



City of Keene, New Hampshire

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, March 15, 2021

4:30 PM

ZOOM

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

- This meeting will be conducted using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online by visiting www.zoom.us/join and enter the Meeting ID: **868 3840 7352**.*
- More info on how to access this meeting is available on the Conservation Commission webpage at <https://ci.keene.nh.us/conservation-commission>
- If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call **(603) 209-4697** during the meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2020
3. Applications
 - a. NHDES 34 Darling Ct. – Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit
4. Communication and Notifications
 - a. NH Fish & Game Department letter – “Trails for People and Wildlife” Update
5. Informational
 - a. Subcommittee reports
 - Outreach Subcommittee
 - Arm Fund Subcommittee
 - b. Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Stewardship Committee (Proposed)
6. Discussion Items
 - a. Discussion – Garlic Mustard Challenge
 - b. Update – Bee City designation
 - c. Old Gilsum Rd – Goose Pond Forest
7. New or Other Business
8. Adjournment – Next meeting date **Monday, April 19, 2021**

**In Emergency Order #12, issued by the Governor pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04, which declared a COVID-19 State of Emergency, the requirement that a quorum of a public body be physically present at the meeting location under RSA 91-A:2, III(b), and the requirement that each part of a meeting of a public body be audible or otherwise discernible to the public at the meeting location under RSA 91-A:2, III(c), have been waived. Public participation may be provided through telephonic and other electronic means.*

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

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

8 **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

4:30 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Councilor Bobby Williams
Art Walker
Ken Bergman
Andrew Madison
Brian Reilly, Alternate (Voting)
Steven Bill, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Community Development
Director/Assistant City Manager
Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities
Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present:

Tom Haynes, Alternate

9 **1) Call to Order**

10
11 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and read the executive order
12 authorizing a remote meeting: Emergency Order #12, issued by the Governor of the State of New
13 Hampshire pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04. Pursuant to this order, members present stated
14 that they were calling alone and stated their locations.
15

16 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2021**

17
18 Mr. Walker moved to approve minutes from the January 19, 2021 regular meeting, which Mr.
19 Bergman seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor.
20

21 **3) Communication & Notifications**

22
23 Vice Chair Clark recalled that during the last month's meeting, the Commission was due an
24 annual report submitted to the Community Development Department from the Ashuelot River
25 Local Advisory Committee. Mr. Lamb said he overlooked this and would send the report to
26 Commissioners promptly. Vice Chair Clark said she also received a personal notification that the
27 annual request for \$800 dues was active for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions

28 (NHACC). The Chairman recalled the January 2021 meeting, when the Commission decided to
29 wait until later this spring to see where the budget stands before making the donation.
30

31 **4) Informational**

32 **a. Subcommittee Reports**

33 **i. *Outreach Subcommittee***

34
35 Vice Chair Clark continues sending "Nature Nugget" Facebook and Instagram posts to Ms.
36 Marcou for posting, which have worked out to about one post per wee. To date, 24 posts have
37 been shared and the Vice Chair is enjoying the work. The Chairman stated that he loved learning
38 from the Nature Nuggets.
39

40 Mr. Therriault commented that at the last meeting Mr. Lamb agreed to share a copy of the
41 wetland buffer list from Jeff Littleton. Mr. Lamb said he was working to acquire the document,
42 which he said is old enough that it is harder to locate.
43

44 **ii. *ARM Fund Subcommittee***

45
46 Chair Von Plinsky reported that the Subcommittee had not met. Still, the Commission had
47 discussed the approaching commence of the ARM Fund season and the possibility of an
48 application for the west bank of Beaver Brook near to Russell Park. Mr. Lamb reported that
49 following the January meeting, he spoke with Lori Sommer (found her name on the state
50 website) from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), who reported that the only
51 2021 ARM Funding would be for the seacoast region. Therefore, it would be good for the
52 Subcommittee to schedule meetings and begin looking forward to 2022, potentially with an
53 application for Russell Park. The Chairman said this news was disappointing but not unexpected
54 given the current climate.
55

56 **b. NHACC Legislative Update 2021 – www.nhacc.org**

57
58 Mr. Lamb said this was a notification that the NHACC has identified several Bills they are
59 tracking currently with plans to comment regarding right-to-know laws, current use, LCHIP,
60 conservation easements, and some energy bills. This notification to the Commission was
61 intended only to engender discussion.
62

63 Chair Von Plinsky described two Bills that would impact NH's environment. One regards
64 LCHIP, for which \$25 of any transaction that goes through the Registry of Deeds is pooled into
65 one fund for projects throughout the state; HB 621 seeks to diminish that funding, which is why
66 the Chairman and NHACC did not support the Bill. The Chairman said that HB 177 would make
67 it illegal to put a private landfill within two miles of a state park. He added that an upside of
68 Covid-19 is that there are more ways for people to register their opinions on Bills like these to be
69 heard at committees. The Chairman referred Commissioners to the general court website or to
70 email him directly with questions. When a Bill is heard at committees, the Chairman said it does

71 make a difference to see that hundreds of people took time and signed-up to comment against,
72 which he said should not be ignored.

