

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Sept. 8, 2025

Attendees: Bryan Conant, Paula Lochhead, Natlalie Iucci, Andrew Iucci, Matthew Roscoe, Laura Santer, Dave Silva, Lon Hohberger, Kim Gryslik, Walter Davis

Guests: Justin Patronick and Ethan Michaud (Nashua South Athletics)

Call to Order – 7:01 PM

Approval of May Meeting Minutes:

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

Encampment Remediation

- Steve (not present) drafted a letter to the city government concerning the ongoing encampment remediation within the park and the increasing frequency of encounters with homeless individuals. A draft of this letter was distributed to committee members to be discussed as an agenda item.
- Justin Patronick and Ethan Michaud (Nashua South Athletics) offered helpful testimony of their experience organizing cross country activities at Nashua South. They have restricted students' training routes (to exclude Pine St.) in reaction to concerns about unwanted encounters between high school students and homeless individuals. The superintendent has not been notified of these restrictions but Nashua South administrators have been.
- Laura offered feedback on Steve's letter that more specificity is needed. It would be helpful to locate specific harms that we have noticed or experiences within the park and link those harms to more precise solutions. This precision better allows us as a committee to hold the city accountable if no action is taken.
- Matt also suggested creating a survey where members of the public and volunteers can document their experience of the park (we would not ask them to comment on any particular issue, but just request general feedback to see what emerges).
- Lastly, it was suggested that benchmarking with peer cities who have had similar experiences (but different outcomes) may be valuable. Dave will inquire to determine whether there is an equivalent committee in Lowell, MA, a city who have implemented different tactics in response to a growing population of homeless individuals.

Gate House Grant Money Update

Paula will meet with a selected vendor on September 9, 2025 to evaluate the gatehouse. The funds used for repair must be matched by funds (from the MFPAC budget, if I understand correctly).

MFPAC Fiscal Report

Bryan distributed the latest fiscal report to meeting attendees. The repair of the Whipple St. bridge is a large expense that the committee anticipates.

New Table Cloth for Trail Day

Lon will order.

DPW Topics and Projects

- Bryan met with Granite State Monuments to discuss repairing current bench. Additional benches could be installed, if desired.
- The Coliseum Ave. bridge (Lincoln Park entrance) is in need of aesthetic attention, but repairs to the Whipple St. bridge should be prioritized, since it is in worse condition.
- Bryan reports the possibility of vacuuming sediment from the canal. This would be done professionally and would require a permit.
- The possibility of spraying to remove poison ivy alongside the canal was raised. This would also require a permit.
- There is a tree down at G85. DPW will remove.
- There is another dead tree at ~R60 (behind Conway Arena) that needs removal
- Additionally, there is no trash receptacle at the park entrance by the ice rink. Something should be installed.

September Trail Day Projects:

The Nashua Rotary Club will be attending, so we anticipate many volunteers. A notification should be added to the Facebook event instructing volunteers to wear long pants.

- The shed near the soccer field needs to be re-painted, as it now has graffiti.
- The overlook sign near 7th St. needs to be cleaned, as it now has graffiti.
- Both overlooks will be re-painted, weather permitting, and the brush around them will be cleared, within reason and the limits of safety.
- Trenches from rain will be repaired/filled-in, especially at G44, then G14, B32.
- There is also some significant erosion along the canal that can be addressed at B72, B69, B38. Dick will help specify supplies, if needed.

Adjournment – 8:08 PM