



MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Monday April 7, 2025

Attendees: Paul Lochhead, Bryan Conant, Dave Silva, Dick Gillespie, Steve Kenney

Guest observers: Ben Davis, Greg Hamel, Tom & Collin Lanzara

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

Approval of March Meeting Minutes:

Paula motioned to approve the March Meeting Minutes. Dave seconded this motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Guest Presentation:

The meeting opened with Collin Lanzara, a Boy Scout, who presented his Eagle Badge project idea to the committee. He wishes be building and install bat houses in 10-12 locations in the park with the primary locations near the soccer fields and boat launch. The committee liked the idea and a motion to approve was submitted by Paula. Dave seconded the motion. It was suggested that the installs take place during the trail day dates and times to add to the awareness of the bat houses.

Parks Dept Report, Bryan Conant:

1. The new Trail Day signs for '25 have been made and are being installed at the strategic locations within the park.
2. The new, blue Trail Day promo shirts have been received. They will be made available to volunteers at the '25 trail days.
3. The 7thg Street bridge floorboard repairs are being reviewed. Different materials are being evaluated to see which would be ideal. Composite boards were mentioned, but their tendency to become slick when wet was mentioned. Whatever the materials are, they can't be of greater weight than the current materials. Bryan and his team will continue to review materials. Paula asked about the gap plates. Bryan stated the city is waiting for higher temperatures to install them, but they on the way.

Submitted April 9, 2025
Steve Kenney



4. Paula asked about the removal of the doggie bag holders around the park. The committee had abandoned the practice of supplying the bags some time ago. They were expensive and seemed to offer little benefit, since most responsible dog owners carry them with them. The holders are still installed. It was determined they should be removed at the next trail day.

Committee Report:

1. Discussion was had on the current condition of deadfall within the park. Having recently had a visit from Pat Nelson, a Nashua fire fighter and former U.S. Forestry Service employee, it was decided to remove much of the deadfall in the park that had a diameter of 4 inches or less. Pat stated this size of material makes ideal fuel in the event of a fire. It was determined by the committee that some cleaning up of this material should be done. Paula disagreed with any removal of deadfall.
2. Paula discussed obtaining grant money for work on the gate house. Paula is seeking to apply for funds from the Land Conservation Heritage Program (LCHP). She will follow up.
3. Dick brought up the water level and water flow situation in the park and what could be done to improve it. It has been noted that much of the canal area is becoming choked with debris and plant life and it is diminishing the quality and quantity of the water in the canal. We discussed the option of increasing the height of the two weirs, with an increase of up to 1.5'. A request for engineering assistance from the city was requested by Bryan to Deb Chisolm with the city.
4. Dick brought up tree removal along the berm that runs along the canal and how many of the trees along the north side of the berm should be removed to ensure the integrity of the berm. When originally built, the berm was tree free. A report by Smith and Hamilton, that Dick referenced, indicated that these trees could topple and take sections of the berm with it. Bryan mentioned he would discuss this issue with the city. We agreed that if the trees pose a danger to the integrity of the canal, they should be removed. The trees currently there simply grew in place since the berm was constructed.
5. Bryan stated he would have mulch brought to the park sign area at Whipple Street entrance to be spread around the flower bed on the next trail day.



6. Dick requested some materials be brought to a section of trail for some repair, including the addition of materials to the part of the Green Trail to fill in some low sections that do not drain well. Bryan said he would arrange for the materials to get there during the next trail day.
7. It was discussed that we should man a table at the Lincoln Park entrance during trail days to provide information to those seeking it and to ensure any tools handed out for the trail day are returned to the tool shed.
8. Graffiti on the concrete of the bridge entrance at Lincoln Park was discussed. Bryan said he could get painting materials, and the graffiti would be painted over at the next trail day. Other areas to be painted include the electrical structure and pump house located just inside the park at the south high school entrance. In addition to paint materials, Bryan would also look at acquiring more trash tongs.
9. I brought up the subject of updating the park map to include the new downtown bridge near Gate City Fence. Bryan gave me an email to reach out to at city hall to get this started.
10. I brought up the state of the Lincoln Park bridge and what can be done to improve it. I suggested material blasting and painting of the inside metal of the bridge where rust and flaking paint is visible. This will be further reviewed at a future meeting.
11. Two of the guests present, Ben Davis and Greg Hamel, said they intended to join the committee and they were directed to the website where they could submit an application.
12. The state of the funds for the park was discussed to ensure that park funds get used for park improvements.

At approximately 8:15pm, Dick motioned to conclude the meeting. Paula seconded the motion and the meeting was closed.

2025 Meeting Dates

- February 3, 2025
- March 3, 2025
- April 7, 2025
- May 5, 2025

Submitted April 9, 2025
Steve Kenney



- June 2, 2025
- August 4, 2025
- September 8, 2025
- October 6, 2025
- November 3, 2025
- December 1, 2025

2025 Trail Days

- April 19, 2025
- May 17, 2025
- June 21, 2025
- August 16, 2025
- September 27, 2025 (should plan for reduced DPW labor)
- October 25, 2025