

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2026

Attendees: Bryan Conant, Paula Lochhead, Natlalie Iucci, Andrew Iucci, Matthew Roscoe, Laura Santer, Dave Silva, Lon Hohberger, Mike Sliwa, Steve Kenney, Sherry Dutzy (Conservation Commission Member), Walter (Ben) Davis

Guests: Shelby Walker-Adams (Race Director for Gate City Striders MFP Summer Trail Series), Kamal Masand (future MFPAC Member, pending city approval), Matt Sullivan (Director of Community Development, Nashua)

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

Approval of November Meeting Minutes:

Paula motioned to approve the December Meeting Minutes. Lon seconded this motion. The minutes were unanimously approved without revisions.

Gate City Striders' MFP Summer Trail Series

The last race of the 2026 Summer Trail Series will be a fundraiser for the park. Thanks to Shelby Walker-Adams for organizing this!

Memorial Bench to be Installed

The Board of Public Works has approved this decision to install and dedicate the next park bench to Dick Gillespie. Upon installation of the bench we will invite Dick's wife, family, and friends to attend a dedication ceremony.

October Trail Date Changed

Steve motioned to move October's Trail Day from Oct. 17th to Oct. 24th to avoid conflict with a regional track meet. Paula seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved. The new October Trail Day will be on October 24, 2026.

Oxbow Area and Cove Trail Remediation

The committee discussed strategies and plans to not only clean this area (after the city's sweeping of encampments in December), but to preserve the area for future use by park-goers. To this end, Steve suggested that a raised walkway be installed. This would allow pedestrians to make a complete loop of the park without exiting and re-entering the park. The raised structure would allow water flow and the growth of vegetation underneath. Shelby (guest) added that the Cove

Trail is greatly missed by Nashua runners.

Most immediately, the Cove Trail area and clearing is overgrown with invasive knotweed and also contains significant debris that will need to be removed. It was suggested that wood chips be spread over the area after cleaning. Another method for managing this space could involve placing boulders or logs. These would increase spaces for natural habitats and pollinators while discouraging camping.

Committee members are encouraged to come to the March meeting with additional ideas and plans for this space.

Future City Development at NMCO Building, Pine St. Ext. etc.

Matt Sullivan outlined the development plans for the TIF (tax increment financing) district and also commented on the plans to install a new bridge into the park (near Blue Trail 100/end of Fairmount St.).

Matt shared that the NMCO property was acquired by the city and demolished. The Bagshaw building was also demolished. The plan is to build 250 housing units in their place. The master development agreement also includes plans for the installation of a dog park and development of an improved streetscape. Increased foot traffic at this end of the park will be expected. The city also has \$250,000 in dedicated funds for additional planning; the MFPAC is encouraged to think of additional developments that could be planned with these funds to benefit the park.

The latter project will involve 2 years of remediation followed by five years of development to design and build the intended bridge. The installation of this bridge is not intended to be a formal entrance into the park, though there will be 10-15 public parking spaces installed nearby.

Gate House Updates

Paula shared feedback concerning the denial of the recent grant application. Completing an updated study of the gate house would improve chances of future funding, and would cost less than \$10,000. Sherry also suggested contacting the Nashua Regional Planning Committee (NRPC) to inquire about a different grant. In any case, the MFPAC will move forward with their previous vote to use MFP funds for the necessary repairs (pending approval from the Board of Public Works).

Future Trail Day Projects

- Cleaning of Oxbow/Cove Trail area (top priority)
- Knotweed removal
- Canal clean-up using kayaks
- Purple Trail remediation and possible re-routing

Adjournment – 8:28 PM