



CORRECTED

City of Keene, New Hampshire

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, April 18, 2022

4:30 PM

City Council Chambers

Commission Members

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Kenneth Bergman
Art Walker
Andrew Madison

Councilor Robert Williams
Brian Reilly, Alternate
Thomas P. Haynes, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2022
3. Guess Speaker:
 - Keene State Students: Josh Koehler & Cooper Cioffi
Analysis on Human Impact on Monadnock Region Wetlands Ability to Maintain & Perform
 - Dane D’Arcangelo, Arborist, Eversource, Tree Trimming
4. Informational:
 - a. Subcommittee reports
 - Outreach Subcommittee
 - Arm Fund Subcommittee
 - Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship
 - Invasive Species
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Joint Council Meeting - Eversource scenic roads
 - b. NH Association of Conservation Commissions dues
 - c. Radically Rural: No Mow May
 - d. Beaver Brook to Cemetery
 - e. Conservation Commission speaking events
6. New or Other Business
 - a. Instream Flow Program - Ashuelot River, May 17 & 18, 2022
 - b. Land Conservation Investment Program Property Fields Visits, May 24, 25, 26, 2022
7. Adjournment – Next meeting date **Monday, May 16, 2022 Keene Parks & Recreation Center, 312 Washington St., Room 22**

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1 **City of Keene**
2 **New Hampshire**

3
4
5 **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
6 **MEETING MINUTES**
7

Monday, March 21, 2022

4:30 PM

**Council Chambers,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Councilor Andrew Madison, Vice Chair
(Arrived at 4:36 PM)
Councilor Robert Williams
Eloise Clark
Art Walker
Ken Bergman (via Zoom; non-voting)
Steven Bill, Alternate (via Zoom; non-voting;
arrived at 4:35 PM)
John Therriault, Alternate

Staff Present:

Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present:

Thomas Haynes, Alternate
Brian Reilly, Alternate

8
9 **SITE VISIT: At 3:30 PM before the meeting, the Conservation Commission conducted a**
10 **site visit to Beaver Brook via Woodland Cemetery.**

11
12 **1) Call to Order**

13
14 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

15
16 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2022**

17
18 A motion by Mr. Therriault to adopt the February 22, 2022 minutes was duly seconded by Mr.
19 Walker and the motion carried unanimously. Vice Chair Madison arrived after this vote.

20
21 **3) Guest Speaker: Amanda Littleton, District Manager, Cheshire County Conservation**
22 **District**

23
24 The Chairman introduced Amanda Littleton, District Manager of the Cheshire County
25 Conservation District (CCCD).
26

27 Ms. Littleton thanked the Commission for the opportunity to participate. She began working
28 with the CCCD in 2007 and said it had been a joy. The CCCD was set-up by State Statute in
29 1945 in response to the Dust Bowl, when the USDA realized a concern with farm soil
30 management nationwide. Now, each county in NH has a Conservation District for natural
31 resources conservation, to be local conduits bringing resources from the Federal government for
32 technical assistance. Since then, the CCCD has expanded beyond soil erosion to broader natural
33 resources conservation. What Ms. Littleton appreciates about Conservation Districts that has not
34 changed since 1945 is that they are focused on local needs and are very responsive to challenges
35 that communities are facing at the local level. The CCCD is run much like a non-profit (despite
36 being set-up per State Statute), with a Board of Supervisors of participants throughout the region,
37 which helps provide strategic direction and fiscal management; Ms. Clark is a past Board of
38 Supervisors member and her husband is the current Treasurer. The CCCD has relied heavily on
39 grants and donations to carry-out their programs since 2010 and they have acquired
40 approximately \$2.3 million in grants and agreement dollars to help meet natural resources
41 stewardship goals. Those funds are in addition to Farm Bill dollars—the CCCD works with the
42 Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help bring-in Farm Bill dollars and
43 do a lot of outreach to farmers. For example, in 2021, there were practices on approximately
44 2,000 acres of Cheshire County and the Federal investment in that was approximately \$655,000.
45 Each year, the NRCS works with a lot of voluntary landowners who are interested.