73

74 Mr. Therriault said he researched HB 82, which is relative to amending a conservation easement
75 between the state and a landowner. This bill would add a statement to the end of language in
76 RSA 477:46 that says, "Nothing in this section shall prohibit a government body and a
77 landowner from changing the terms of an established conservation easement, including but not
78 limited to exchanging another parcel in return for easing current use restrictions, if such change
79 is to correct an injustice or for any reason that advances the public good." He said the three
80 sponsors of this Bill, Rep. Paul Berch, Rep. Michael Abbott and Rep. Cathryn Harvey, were all
81 from Cheshire 1, which includes Walpole, Westmoreland, Chesterfield, and Hinsdale. He said it
82 was a Cheshire County focused change to the RSA and said it was interesting to have three
83 representatives from one county advocating this, asserting that would not occur unless someone
84 in one of those towns wanted their easement changed.

85

86 **5) Discussion Items**

87 **a. Planning Board referral re: Surface Water Ordinance – Eversource**

88 **i. *SWP-CUP-01-21 – Structure Replacement Project D108 Transmission***
89 ***Line***

90

91 Mr. Lamb referred to two applications referred from the Planning Board for Conservation
92 Commission review and comment. Mr. Lamb introduced guests from Eversource's
93 representatives for these two transmission line projects, GZA GeoEnvironmental: Lindsey White
94 and Conor Madison. Guests were also present from Eversource: Lydia Morton, Jennifer
95 Codispodi, and Jeremy Fennell.

96

97 Ms. White began the presentation on this work, which she said is similar to other projects the
98 Commission had seen throughout the City. The plan for transmission line D108 is to replace 17
99 existing utility poles and remove two from service. The D108 line is approximately 1.3 miles and
100 those 17 poles are the majority of that line, making this closer to a rebuild. Additionally as a part
101 of this project, Eversource plans to replace existing static wire with optical ground wire (OPGW)
102 in order to improve the transmission line by shielding conductors below it from lightning, and
103 also serving as a telecommunication path for third party communications. As a result, the
104 existing wooden poles must be replaced with steel poles to continue functioning safely and
105 reliably when the OPGW is installed; the steel would also increase the poles' longevity.

106

107 Ms. White continued showing maps and photos to demonstrate the pole locations, work paths
108 around the poles to stage equipment during construction, the location of proposed access, and
109 where that access overlaps with wetland areas. Best management practices (BMPs)
110 recommended by NH DES are used when traversing wetland areas by placing timber mats to
111 minimize compaction; mats are removed post-construction and restored with sediment and
112 mulch allowing vegetation to regrow fairly quickly, which Ms. White used photos to
113 demonstrate. Line D108 begins at the north Keene substation and continues northeast, spanning a

114 wetland, continuing further through Keene and ending at a substation off of Emerald Street.
115 Overall, along transmission line D108, two poles would be removed and 17 replaced. Additional
116 BMPs would be followed, with contractors educated on monitoring for turtles and snakes, and
117 how to safely relocate them from the construction zone. GZA would monitor for siltation
118 prevention measures such as silt beds, straw bales, and straw wattle to ensure those are in place
119 and upheld during construction. BMPs would be monitored weekly and progress reported.

120
121 Ms. White concluded summarizing the plan for transmission line D108 to replace existing lines
122 in the same alignment. No new lines would be added and the existing right-of-way (ROW)
123 would remain the same width. Replacing these lines is necessary to ensure safety and reliability.
124 She showed photos of existing H-Frame wooden poles that would be replaced with similarly
125 designed steel poles.

126
127 Mr. Therriault asked the type of seeds used in restoring disturbed areas. Ms. White said typically
128 a native wet seed mix from New England Wetland Plants of MA. Mr. Therriault requested a list
129 of those seeds and how pollinator friendly they are, urging the use of native pollinator plantings
130 in those restorations. Ms. White would provide the list.

131
132 Mr. Bill stated his impression that there were some Brownfields due to an old tannery around the
133 substation on Emerald Street; he asked whether this was considered and if there were potential
134 problems as a result. Mr. Fennell said there was an old manufactured gas plant site around
135 Emerald Street, which meant that GZA conducted soil testing on the structure closest to it in an
136 abundance of caution because it is close enough to this project's site boundaries to warrant
137 proactive testing. Vice Chair Clark cited a huge remediation project in that same area by
138 Eversource that resulted in hauling harmful materials from that site off to a safe location. Mr.
139 Bergman recalled significant stream bottom sediment removal along the Ashuelot River under
140 the West Street Bridge due to the remaining products from the coal gasification plant from
141 several decades earlier. Vice Chair Clark recalled a similar situation in the Mill Brook area.

142
143 Mr. Reilly asked the anticipated lifespan of the new steel poles and what maintenance would be
144 required over that life. Mr. Fennell said they are expected to last at least 50 years but the current
145 wooden ones, for example, have been in place for several decades and the steel should perform
146 much better because they are unsusceptible to environmental factors like woodpeckers or
147 rotting/fungus. All hardware and wires would be replaced and so not much near term
148 maintenance is expected, though the lines are inspected every few years – most accessible from
149 City ROW – and any issues identified would be addressed. The lines are surveyed also by
150 helicopter after large storm events.

