

MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting on March 3, 2025

Call to order @7:02

Attendees: Parks Director Brian Conant, Steve Kenney (Chairperson), David Silva, Paula Lochead, Dick Gillespie. Two guests: Nick and Natalie Cicci (?)

Approval of minutes of Feb. 03, 2025. Motion by Dave Silva, seconded by Steve Kenney.

Brief discussion on whether Pam Anderson was still on the committee. Paula agreed to reach out and request letter of resignation if she has decided to leave. [Note to all recipients of this e-mail. Please respond yes or no if you still want to be on committee so that we can update the roster].

Brian received info from Amy Gill of City Engineering office through Deb Chisholm regarding flow through the gatehouse and the canal outfall structure in the Millyard. The original dam licensing documents indicate an "interim flow of 10 cfs" into the Mill Pond was a licensing requirement "until final minimum flow requirements are approved by the Commission {FERC}". There was no indication whether a different final flow requirement was approved. Water through the gatehouse exits into the Mill Pond by way of a 10 or 12 ft diameter reinforced concrete pipe. The pipe is presently filled with water to within 1 ft of the top of the pipe with little or no flow observable. Details were also provided on the canal outfall structure constructed as part of the Broad St. Parkway. The drawings indicate the "dam" or outfall structure is owned and operated by The Nashua Millyard Associates, David Bagshaw, President.

Several questions remain:

What is the actual flow through the gatehouse and how can it be measured? Was there a different minimum flow approved by FERC after the minimum interim flow of 10 cfs?

What approvals are needed to raise the level of the two overflow weirs (emergency spillways) located on the Mill Pond in order to increase the flow through the canal?

What effect would this have on the operation of the canal outfall structure, ostensibly controlled by Nashua Millyard Associates?

Dick agreed to follow up by contacting Amy Gill with City engineering dept.

Paula discussed the findings of her visit to the gatehouse with Drew Bedard of the Historical Society and Brian Conant. They noted rotted soffits, poor ventilation, the need for re-grading of slope, trimming or removal of a tree causing algae or moss growth on outside, and re-pointing of brickwork. There ensued a brief discussion of trying to apply for an LCHP grant to subsidize the work. It was agreed that the very short deadline to apply would preclude applying this year. Cell tower funds were suggested but we have no recent balance info nor estimate of the cost of the repairs.

Trail Day shirts have been received and 5 new trail day signs will be ordered.

Brian has been in contact with a logging company to evaluate making a selective cut of trees in the park. We are waiting for a response from city engineers for an alternate material to replace the rotted boards on the 7th St bridge.

There was a brief discussion about installing some fitness equipment in the park with the preferred location being adjacent to the skatepark along the left side of the road to the boat ramp.

Motion to adjourn at 8:02 by Paula with second by Dave.