46
47 Ms. Littleton centered the rest of her presentation on the CCCD’s Strategic Plan’s four focus
48 areas: soil, water, wildlife, and farm viability. She began by discussing soil health, which was
49 why the conservation districts were first developed. Today the focus is not just on soil erosion
50 but health—physical, chemical, and biological properties. She explained the basic soil health
51 principles that the CCCD follows, which are about minimizing disturbance on farmlands (e.g.,
52 tilling less) and maximizing living roots, soil cover, and biodiversity. The CCCD achieves these
53 goals through equipment rental programs, which she said was driven by farmers indicating that
54 they wanted to try transitioning to these different management practices that build soil health and
55 protect water quality; but equipment is expensive, and farmers only use it a few times yearly.
56 Thus, the CCCD receives request from the agricultural community for new equipment that helps
57 farmers with their management, while meeting the CCCDs soil health goals. They have acquired
58 equipment such as no-till drills to help plant cover crops, aerators to help with surface
59 compaction, no-till corn planters, no-till vegetable transplanters, and more. Ms. Littleton said the
60 CCCD had received a lot of feedback from vegetable producers needing more equipment
61 available. Thus, the CCCD is trying to support farms of all scales. They started a program with
62 the Keene Public Library a few years ago to support the smallest scale producers with a tool
63 library; she recently added a weed wrench that can help with invasives control. There are also
64 adaptive tools for those with physical challenges. At larger scales to support homesteaders, they
65 have a BCS two-wheel tractor, with an effort to have all the largest equipment in miniature forms
66 for farms less than two acres. Then there is medium-large scale tractor equipment.

67
68 Next, Ms. Littleton discussed the CCCD’s water quality focus. She said that other ways the
69 CCCD works with farmers is through the use of cover crops. She said soil health can sound

70 boring to non-farmers, but that it is all about protecting water quality and wildlife habitat of
71 surface waters. CCCD helps farmers transition to owning equipment, like no-till corn equipment.
72 They also do projects with farms on manure management, barnyard runoff, and more; how to
73 treat the nutrients properly before they enter surface waters. **There was an inaudible question**, to
74 which Ms. Littleton replied in the affirmative and that it was not something the CCCD did
75 specifically, but they were able to write a NH moose plate license plate and to write a grant to
76 bring in extra state dollars to that project to help overcome hurdles to completion. She said the
77 CCCD likes to find the gaps in funding and seek creative approaches to help people meet their
78 conservation needs. Continuing on forest water quality, Ms. Littleton said there had been skidder
79 bridge rental programs. The CCCD encourages skidder bridges as a management tool to allow
80 people to access different tracts of timber ground when they want to harvest, without disturbing
81 surface water habitats and by preventing erosion. Next on water quality, Ms. Littleton discussed
82 the CT River Conservancy's Source to Sea Cleanup, which is a partnership program with many
83 groups to clean thousands of pounds of trash out of the local rivers annually by great partners
84 and community volunteers.

85
86 Ms. Littleton transitioned to the CCCD's third focus area, which is wildlife habitat. Typically,
87 there is a lot of work with pollinators and aquatic organism passages. She discussed the
88 Conservation Opportunity Fund, which began a few years ago in response to the Farm Bill
89 shifting some programs and eliminating the Wildlife Habitat Improvement program. There was
90 no way to get funding to small landowners for pollinators and habitat improvement. Thus, the
91 Conservation Opportunity Fund is for landowners of 25 acres or less to apply for \$1,500 grants.
92 It is great for the small-medium scale landowners in Keene the CCCD has been working with;
93 they hope to work with more landowners on pollinator habitats and rain gardens. Ms. Littleton
94 would love to partner with the Conservation Commission on implementing this more in Keene.