151
152 Vice Chair Clark stated that moving wood turtles is their death sentence and asked how far they
153 would be moved. Ms. White said that they are only moved just off of the construction matting so
154 they are not in danger from any equipment in the ROW, as the turtles are known to bask in the
155 sun of the timber mats.

156

157 Mr. Bergman questioned when this work was planned, noting that in previous discussions on
158 similar wetland impacts the Commission recommended drier times of the year. Ms. White and
159 Mr. Fennell said that line D108 is scheduled to begin in July with completion before first snow.
160

161 Chair Von Plinsky asked about access to the area between West Street and the highways. Ms.
162 White said there is access off West Street to get to Kohls for poles 12/13/14 and on the other side
163 coming off RT-9 to access a large section crossing river areas.
164

165 Mr. Lamb recalled discussions from last year when it was stated that existing access roads would
166 be used to the degree that they are still available and he asked how those roads would be returned
167 to their pre-construction condition. Ms. White said existing access roads are used to the greatest
168 extent possible. She continued that D108 was not from the work discussed by Ms. Morton last
169 year and said that for D108 there are some existing access routes and where those cross buffers
170 or wetlands, they would be restored. Mr. Fennell said all possible measures would be taken to
171 work from the existing ROW but in some locations they would go around certain existing
172 parking lots to avoid crossing the Rail Trail, for example. Easements would be used where
173 possible because there is no viable access from the ROW into large wetland sections. Mr. Lamb
174 asked about restoring the access roads, noting it is common for those to turn into trails or access
175 points that would have to be managed by the private property owner; he cited access from West
176 Street through the Melanson's parking lot to reach pole #12 as an example, and asked whether
177 trees would need to be removed to build a temporary access. Ms. White stated that because the
178 access to pole #12 is in an area of significant wetlands and buffers, that access would be restored
179 to prior condition. Mr. Lamb asked whether all disturbances due to new access roads would be
180 returned to the natural state and Ms. White replied in the affirmative.
181

182 The Chairman asked whether evidence would remain of the two poles removed. Mr. Fennell said
183 that generally poles are removed, taken offsite to appropriate facilities, and no foundations
184 remain. They attempt to remove all evidence of the poles and the only situation to cut the pole at
185 grade would be in an excessively wet area like a bog, where removing the pole below grade
186 would create more mess.
187

188 The Chairman heard the next matter before hearing motions.
189

190 **ii. SWP-CUP-02-21 – Structure Replacement Project L163 Transmission**
191 **Line**
192

193 Mr. Conor Madison began saying that to ensure safety and reliability of the line, 14 poles in total
194 would be replaced on transmission line L163 in the same alignment and using the same
195 changeover methods and same BMPs as described above for line D108 regarding timber matting,
196 wildlife relocation, and post-construction restoration. Replacing the existing static wire would
197 require three similar pole pads in Keene where OPGW is proposed to be pulled. Mr. C. Madison
198 used maps and photos to demonstrate where L163 lies in the flood plain and those pole locations

199 in the upland floodplain that would be matted, but not restored, in coordination with the property
200 owner.

201
202 Mr. Lamb asked how this project was different than one in a similar easement that the
203 Commission heard last year. Mr. Fennell said that the completed work along L163 last year was
204 to determine what asset conditions passed inspection. The current project is to replace static wire
205 with OPGW through the entire line and some existing wooden poles would be unable to
206 withstand the weight, which triggered pole replacements with steel and the three additional
207 structures to avoid matting far into a wetland to replace one structure. L163 is a much longer line
208 than D108 and it is not financially or temporally advantageous to replace all poles along the line.
209 Mr. Lamb wondered whether all of the temporary improvements and accesses associated with
210 the prior year's project were successfully restored upon completion. Mr. Fennell said that all
211 restoration work was completed but that different structure sections would be accessed with the
212 current project. Mr. C. Madison added that there were few roads passing through L163 and so
213 RT-12 would still be used where possible but new accesses to new structures would be required.

214
215 Mr. Therriault understood that privately owned land would be restored per the owners' wishes
216 but he urged the use of native pollinator friendly plantings for restorations the public ROW. Mr.
217 C. Madison said he made that note for both transmission lines.

218
219 Mr. Reilly asked whether additional poles would be replaced outside the City limits on the way
220 to Antrim and Mr. C. Madison replied in the affirmative citing replacements through Stoddard,
221 Sullivan, Nelson, and Antrim.

222
223 Mr. Bill asked whether poles would be replaced on L163 this time that were not replaced last
224 time. Mr. C. Madison replied in the affirmative.

225
226 Mr. Bergman asked whether the City followed-up on work to L163 last year, citing the
227 Commission's recommendations regarding tree trimming on Old Gilsum Road and more. Mr.
228 Lamb said that Staff conducted a pre-project evaluation, photos, and other documentation, and
229 visited the sites during construction and after. Mr. Lamb said that speaking generally, all were
230 pleased with the restoration results.

