

City of Winchester  
Natural Resources Advisory Board  
Minutes

From the meeting on 22 March 2012  
Shawnee Springs Nature Preserve

- I. Chair David Worthington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Present from the NRAB were Mr. Jim Lawrence, Mr. Gerald Crowell, Mr. Tai Roulston and Dr. Bousquet in addition to Mr. Worthington. Mr. Giraytys was not in attendance. Staff present was Tom Hoy. Guests present were Mr. Jim Smith, previous Parks Superintendent for the City of Winchester and an individual very familiar with the history of Shawnee Springs.
- II. After the introductions, Mr. Worthington turned the meeting over to Mr. Lawrence to address the history of the Shawnee Springs Nature Preserve. Mr. Lawrence stated that the property used to be a site of Native American Indian encampments. He noted that in the 1700's the property was bought from the Indians by the Hollingsworth family who built their homestead nearby; Abrams Delight. During the War Between the States Mr. Lawrence stated that the site was used for the first mobile field hospital by Major General Sheridan following the battle of Third Winchester. In the early 1900's he noted that the springs on the site were used as a water supply for the City of Winchester. Mr. Lawrence said that following this use the site remained mostly undeveloped for 30 years but portions were farmed. He concluded by noting that in the early 1990's the site was donated to the City of Winchester as open space and recently the Green Circle path was built around the site.
- III. Following this presentation the NRAB members, staff and guests toured the Shawnee Springs Nature preserve. Dr. Bousquet noted that despite the intrusion of various ground covers (i.e., English ivy, honeysuckle) there was still a good stand of native canopy; including native trees. Several existing foundations were examined during the tour which also included a close up inspection of the springs. Some graffiti was noted but there did not appear to be a problem with transients as has been observed in the past. The walk-thru culminated with thanks to Mr. Smith for his attendance and for his commentary on the site.
- IV. Approval of March 1, 2012 Minutes. Mr. Lawrence read the portions of the minutes regarding the Shawnee Springs Management Plan that he requested be revised. Following this a motion was made by Dr. Bousquet to accept the minutes with the changes noted by Mr. Lawrence. He motion was seconded by Mr. Crowell and was passed by a vote of 4 to 0.
- V. Review of Past Action Items-a review was completed by Mr. Worthington. Mr. Worthington asked Mr. Lawrence when item 1 would be completed and he replied that the meeting with Mr. Tuttle was scheduled for 6 APR 12. Mr. Lawrence asked for an extension to 6 APR 12 on item 2 and this was unanimously agreed by the members. Mr. Hoy remarked that item 5, the parking lot at Shawnee Springs, would be open by 24 MAR 12. All other items were either completed or would be covered in the agenda. Mr. Lawrence thanked Mr. Hoy for his outstanding efforts on the action item list.
- VI. Tree Canopy Initiative: Mr. Worthington stated that a draft copy of the Tree Canopy Initiative Plan has been sent to the NRAB members and to members of the Tree Commission. As all NRAB members thought this was a good plan a motion was made by Mr. Lawrence to endorse it. Mr. Crowell seconded this motion and it was approved 4 to 0. Messrs Lawrence and Crowell are the NRAB members for this initiative. Mr. Hoy stated that a press release would be required if the four members of this group (2 from the NRAB and 2 from the Tree Commission) met. Mr. Worthington stated that he had a brief discussion with Patrick Farris, Chairman of the Tree Commission, and noted that Mr. Farris fully supported this initiative.
- VII. Tree Topping: Mr. Hoy stated that the city agreed to place information on tree topping in the May or June water bills. The NRAB members appreciated this effort. Mr. Worthington stated that he advised Mr. Tim Youmans of City staff on the NRAB's discussion of this issue.

- VIII. Tree Commission Report: Mr. Roulston reported that the Tree Commission had some Arbor Day events planned and that they were dealing with the usual number of tree topping requests.
- IX. Mr. Lawrence briefed the NRAB on the tree planting for Friendship Park on 24 MAR 12. NRAB members were appreciative of Mr. Lawrence's efforts. Mr. Lawrence noted that he could not do this alone and thanked Mr. Crowell, among others, for their assistance.
- X. New items: There were no new items in this agenda section.
- XI. The next meeting will be held on 19 APR 12
- XII. Mr. Worthington adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM

<b>NO.</b>	<b>ACTION ITEM:</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO:</b>	<b>TARGET DATE:</b>	<b>STATUS:</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Schedule a meeting with Ron Tuttle for a Friday or Saturday.</b>	<b>Jim Lawrence</b>	<b>4-6-12</b>	On April 6 Ron Tuttle, Kevin Sine (Parks & Rec staff) and myself met as planned to discuss developing naturalization plans for park properties. The focus was the Rolling Hills green space (stormwater detention area). Ron made a brief presentation followed by Q&A and short discussion and site visit. Ron is working with staff to develop a concept plan with 2 planting options. The base plan would involve minor regrading, compost soil amendments and replanting with a native seed mix. The other would include flow paths and 1-3 micro pools. A rough budget is also being prepared. The plan will be reviewed by staff and presented to the Parks & Rec Board. It is envisioned that there will also be a neighborhood info/feedback meeting at some point.
<b>2</b>	<b>Get with Brad after he reviews the Notes from meetings with Jim Lawrence.</b>	<b>Jim Lawrence</b>	<b>4-6-12</b>	Brad and I have not met to discuss the Shawnee Springs Management Plan. With AB approaching it is doubtful that will happen in the next few weeks. Perhaps by the May meeting.