95
96 Further on wildlife habitat, Ms. Littleton discussed the CCCD's work with farmers on integrated
97 pest management. For example, work with a blueberry producer who wants to be spraying less.
98 New pest pressures with climate change challenging farmers, so farmers will apply for netting to
99 reduce spraying, for example. **There was an inaudible question from the Chairman**. Ms. Littleton
100 said it was a great question and beginning in 2021, the CCCD began a more formal partnership
101 with Soak Up the Rain, which is part of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES).
102 The CCCD has invited landowners to schedule a site visit with CCCD and DES to hear the
103 landowners interests and goals, and provide feedback on siting, considerations of soil types, sizes
104 based on drainage areas, and to encourage them to apply for the grant for funding. She said there
105 are a lot of great resources that already exist that they try to point people toward. **There was an**
106 **inaudible question from Councilor Williams**, to which Ms. Littleton said it was a good point. She
107 continued saying that the CCCD worked with Keene 10–12 years ago to install rain gardens at
108 Public Works, the Recreation Center, and many schools in Keene. She said maintenance is
109 critical and requires someone to steward it like any garden; collaborating with motivated private
110 landowners could be a good solution.

111

112 Ms. Littleton shared that the CCCD would be working with the Friends of the Arboretum at
113 Ashuelot Park, who applied for Conservation Opportunity Funds this year. They just completed a
114 contract to install a rain garden, which she thinks will be a great educational tool, with signage
115 and workshops. There are seven master gardeners on the Friends of the Arboretum and so Ms.
116 Littleton hopes for more education partnerships with the City.

117
118 Ms. Littleton concluded on wildlife habitat with culvert removals and replacements in the
119 regions, like in Surry and Swanzey in the Ashuelot River watershed. They have been looking for
120 priority sites to remove culverts that are otherwise blocking passage upstream for brook trout and
121 other aquatic species trying to access necessary habitat. They are interested in more of this work
122 that can open additional miles of habitat for many species of concern in NH. The CCCD often
123 partners with municipalities for these culvert removals and is always happy to work with Keene
124 on such efforts.

125
126 The final focus of the CCCD is farm viability, for which there are many programs. The CCCD
127 focuses on helping farms be successful businesses, so they do not end up developed and cans
128 steward farm resources into the future. First, they like to help build connections to agriculture
129 and natural lands so there is a program through the Monadnock Localvores, which the CCCD
130 staffs to send youth (44 in 2021) to a week of farm camp at Stonewall Farm, Orchard Hill, or the
131 University of MA 4-H program. The CCCD is excited to help build a connection to agriculture
132 from an early age. Beyond this, the CCCD is focused on ensuring food access and security
133 through their programs, and therefore they want more markets for farmers and to ensure all have
134 access. The Granite State Market Match program allows those with food stamps/EBT to shop at
135 local farmer markets, farms stands, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to double their
136 dollars on produce. It is a win for farmers and those lower-income families of our region.

137
138 Beyond that program, there are those limited income residents who cannot afford to shop at
139 CSAs and so the Monadnock Farm Share Program offers 50% off CSA shares for limited income
140 residents of the region; 25% is covered by farm fundraising/discounts and the other 25% is
141 covered by the Fund. Last year, 44 households participated in the program. Similarly last year,
142 the CCCD—in an effort to work with multiple groups—started a Veterans program in the month
143 of September. Any Veteran can go to the farmers markets in Keene, Hinsdale, and Jaffrey and
144 get a \$20 voucher for each weekday the market runs. This is in partnership with the Healthy
145 Monadnock Alliance.

146
147 Next, Ms. Littleton described the Monadnock Food Co-Op Farm Fund to invest in farms. They
148 have provided \$120,000 in grants to 17 farmers since 2017 to for on-farm infrastructure and
149 different needs to grow and strengthen their businesses. They also have a partnership with
150 Hannah Grimes and **NCAT** to help farms work on business planning or classes at the Hannah
151 Grimes center, after which they get a \$2,000 voucher, to help them invest in something strategic
152 to improve their business. The first cohort of six farms just finished and they hope for two
153 cohorts of 12 farms next year.