231
232 Councilor Williams asked for more details on the difference between the existing wires and the
233 OPGW replacements. Mr. Fennell said that the primary function of existing static wires is to
234 protect from storm damage whereas the OPGW would provide that same protection through the
235 transmission line but the OPGW would also enhance communication functionality between
236 Eversource's substations. Councilor Williams asked whether one of the wires would be fiber
237 optic. Mr. Fennell replied in the affirmative and said the top two skinny wires seen on the
238 transmission line are fiber. Ms. Morton added that the OPGW are approximately the same
239 diameter as existing wires and so the change in view is extremely minimal from the 50-foot and
240 higher poles.

241

242 Mr. Bergman asked whether this new fiber would be available for commercial use and
243 broadband distribution – there are broadband gaps in Keene – or just for Eversource's internal
244 use. Mr. Fennell said that to his knowledge this would be only for internal Eversource
245 communications and while there is a caveat of third party possibilities, he said Eversource is not
246 an internet provider.

247
248 Mr. Lamb asked, given that new pads would be installed, whether locations exist where pads
249 were installed previously, removed, and restored to only now have pads reinstalled at the same
250 sites; would there be overlap between work areas and if in a wetland, how would this two-year
251 cycle of impact be managed. Mr. C. Madison said there would be some overlap but none in
252 wetlands. He continued that upland restoration would leave just enough space to accommodate a
253 30-foot by 60-foot standard bucket truck, with top soil graded to level the work area, and
254 everything else would be restored. Ms. Morton added the possibility that previously timber
255 matted roads would need to be treated the same way again. Mr. C. Madison said that in some
256 instances sufficient room must be available to accommodate a crane for future replacements, but
257 otherwise just enough space for the standard bucket truck to enter and exit.

258
259 Mr. Bergman referred back to line D108 and noted that the project description mentioned the
260 common nighthawk – which has been observed near the Hannaford side of West Street – and
261 their preference of ground nesting in sandy soils. The common nighthawk's breeding success has
262 been on the decline and it is heavily monitored in NH due to great concern. The most recent few
263 decades of nesting records show the species using flat gravel roofs instead of sandy streambanks.
264 He suggested that the project should be particularly attentive to this species, as many people in
265 Keene would be thrilled to learn of those sightings. Ms. White said that part of the wetland
266 permit work with NH Fish & Game and the NH Natural Heritage Bureau, and their BMPs call
267 for the contractor to be provided detailed photos and information, as well as the instruction to
268 notify NH Fish & Game immediately upon sighting the species. Mr. Bergman suggested extra
269 caution, given that the species could be difficult to spot from as close as 10 feet.

270
271 Mr. Bill referred to section seven along L163, where work would pass over the area upstream of
272 the Check Dam, which he thought might be problematic for this work and he wondered about the
273 approach. Mr. C. Madison replied that the only work around the Dam area would be on the other
274 side of Rt.10. Last year, most or all of the structures along 175 and Ferry Brook – as referred on
275 the maps provided – were replaced and so no additional work was needed there at present. The
276 Chairman asked whether any new access points to L163 would be created. Mr. C. Madison said
277 that there would be new access roads but no new construction entrances off the public ROW.

278
279 Mr. Lamb said that if the Conservation Commission had any recommendations to the Planning
280 Board for when they consider these projects, now was the time to do so in a simple motion. He
281 heard commentary on pollinator friendly plantings and concern about better representation for
282 the common nighthawk. Mr. Lamb was yet unsure of the date for Planning Board review of the
283 Conditional Use Permit, but the Conservation Commission's comments would be used as
284 conditions for their approval.

285
286 Vice Chair Clark asked what steps would be taken to keep access roads inaccessible to off-road
287 vehicles. Ms. Morton said that Eversource is happy to work with underlying property owners if
288 there is a need to block access for both D108 and L163. Eversource does not take these actions
289 by default without property owner permission, but rather complies in all cases with requests from
290 property owners for gate or boulder placements. Mr. Bohannon stated that Eversource has
291 worked well with the City to block various access points, such as on upper Court Street.

292
293 Chair Von Plinsky moved to recommend that the Planning Board insist upon remediation with
294 pollinator friendly plantings on sites after Eversource completes work on transmission lines
295 D108 and L163. Mr. Bergman seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

296
297 **b. Continued Discussion – Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Plan**
298 **Stewardship Committee**

299
300 Mr. Lamb and Mr. Bohannon shared a draft motion to City Council recommending the formation
301 of a Greater Goose Pond Forest Land Stewardship Committee, its composition, and its charge or
302 purpose. He recalled that the Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Plan established a set of
303 actions to occur in the forest over a certain number of years. Several locations in the plan
304 recommend forming a Stewardship Committee as a forum for the public to provide unique and
305 specific advice to Council as the forest projects move forward from recreation, to habitat
306 preservation, to active timber management, and more. Mr. Lamb shared the draft motion and
307 charge that was developed based on previous Commission discussions:

