



Mine Falls Park Trail Committee

Meeting Minutes — October 5, 2026

Call to Order

Steve — 7:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned

8:05 PM — Motion: Andrew / Second: Lon

Attendees: Kamal Masand, Dave Silva, Ben Davis, Sherry Dufzy, Mike Silva, Justin Hoprich, Steve Kenney, Bryan Conant, Natalie Lucci, Andrew Lucci, Paula Lochhead, Lon Hochberger, Kimberly Gryslik.

Guests: Molly Stark and Joseph Peitz.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the previous meeting were presented with approval.
- A correction was identified in Section 2.64 involving the spelling.
- **Motion:** Justin made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as amended. Paula seconded the motion. The meeting then proceeded to the regular agenda.

2. Guests

- Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.
- **Joe:** Joe identified himself as an interested citizen of Nashua.
- **Molly:** Learned about the meeting through a Facebook post, lives near the park, regularly used the park, and attended to learn more about the committee and its work.

3. Parks Department Report

- Bryan Conant, Park Superintendent, provided updates on current Park matters.

Gatehouse — Structural Engineer Report

- The structural engineer's report for the Gatehouse has not yet been received.
- Bryan stated that the report was in progress and expressed hope that it would be available well before the October 22 Board of Public Works meeting so it could be brought forward for discussion.

Gatehouse — Interior Cleaning

- Bryan met with Stratus Cleaning regarding cleaning the interior of the Gatehouse. The proposed work would consist of vacuuming and dusting rather than power-washing.
- Stratus Cleaning provided a quote of \$1,400. Bryan noted that the company had recently performed satisfactory cleaning work at Holman Stadium.
- The committee discussed the importance of avoiding exterior power-washing because of the potential for damage to the building and mortar.
- Discussion also addressed cleaning products, access to interior windows, supervision while the work is performed, and the likelihood that animal activity could cause the interior to become soiled again.
- **Motion:** Approve a budget not to exceed \$1,400 for cleaning the interior of the Gatehouse, including the interior windows.
- **Vote:** The motion passed without opposition.

Gatehouse — Animal/Wildlife Concerns

- Members discussed evidence of animal activity and waste inside the Gatehouse. Possible sources included mice, rats, and bats.
- Bryan explained that pest-control vendors are used in other city buildings and that a vendor could potentially be engaged for the Gatehouse.
- Members raised concerns about chemical bait and the possibility of secondary impacts on wildlife through the food chain, particularly because of the Gatehouse's location near the water.
- Alternatives discussed included traps, identifying entry points, and installing mesh or similar barriers.
- **Consensus:** Proceed first with cleaning, evaluate conditions afterward, and revisit wildlife-control measures, as necessary.

4. New Bridge

- Bryan reported that there was no new information regarding the proposed new bridge.
- As discussed previously, the bridge is expected to be located on the east/back side of the soccer and softball field complex and provide access toward the tannery area once that area is developed.
- Steve reported that Matt Sullivan was unable to attend because of a conflict but had committed to attending the next meeting.
- Steve had discussed with him the desirability of establishing a consistent bridge design or template for future bridge replacements throughout the park. The bridge behind South High School was mentioned as a possible model, while recognizing that a larger river crossing may require a different design.

5. Seventh Street Bridge

- Hoyle Tanner had inspected the Seventh Street Bridge. The engineering review reflected concerns about the existing floor construction and materials and indicated that these conditions would continue to create issues.
- Hoyle Tanner can prepare engineering design, permitting, bid specifications, and bid documents for the project.
- Bryan reported a proposal of approximately \$24,713 for the design and permitting phase. Hoyle Tanner was also involved with the bridge replacement behind South High School and the Whipple Street Bridge project.
- Members discussed the proposal in the context of other capital needs, including the Gatehouse and Whipple Street Bridge.
- It was clarified that the \$24,713 amount is for the planning/design and permitting work and is not the cost of repairing or replacing the Seventh Street Bridge.
- Motion to approve 24713 was made and seconded. Motion Passed.

6. Whipple Street Bridge / Capital Priorities

- The committee briefly discussed the Whipple Street Bridge and competing capital priorities.
- Bryan did not have an exact schedule for the Whipple Street project but indicated that it was being discussed and evaluated.
- Members also discussed preserving or earmarking available funding for the Gatehouse while awaiting the information needed to move that project forward.

Gatehouse Cleaning	Authorize up to \$1,400 for interior cleaning, including interior windows.	Approved
Gatehouse Structural Report	Await structural engineer's report for future discussion.	Pending.
Gatehouse Wildlife	Clean first, evaluate conditions and entry points, then revisit control measures.	Follow-up needed.

Bridge Planning	Discuss a consistent bridge design/template with Matt Sullivan at a future meeting.	Pending.
Seventh Street Bridge	Hoyle Tanner proposal of approximately \$24,713 for design/permitting discussed.	Approved

 **Facebook:** As per Natalie, we have 6,000 followers on Facebook.

Trail Day Projects

- Painting (subject to weather)
- Clean brushes
- Trim brushes
- Clean debris around trees
- Whipple Street painting
- Fix the retaining wall
- Visit the Island area

Open Discussion

-  **Motorized Bikes:** The committee discussed how to enforce the rules on motorized bikes on the trails.
-  **Bike Speeding:** It was decided that board members will come up with creative signage ideas to address the bike speeding issue. Input from community members will also be welcomed.
-  **Encampments:** Steve suggested conducting a survey via Facebook about the encampment issue, which will help the committee gauge the pulse of the Nashua community.