154

155 Ms. Littleton discussed how to ensure farm businesses are strong by reducing energy input costs.
156 The CCCD started a program and installed a 100kw solar array at a farm, making it a community
157 project with investors that many farmers can buy into. The CCCD is selling shares that farms can
158 buy to support this without their own installation. Like a previously mentioned program, through
159 this there will be \$2,000 stipends on an application basis to invest in renewables and energy
160 efficiency on farms over the next few years.

161
162 Lastly, Ms. Littleton concluded her presentation discussing climate, and work on a grant program
163 for farmers to adapt to and mitigate climate changes. They hope it will be a direct program like
164 the Co-Op program. Another program is the Land Trust, which is a statewide partnership on
165 succession planning for the next generation of farmers.

166
167 Mr. Therriault asked for more details about CCCD work with pollinators. Ms. Littleton replied
168 that through the Conservation Opportunity Fund people can apply for dollars to install pollinator
169 habitat on their land. The CCCD also tried to provide technical assistance through a site visit,
170 discussing plant selection and more resources to make it possible on their properties. In previous
171 years, the CCCD has received larger funds for pollinator habitats on private or public land. Still,
172 the focus is smaller scale and fostering peer-to-peer learning and sharing between neighbors.

173
174 The Chairman asked more about the culvert process [question was largely inaudible]. Ms.
175 Littleton replied that it is a big job to understand and assess where the priority culvert and getting
176 the work done; it requires multiple partners. She continued that a study was done for the
177 Ashuelot River watershed with volunteers by the Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory,
178 which is now a part of the Harris Center. It got volunteers out doing survey assessments. The
179 project went dormant from some time until contact from NH DES, who cannot do this municipal
180 work. The NH DES helped to bring partners together with the CCCD, and they went back to the
181 original resource and the top priority in Swanzey, with over 10 miles of habitat. The CCCD's
182 role was to bring partners together and apply for grants, like the Aquatic Resources Mitigation
183 (ARM) Fund through DES and the State Conservation Committee grant through Fish & Game
184 and other federal dollars. She does not have technical knowledge on culvert replacement, so the
185 right contractors must be engaged. They typically partner with Trout Unlimited because they
186 have the experience. The Chairman expressed his gratitude for this presentation

187
188 Mr. Bill asked about manure, its disposal in Cheshire County, and programs to ensure
189 composting or methane generation. Ms. Littleton said it was a great question, but she was
190 unaware of any farms in this county capturing methane for electricity generation, but it is
191 happening in other parts of the region. She said manure is a valuable nutrient in fertilizer for
192 most farms and so most farms are utilizing it on their fields instead of purchasing inputs. Many
193 dairy farms have composting programs that sell back to the public too.

194
195 Mr. Bergman appreciated the presentation and called the Swanzey culvert replacement brilliant,
196 noting how crucial the Trout Unlimited contribution was—they have both biologists, wetland
197 specialists, and engineers to design the project, who persuade communities to help them leverage

198 the funds by pointing out that they can combine wildlife habitat with road and flood protection.
199 Mr. Bergman said they gave a presentation at Keene State a few years ago and he can try to find
200 it to share. He said it is a phenomenal project to visit. Ms. Littleton said it is on Hale Hill Road.
201

202 The Chairman thanked Ms. Littleton for her presentation. Ms. Littleton always welcomes follow-
203 up conversations or partnerships in Keene.
204

205 **4) Informational**

206 **A) Subcommittee Reports**

207 **i) *Outreach Subcommittee***
208

209 Ms. Clark reported that the Goose Pond Through the Seasons program would continue on May
210 21 with a bird identification walk led by Steven Lamonde. Ms. Clark noted a goal to provide Mr.
211 Lamonde a \$150 honorarium.
212