308
309 *Move to recommend that: City Council establish a “Greater Goose Pond Forest Land*
310 *Stewardship Committee” with the charge to advise the City Council and other City*
311 *boards and commissions regarding implementation of the 2019 Greater Goose Pond*
312 *Forest Land Stewardship Plan including the stewardship of natural resources,*
313 *preservation of wildlife habitat and forest ecology, and promotion of recreational and*
314 *educational opportunities; and, That the committee should be comprised of members*
315 *representing the following areas of expertise and interest: a representative from the*
316 *Conservation Commission, a person with professional experience as an*
317 *ecologist/biologist/naturalist, a professional forester, an abutter to the property or a*
318 *resident of the nearby neighborhood, a representative of a local mountain biking club, a*
319 *person with experience in community education and outreach, a student representative*
320 *from Keene State College or Antioch University New England.*

321
322 Mr. Lamb said he received input from various City Staff to identify the New England Mountain
323 Bike Association (NEMBA) instead of referencing a generic mountain biking club because the
324 organization's work history in the forest.

325
326 In response to the Chairman, Mr. Lamb said that the draft language was sufficiently clear that the
327 Conservation Commission is not an intermediary for this new Committee, but rather that this

328 would amend Chapter Two of the City Code on Boards and Commissions, establishing this as an
329 advisory board to City Council and not to the Conservation Commission.

330

331 Vice Chair Clark asked whether two members of the Conservation Commission could serve on
332 the Committee if they fulfilled those functions listed and Mr. Lamb thought that was possible,
333 stating that this list provided to Council would be a suggestion and not absolute. In his
334 experience, fulfilling the goal credentials is not always possible, which results in problems.

335

336 Mr. Reilly asked the process to identify potential members from a list like this and once those
337 individuals are found, who assigns them to the Committee and for how long. Mr. Lamb said that
338 the Mayor nominates Committee members to the City Council, which ultimately votes to
339 appoint. Members of this Commission could recommend potential members to Staff and to the
340 Mayor's Office to ensure the nomination occurs. Terms are always three years, staggered for the
341 first terms so that all members' terms do not expire at the same time. Mr. Reilly asked whether
342 the recommended list should include alternates to ensure quorum. Mr. Lamb said that if the
343 Council agrees with this recommendation then the new Committee would be written into City
344 Code, at which time the number of alternates, frequency of meetings, etc., would be established.

345

346 Mr. Bergman asked, from the City Council's perspective, whether it would be better to
347 recommend a range of seven to 10 members. Mr. Lamb said such a range could be recommended
348 in the memo transmitting the recommendation, but typically an odd number is used for the sake
349 of voting and in his experience, anything over seven becomes unwieldy.

350

351 Chair Von Plinsky said he felt comfortable with the recommendation. The Chairman had
352 contacted Keene State College (KSC) and Antioch University New England, the latter of which
353 thought the Committee was a good idea and the information was distributed to professors to
354 gauge student interest. The Chair's only other concern was whether the Committee should
355 include slots for regular Keene citizen users of the park; Mr. A. Madison suggested something
356 like an at-large position. Chapter Two of the City Code, as written, requires that membership of
357 boards and committees reside in Keene unless there is a special call for outside residents due to
358 regional subject matter or expertise, for example. Mr. Lamb did not think it necessary to
359 establish at-large positions, stating that there was enough room in the recommendation to apply a
360 more general standard to include an eligible user of the park. Instead of an abutter or resident of
361 adjacent neighborhoods, the Chairman suggested stating a citizen with stake in the property; he
362 wanted a more general statement so that an active forest user citizen of Ward One, for example,
363 is not precluded from participation because they do not abut. Instead of merging one slot to state
364 an abutter or nearby resident, Mr. Lamb thought it more prudent to maintain the category for an
365 abutter and create a new category for an active public user of the park.

366

367 On replacing the language referencing a local mountain biking club to identify NEMBA,
368 Councilor Williams expressed concern for 15 years from now when that group might not exist
369 any longer as a reason to keep the language generic. Mr. Bohannon said that the City has an
370 existing relationship and memorandum of understanding with NEMBA that outlines clearly their

371 scope of possible work with him. While the group could divide in the future, Mr. Bohannon
372 thought it was in the best interest of that established relationship to state their name. Mr. Lamb
373 noted that NEMBA is already engaged fully in trails management in the Goose Pond Forest.

374

375 Chair Von Plinsky made the following motion, which Mr. Bergman seconded, and the motion
376 passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

377

378 The Conservation Commission unanimously recommended that the City Council establish a
379 Greater Goose Pond Forest Land Stewardship Committee with the charge to advise the City
380 Council and other City boards and commissions regarding implementation of the 2019 Greater
381 Goose Pond Forest Land Stewardship Plan including the stewardship of natural resources,
382 preservation of wildlife habitat and forest ecology, and promotion of recreational and educational
383 opportunities; and, that the committee should be comprised of members representing the
384 following areas of expertise and interest: a representative from the Conservation Commission, a
385 person with professional experience as an ecologist/biologist/naturalist, a professional forester,
386 an abutter to the property or a resident of the nearby neighborhood, a representative of the New
387 England Mountain Bike Association, a member of the community who is an active park user, a
388 person with experience in community education and outreach, and a student representative from
389 Keene State College or Antioch University New England.

