

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

8:00 AM

**Recreation Center,
Room 22**

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Suzy Krautmann

1) Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM. He informed the board that Thomas Haynes would act as an official member for the meeting in Suzy Krautmann's absence.

2) Acceptance of July 20, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2021 as presented. Ms. Sadoski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Finance Report

Mr. Bohannon directed the board to the last page of their agenda packet and noted that the bags he purchased were not yet reflected in the budget. He added that he had not yet received invoices from Bartlett Tree. There was nothing more to report with regards to the budget.

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

Ms. Mathews reported that water had not been an issue in the past month due to all the rain. She recommend that several more beds be added into the sprinkler system to avoid tampering issues with faucets or water barrels. Chair Winsor inquired about the snap valve idea they had discussed

in the previous meeting. Ms. Mathews answered that they had decided on a sprinkler system so all plants and beds can get water. Mr. Bohannon mentioned that the system is doable but will take a little work to connect everything.

Ms. Mathews next reported that there were 9 volunteers at the Park on Saturday, August 7th. They weeded mostly grasses from the beds. She mentioned that they met with a Keene police officer about an individual who has let his dog off the leash and allowed it to fW1 into the people working in the park on several occasions. They were told to try and obtain the individual's car make and license plate number for the police to handle the situation.

The Friends have a new treasurer, Jane Parent. Ms. Mathews stated they will be doing some form of fundraising to possibly pair with Art in the Park on September 4th & 5th. This will be to attain funds for their 501(c)3 filing with the state, board liability insurance, and PO Box fees.

Ms. Mathews stated several members of the Friends have been away on vacation so no action has been taken with regards to the soil analysis report and fertilizing of the beds.

She next informed the board that they have plans to continue the first Saturday workdays and potentially add a first Saturday bird walk. She stated that they hope to engage a local birder to lead the walks. Mr. Bock suggested Steve Lamonde and mentioned that Antioch University has a bird club that could be a good partnership as well. Mr. Bohannon added that for events like the bird walk, information can be passed along to him and the Recreation Department can help advertise.

Lastly, Ms. Mathews reported that Matt Kelly is the brand new forester at the Keene Cooperative Extension Office. He plans to go to the Park on Thursday, August 19th at 9 AM for a preliminary walk to identify invasive species. Ms. Mathews stated after that original meeting with Mr. Kelly, they will plan a walk with the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board, the Friends, Conservation Commission, and the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Commission.

5) Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation

A) Invasive Species

This item was previously covered by Ms. Mathews. Mr. Bohannon suggested, for the second walk with Mr. Kelly, that they select a date in the first part of September, ideally around 5pm, with enough time to give notice.

B) Pollinator Gardens

Ms. Mathews stated they plan to purchase plants for a pollinator garden located in the area of the park near Mascoma Bank. The total expense for 2 sets would be \$300. She is waiting to hear back from Prairie Moon Nursery to see if they can plant them soon or if it would be better to wait until spring. Chair Winsor suggested planting in the fall.

Ms. Mathews made a motion requesting permission for the Friends to spend \$300 through the replanting program on 2 sets of plants from Prairie Moon Nursery for Ashuelot River Park. Mr. Bocko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Haynes asked if the sets were made up of different groupings of plants. Ms. Mathews believed that there will be 15 different plants for each set and the idea is to mix them up to have continual blossoms.

C) Education

Mr. Bohannon reported that he will need to get back to Mr. Bocko with regards to possibly hiring an intern for the educational signage. He added that the bird walk idea was great and suggested they coordinate it with the workdays so that the participants see people working in the park. He mentioned that Steve Hooper is looking to come back onto the board, which will be helpful as far as education.

Mr. Bocko announced the Bat Bonanza event set to occur on August 14th from 6:00 PM - 8:30PM.

6) New, Other Business

Chair Winsor asked if there were any updates on the Ken Stewart property. Mr. Bohannon stated that he had an upcoming meeting with them and will have more information at the next board meeting.

Chair Winsor showed the board his mixture offish fertilizer and seaweed extract (Nature's Nog and fish oil) that he uses for organic fertilizer, and reported that it works very well. After brief discussion with Ms. Mathews it was decided that he would mist the bed nearest to Starbucks to test results. Ms. Mathews stated that she felt compost still needed to be added and Chair Winsor agreed, mentioning that his fertilizer interacts well with compost. He gave credit to an old colleague, Chris, who originally introduced him to the mixture.

Mr. Bohannon stated the Keene State Links program is looking to go to the park on August 24th from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM with 20 people total. Ms. Mathews requested a pile of compost be left so she could have them weed and use the compost.

7) Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8:00 AM

There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:39 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

Additional edits by, Katie Kibler, Clerk's Office