213 A motion by Vice Chair Madison to approve a \$150 honorarium for Steven Lamonde for the
214 Goose Pond Through the Seasons walk in May 2022 was duly seconded by Mr. Walker.
215

216 The Chairman did not believe the Commission had yet used its annual \$1,500 budget, but he
217 knew there was an impending annual bill from the NH Association of Conservation
218 Commissions. Councilor Williams also suggested a small budget for trash bags to collect
219 invasive species and the Chairman agreed.
220

221 Hearing no objections, the motion carried unanimously.
222

223 Ms. Clark also reported that on Saturdays June 4 and 9, there would be trails maintenance
224 workshops led by Lew Shelley of SnowHawk, LLC. Ms. Clark said that Mr. Haynes was very
225 excited to have this lined-up and to be working toward volunteer trail maintenance that cuts
226 down money needed from the City and would train a cadre of people to help with future trail
227 improvement projects. Ms. Clark noted that the Director of Parks, Recreation, & Facilities, Andy
228 Bohannon, offered to pay for Mr. Shelley's honorarium so it does not come from Commission
229 funds. Ms. Clark thought this was a great opportunity for a new crew of people to learn these
230 skills and get more involved at Goose Pond.
231

232 **ii) *ARM Fund Subcommittee***
233

234 Chair Von Plinsky reported that Whole Forestry Products from CT outbid the City for the parcels
235 it tried to purchase at auction. While he said this was not ideal, he did not want to dive deeply
236 into the matter on the record. He said a quick glance at Whole Forestry Products' website
237 indicated that the owner earned a Conservation & Forestry Award from the NE Forestry
238 Association. Mr. Therriault asked if it would be a problem for the Commission to reach out to
239 the company and invite them to talk to the Commission about their plans for the parcels. The

240 Chair thought it was a great idea to build a relationship but he would reach out to the City first to
241 ensure it was okay.

242

243 **iii) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship**

244

245 Mr. Walker reported that he and Mr. Bill walked the Goose Pond loop trail around the pond
246 doing a **signage inventory** [largely inaudible]. The Chairman said he hikes that area a lot and the
247 north end of the pond is a problem area, with some bridges crossing streams. He asked whether
248 that had come up. Mr. Walker replied in the affirmative, noting that was an area that needs work.
249 Mr. Walker thought Mr. Bohannon had tried to move the trail away from the waterfront to
250 minimize erosion and allow that area to recover. Ms. Clark said Mr. Haynes had reported that
251 they hoped to have the grant for some of the major work to take place next summer, possibly
252 working with the Student Conservation Association. The Chair asked if that was summer 2022 or
253 2023 and Ms. Clark confirmed 2023.

254

255 **iv) Invasive Species**

256

257 Councilor Williams reported that there were upcoming events on the calendar for once the
258 invasives start growing. Green Up Keene is in April, and he hoped to share announcements with
259 their materials like last year, which he said was a success. He wanted to know the possibility of
260 putting an announcement on the City website. Ms. Marcou said she would explore adding that to
261 the Commission webpage if Councilor Williams compiled the information.

262

263 Councilor Williams added that so far, he had paid for materials like trash bags out-of-pocket,
264 which he would continue to do if needed, but he would not mind a budget to offset those costs.
265 In addition to trash bags, a future budget for materials could also pay for replacement shrubbery.
266 Vice Chair Madison asked if the Public Works Department or Parks, Recreation, & Facilities
267 Department could provide the trash bags, in addition to conserving the materials left over after
268 Green Up Keene. The Chairman would follow-up with the Director of Public Works. Councilor
269 Williams said he was a big fan of the Public Works Department as they had been great at hauling
270 off the invasives. If the surplus from Green Up Keene and help from the Public Works
271 Department did not work out, the Commission would revisit a budget for these materials.