390

391 **c. Update – Bee City Designation**

392

393 The Bee City application required identifying a media contact and email, which Mr. Lamb
394 accepted. As such, the Bee City Resolution was completed, had been approved by the Municipal
395 Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee, and the City Council would vote on whether to
396 approve at their February 18 meeting (*note – the Council voted unanimously to adopt the
397 resolution at the aforementioned meeting). Upon formal documentation and the Mayor's
398 signature, the application would be submitted to the Xerces Society as the final administrative
399 step. Mr. Therriault recalled the requirement to post a sign acknowledging Keene as a Bee City
400 in at least one public place. He cited the half dozen Sister(Partner?) City signs around town as
401 reasonable locations on the same sign posts. He said that the Xerces Society has artwork
402 available for signs. Commissioners thanked Mr. Therriault for his efforts bringing this to fruition.

403

404 **d. Discussion – Garlic Mustard Challenge**

405

406 Councilor William referred to pages on the Garlic Mustard Challenge with ideas for
407 implementation and a timeline that he compiled, which were included in the agenda packet. The
408 proposed timeline was between this meeting and mid-May, during which time there would be
409 two more Commission meetings and so it is good to begin acting now. The timeline that
410 Councilor Williams presented was built on the assumption that the first two weeks of May would
411 be the best time for the challenge to align well with spring weather and ideally full bloom, with
412 the ability to adjust the timeline slightly as needed. Councilor Williams suggested partners: the
413 Conservation Commission to oversee the project and volunteers, City Staff for operational

414 support, the Mayor and City Council happy to publicize the event to the extent appropriate, the
415 University of NH (UNH) Cooperative Extension that runs the region-wide Garlic Mustard
416 Challenge, Nature Groupie is already involved with the challenge and could be a tool to recruit
417 volunteers, local schools and organizations, restaurants and merchants.

418
419 Councilor Williams cited examples from successful challenges in Hanover, NH, where they have
420 stations around town stocked with bags and information on how to pull the plant, with volunteers
421 checking the stations every few days to collect returned bag full of the plant. Last year, Hanover
422 collected 113 garbage bags full of garlic mustard. The Councilor thought it sounded like a good
423 socially distant way to engage a large group of volunteers for one big garlic mustard pull. The
424 UNH contact provided a Nature Groupie resource to help with publicity and sourcing volunteers;
425 they also suggested a training day earlier than the main event to coordinate the pull-here stations
426 and to then begin engaging the broader audience. Councilor Williams said Hanover is a
427 successful model and that Keene could replicate much of what they have done well.

428
429 As a way to train volunteers and the public in a socially distant way, Mr. Therriault suggested
430 creating a short YouTube video demonstrating what garlic mustard looks like in bloom and
431 where people can pull the species around town. He also suggested that if referring people to large
432 patches that would be pulled, those would be opportune locations to drop native pollinator seeds
433 in the process, which could be acquired in advance with recommendations from the Xerces
434 Society.

435
436 Mr. Bill asked the fate of all of the plants pulled and whether they could be composted.
437 Councilor Williams said that the BMP recommendation is to fill black plastic bags and
438 unfortunately take them to the landfill, but alternatively creating compost could spread the
439 species vastly in the future.

440
441 Mr. A. Madison said the timing, activities, and materials distribution sounded much like the
442 annual spring Green Up Keene, which he said could also be used as a streamlined model, with
443 the Garlic Mustard Challenge possibly incorporated into Green Up Keene for those first few
444 years, and then separate them over time. He suggested another partner could be the Cheshire
445 County Conservation District, which is helpful in facilitating other partnerships with non-profits
446 and NH and Federal agencies; Amanda Littleton there might have good ideas to help get this
447 started. The annual Ashuelot River Cleanup is run by the Cheshire County Conservation District
448 and they do a lot of general invasive plants work.

449
450 The Chairman said the difficulty is the bloom timing. He liked the idea of modeling this effort on
451 these other well-run programs.

452
453 Mr. Bohannon noted that he has a grant application through the Cheshire County Conservation
454 District for pollinator gardens or green infrastructure that he thought to use with the
455 sustainability project at Ashuelot River Park. The Conservation Commission could submit
456 similar applications for other areas.

457
458 The Chairman stated his intention for the Commission to leave the March meeting with a
459 concrete plan to get this off the ground this year. He was unaware of any good pulling spots and
460 Councilor Williams cited one on North Lincoln Street near to where the annual amphibian
461 crossing occurs; the Councilor said that area could be problematic due to its proximity to the
462 roadway but that was where he planned to pick as much as possible. He imagined other areas
463 along trails and he thought that the agenda for April should be serious scouting. Vice Chair Clark
464 said that garlic mustard likes shade to semi-shade more so in woodlands and woods edges. The
465 Chairman said that early publicity would be essential and he asked that the Vice Chair prepare
466 some Nature Nuggets to accompany the event, and some on invasive plants in general, to which
467 she agreed. Chair Von Plinsky said that a lot of planning would occur in March and while Keene
468 has a lot of learning to do this was a good plan, and he thanked Councilor Williams.

