked with in the past to assist with raking the leaves out, shredding them, and laying compost.

6) Project Tracking

a. Bird Ecology Project

Chair Winsor and Vice Chair Bocko met with Jen Hlivko to discuss the Bird Ecology Project and there had been no major changes from the presentation that she gave at the previous meeting. They would have another meeting with her in two weeks where she would present drafts of signage, audio clips for Bird Ecology interpretation, specific recommendations for bird boxes, as well as a draft of the Story Map. They would meet with her in another two weeks after the following meeting. Chair Winsor stated that Ms. Hlivko would like to attend another meeting and asked the board if they could move the next meeting to May 7, 2024 to better accommodate her. Ms. Mathews moved to change the meeting date which was promptly seconded by Ms. Krautmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mathews asked if Ms. Hlivko could email the ARPAB with her latest drafts.

a. Potential Public Art Installation – Take Flight

Mr. Bohannon met with the artist of the “Take Flight” statue and she agreed upon the location that was discussed in the previous meeting.

b. Budget Development

There was no further discussion.

c. Master Plan Implementation Discussion

No discussion.

7) Upcoming Events

Chair Winsor reported that the pruning demonstration would be held on April 15, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Kids to Parks Day would be held on May 18, where kids would take part in art activities at Ashuelot River Park. Ms. Mathews stated she would be happy to help with the event if they needed any assistance.

Ms. Krautmann suggested changing some of the signs in the park to help with the flow of the book walk. She suggested having one of the signs inform people to go over the bridge for the next story. Mr. Bohannon stated he would connect with Amy to go over the book walk.

The Pollinator Palooza would be held on June 25, 2024 and Art in the Park would take place August 31 to September 1.

8) New, Other Business

Chair Winsor stated he would connect with Peter Poanessa, of Keene Signworx, about the kiosk. They would need to pick a couple of photographs that would go with the history of the park.

Chair Winsor stated that some of the inventory tags on the trees were damaged and growing into the trees. He would like to remove the tags to replace them with new ones. He believed there were new tags made from a different material that were tougher and may last longer.

9) Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 8:15 AM

There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Melissa Danneker, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Andy Bohannon, Deputy City Manager