272

273 **5) Discussion Items**

274 **A) Conservation Commission Speaking Events**

275

276 Moving into the summer months with Covid-19 numbers trending down, Vice Chair Madison
277 felt it was a safe time to revisit this. The Chair agreed and asked about a composting/waste
278 focus, or water issues. He asked Vice Chair Madison what he would focus on if only one event
279 were possible this summer. Vice Chair Madison said he would want to focus on waste and do a
280 “Trash Talk.” Otherwise, there were opportunities on pollination with Mr. Therriault and
281 invasives with Councilor Williams. The Vice Chair did not want to dominate the decision
282 making. Commissioners were encouraged to think of possibilities over the next month. Vice

283 Chair Madison would work on a venue for a waste event over the next month and the
284 Commission agreed to leave the April meeting with a venue and speakers, and ideally a date.
285 Vice Chair Madison reminded that the Keene Food Festival is in early June and there are
286 possibilities to pair with that event. He wants to see if the Monadnock Food Co-op would lend
287 their outdoor amphitheater space for an outdoor discussion on sustainable food waste,
288 composting, and solid waste management the evening of or before the Festival, which would
289 ideally have composting and compostable utensils, etc. He thought more people might be
290 interested if waste were put into context of the local restaurants and food system.

291

292 Mr. Bill asked whether Green Up Keene was too soon to plan an accompanying speaking event.
293 Vice Chair Madison said it was too quick with the event next month, but he and the Chair agreed
294 that it could be a good accompaniment in future years. Vice Chair Madison agreed that in 2023
295 they will find other events, such as one he wants to do on water quality accompanying the river
296 cleanup, What's the Buzz on Pollinators, and one on invasives. Ultimately, he got the idea for
297 these speaking events from the Science Café in Nashua and Concord, where a different science
298 topic is discussed each month in a relaxed environment at a bar or café, to hear from a panel of
299 experts and network with likeminded individuals. The Chair would be happy to achieve this goal.

300

- 301 **B) Beaver Brook to Cemetery**
- 302 **C) Airport Solar Project Update**

303

304 The Chairman said this was not necessarily in the Commission's purview, but it had come-up a
305 few times. Mr. Therriault stated that he spoke with the Assistant Public Works Director, Duncan
306 Watson, who said, "Well, I'm not really sure what we're doing, Revision Energy is managing
307 this, and they will have to give us an answer at some point." So, Mr. Therriault wanted to hear
308 from Revision Energy, but because they are a subcontractor to the City, he did not feel
309 comfortable reaching out to them with questions unless the City authorized it. In the meantime,
310 he wondered if the Commission could invite Revision Energy to come present to the
311 Commission on their plans. Ms. Marcou also reached out to Mr. Watson for information, and he
312 provided a slide show, which was shared with the Commission. The Chairman said the second
313 part of the slide show provided a map of the array location. The Chairman thought it was okay
314 for the Commission to seek pollinator plantings throughout the development of this project. The
315 Chairman said this was informational.

316

- 317 **D) Joint Council Meeting – Eversource Scenic Roads**

318

319 The Chairman reported that he would attend the joint Council meeting on April 7. He thought it
320 strange that he could not represent the Commission alone, but understood it was per NH Statute.
321 He said it was a matter of trees that need to be removed along scenic byways. The Commission
322 was unclear as to whether Councilor Williams and Vice Chair Madison would count as a part of
323 the Commission quorum at the Council meeting, but believed they should be. The Chairman
324 reported that he planned to visit the list of trees to ensure they were not picking the wrong ones;
325 he did not think there were nefarious issues. According to those who responded, Ms. Marcou

326 believed there would be a quorum present on April 7. Ms. Clark said she had done this before for
327 the Commission and it is essentially a formality.

328

329 **6) New or Other Business**

330

331 The Chairman said they received the annual dues bill from the NHACC, which was not due until
332 the end of April. The Commission would discuss at their next meeting. They usually do not pay
333 in full and had not always paid on time.