469
470 Mr. Bergman suggested that the challenge include a citizen reporting component for volunteers
471 to send photos or share where they saw the species most rampant. The Chairman said that three
472 or four rampant areas could be suggested to volunteers this year while further areas are scouted
473 for next year. Councilor Williams said that invasive plant maps exist, including for garlic
474 mustard, and he would research existing user-generated data through UNH. Mr. Lamb thought
475 the Community Development Department might be able to help with a map generating
476 component of citizen reporting.

477

478 **6) New or Other Business**

479 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 15, 2021**

480

481 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 6:14 PM.

482

483 Respectfully submitted by,
484 Katie Kibler, Minute Taker
485 February 23, 2021

486 Staff edits submitted by,
487 Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant
488 February 24, 2021
489 Rhett Lamb, Department Director/Assistant City Manager
490 March 11, 2021

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Civil Engineers
 Structural Engineers
 Traffic Engineers
 Land Surveyors
 Landscape Architects
 Scientists



February 16, 2021

Jessica Bouchard
 NHDES Wetlands Bureau
 29 Hazen Road, P.O. Box 95
 Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: Minimum Expedited Wetlands Application
 Zachary & Veronica Ingbretsen
 Map 206, Lot 14,
 34 Darling Court, Keene, NH

Dear Jessica:

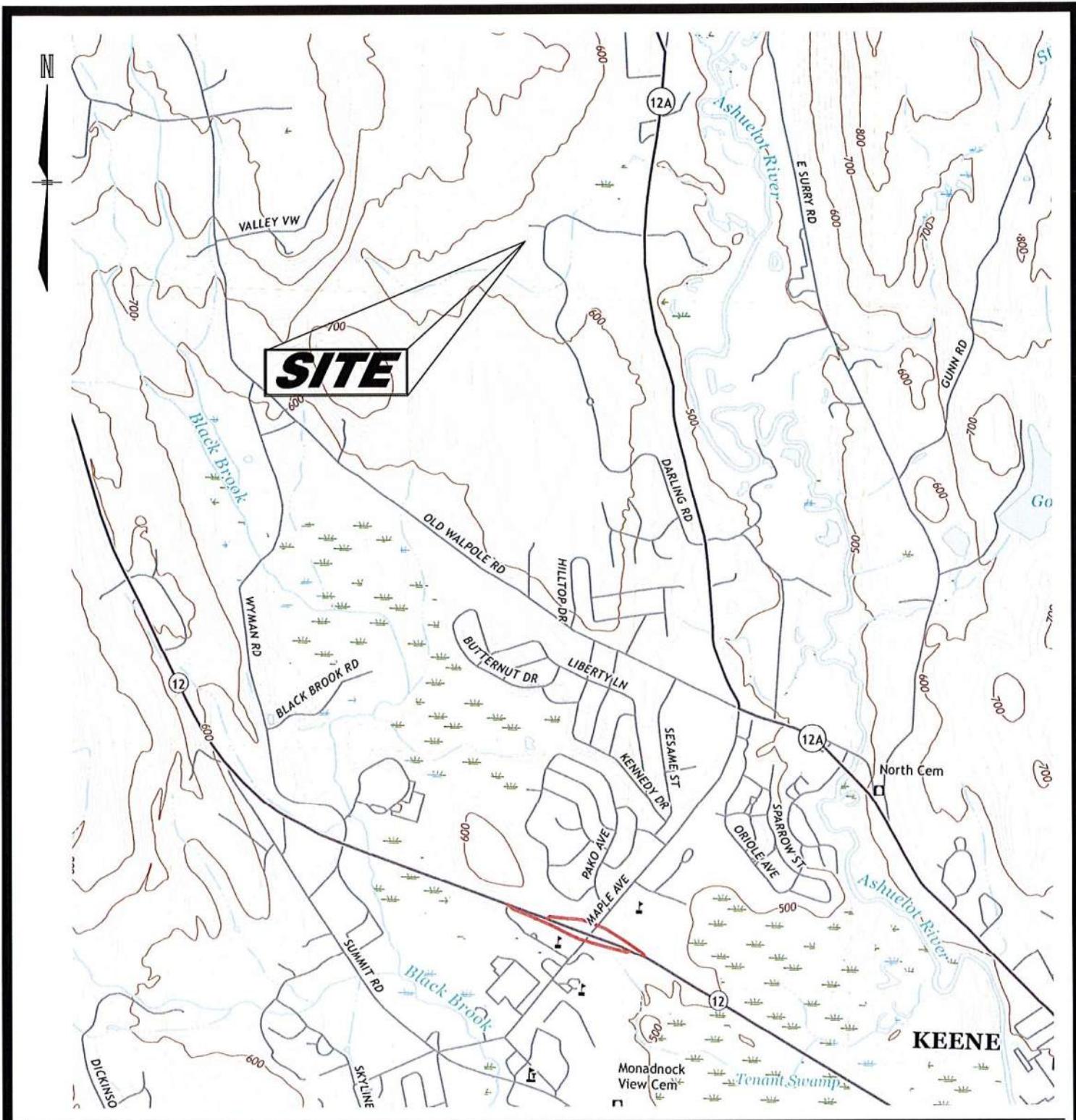
On behalf of Zachary and Veronica Ingbretsen, TFMoran, Inc. has prepared the enclosed application and supporting documentation to construct a driveway across a jurisdictional wetland to access the buildable portion of the property. When the subdivision was approved in 2006, a minimum impact expedited wetlands permit was issued (NHDES File # 2005-03031) to install a 15-inch diameter culvert but the work was never completed. This application is being submitted to complete the driveway crossing to access the lot.