334

335 Councilor Williams noted that some Councilors were bringing forward a homelessness initiative
336 to the Finance, Organization, & Personnel Committee, part of which was looking at the issue of
337 illegal camping in the woods that causes ecological damage from trash and human waste. Part of
338 the initiative idea is to have designated camping spaces—Wheelock Park Campground is no
339 longer an option—such as some primitive areas in parks, with trash removal and a Porto Potty.
340 Though how to implement, permit, and determine what is appropriate is unclear. Councilor
341 Williams and the Chairman hoped for a broader discussion next month on the camping issue that
342 he thinks is relevant to the Commission.

343

344 Ms. Marcou reported that in May, an Earth Excavation Permit would be presented to the
345 Commission. The matter gained approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in March and
346 the Planning Board would hear the matter in April, before the Commission would consider it and
347 send their recommendations back to the Planning Board for their final decision. The property is 0
348 RT-9, across the road from Otter brook on vacant land where the campground was. This would
349 be the first Earth Excavation Permit presented to the City. Vice Chair Madison asked if this
350 referred to a gravel mining operation and Ms. Marcou replied in the affirmative.

351

352 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date: April 18, 2022**

353

354 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 5:34 PM.

355

356 Respectfully submitted by,
357 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker
358 March 28, 2022

359

360 Reviewed and edited by,
361 Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant
362 March 31, 2022

363

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February 22, 2022

City of Keene
3 Washington St
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Planning Board Members:

This letter is to inform the City of Keene that Eversource is planning to trim trees and remove hazardous trees around its power lines within the city. This work is necessary to ensure the safe distribution of power and to improve reliability of electric service for our customers.

According to Eversource records Concord Road, Concord Hill Road, Moore Farm Road and Nims Road have been designated as scenic roads by the city.

Eversource tree trimming specifications call for removal of brush and limbs less than four inches in diameter which are located within eight feet to the side of, ten feet below or fifteen feet above conductors. Eversource has also conducted a hazard tree assessment of trees that are dead, rotted, diseased or otherwise defective. Eversource requires permission from the city and property owner to trim or cut down trees within the public right of way of a scenic road.

Eversource has contracted with Asplundh Tree Expert Company to perform the actual trimming of trees. Eversource requires that our trimming contractors contact each landowner where trees are to be trimmed prior to commencement of work on that property. Individual concerns will be addressed at this time. All work will be performed in accordance with accepted arboricultural standards. All brush and limbs cut on roadside locations will be chipped. Logs will be left on site, out of the roads and drainage.

Please consider this letter to be a request from Eversource for a public hearing for the trimming of trees and removal of hazard trees on these scenic roads within the proposed work area pursuant to RSA 231:158. Please inform this office of the time and place of said meeting so that we may have a representative present.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at Dane.Darcangelo@eversource.com or telephone at 603-303-6199.

Thank you for your concern and assistance.

Respectfully,

Dane D'Arcangelo
Arborist - Eversource Energy

Eversource Tree Removal List Scenic Roads Keene NH

Updated 2/22/2022

<i>Tree #</i>	<i>Property Address</i>	<i>Pole #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Nims rd	133/9 to 11	22" Hemlock woodpecker holes
2	Nims rd	133/9 to 11	11" Sugar maple rotted trunk
3	Nims rd	133/11 Across	21" Pine woodpecker holes
4	Nims rd	133/11 to 12	8" Pine dead
5	Nims rd	133/12 to 13	15" Pine rotted trunk
6	Concord rd	129/37 to 38	10.5" Red maple sapwood rot
7	Concord rd	129/36	12.5" Ash stem rotted
8	Concord rd	129/27 to 28	12" Pine dead
9	Concord rd	129/27 to 28	10" Pine dead
10	Concord rd	129/25 to 26	31" Hemlock woodpecker holes
11	Moore Rd	132/1 to 129/50	12.5" Locust rotted trunk
12	Moore Rd	132/1 to 129/50	13.5" Locust rotted trunk

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Instream Flow Program to Hold Outreach Sessions on the Designated Ashuelot River

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Instream Flow Program determines, through scientific investigation, the seasonal flows necessary to support habitat for fish and river-side vegetation as well as human uses in the state's Designated Rivers, *establishing* protected instream flow values based on these scientific investigations, and maintaining these protective flows during periods of low flow, such as the recent drought.

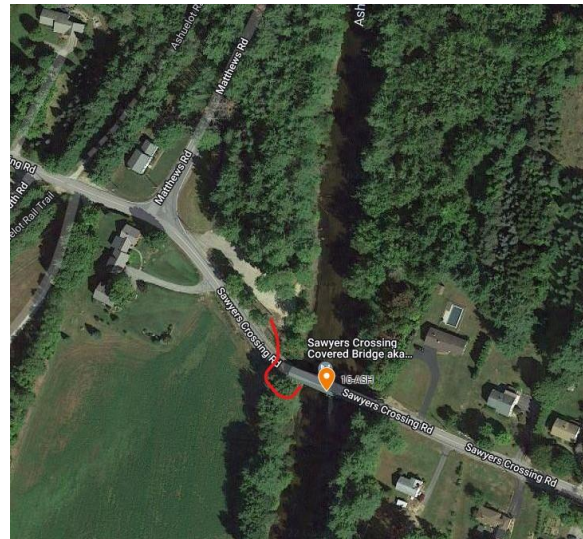
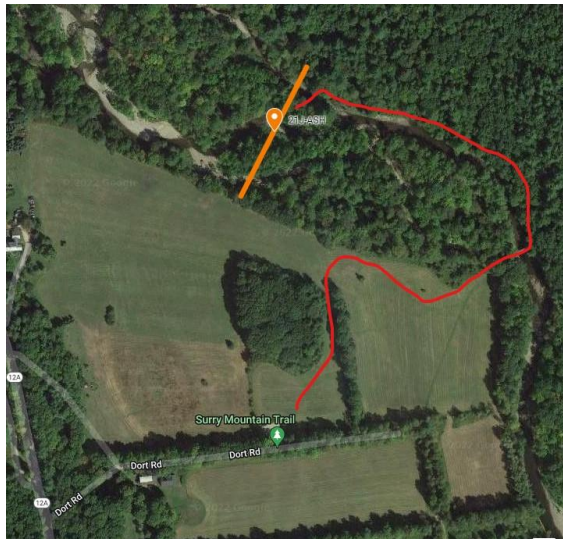
The Instream Flow Program is currently contracting a Protected Instream Flow Study of the Ashuelot River, in order to determine its appropriate instream flows. Concurrent with this study, baseline temperature, conductivity, and water level data are being collected along the 65-mile designated reach to document "baseline" conditions.

On May 17 and 18, 2022, Instream Flow Staff will be deploying a total of 22 dataloggers in the Ashuelot River, from Lempster to Hinsdale. On each of these days, the staff will be setting aside an hour (1:00-2:00 PM, rain or shine) to meet with people interested in the Ashuelot River, the program, and the ongoing study to join us during our deployment activities. We'll show you the equipment we use to collect the environmental data, some of the data collected during last year's work, and describe the program's approach to designated river protection. If you wish, you'll be able to follow the staff to a deployment location and observe the process.

We think that students, teachers, environmentalists, river enthusiasts, and just about anyone else may enjoy learning how the scientific data required to develop plans to protect our state's rivers is collected. ***Please join us!***

Tuesday, May 17 at 1:00 PM: On the upper Ashuelot River at the USACoE Surry Mountain Trailhead parking area off Dort Road in Surry, NH. [Google Maps link.](#)

Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00 PM: On the lower Ashuelot River at the parking area on the west side of the Sawyer Crossing Road bridge in Swanzev, NH. [Google Maps Link.](#)



For more information, contact Joe Schmidl at [\(603\) 271-3280](tel:6032713280) or Joseph.Schmidl@des.nh.gov. Visit our [Instream Flow webpage](#) for further information.