Work will be conducted within 10 feet of abutting properties and in accordance with Env-Wt 307-13(d) the owners have been notified by certified mail of the proposed work and are awaiting their reply. Please review the enclosed information and contact me if you require anything further.

Regards

Christopher K. Danforth, CWS
 Senior Environmental Scientist





USGS LOCUS MAP

SCALE: 1"=2000'



Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Traffic Engineers
Land Surveyors
Landscape Architects
Scientists

48 Constitution Drive
Bedford, NH 03110
Phone (603) 472-4488
Fax (603) 472-9747
www.tfmoran.com

DRIVEWAY CROSSING
34 DARLING COURT
MAP 206, LOT 14
KEENE, NH

PREPARED FOR:
ZACHARY INGBRETSEN
340 JOSLIN ROAD
SURRY, NH 03431

82558.00	DATE	Date
	CADFILE	2/10/21

FIGURE 1



Photo #1: View of wetland in area of proposed driveway crossing from Darling Court, looking northeasterly (9/10/2020)

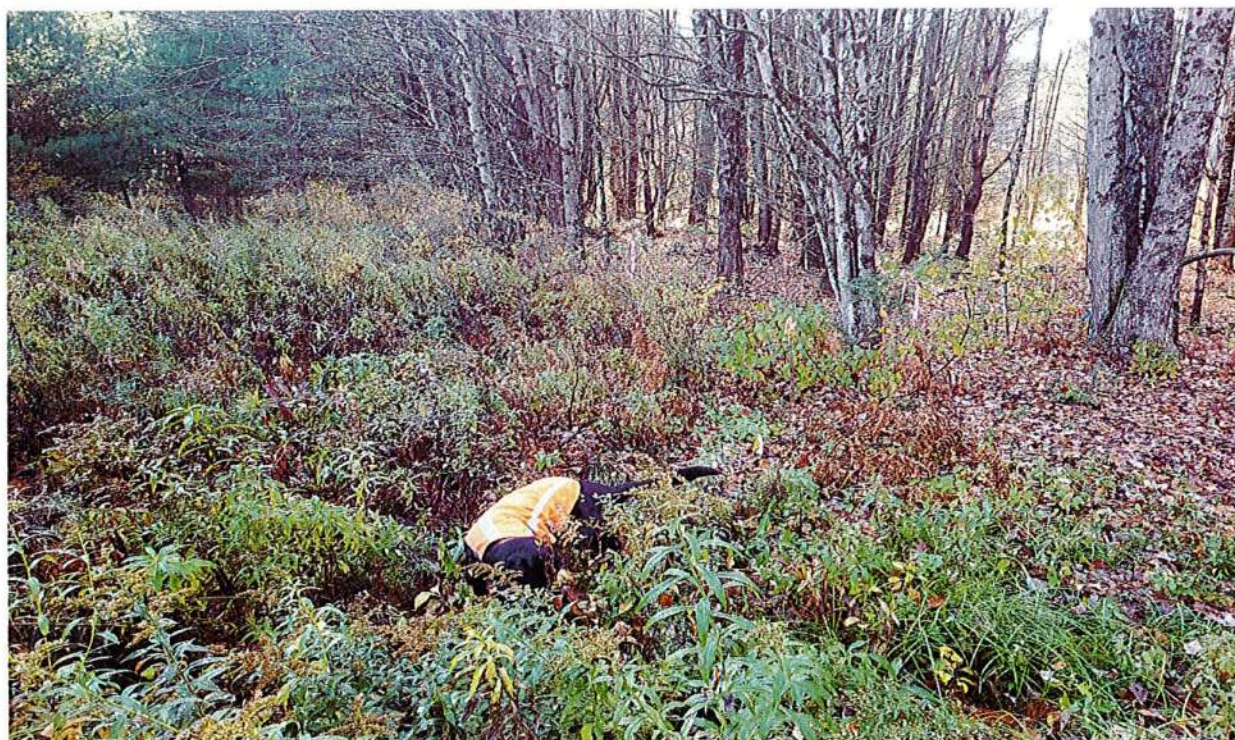


Photo #2: View of wetland crossing looking easterly towards the property boundary. (9/10/2020)



Tax Map -Ingbretsen

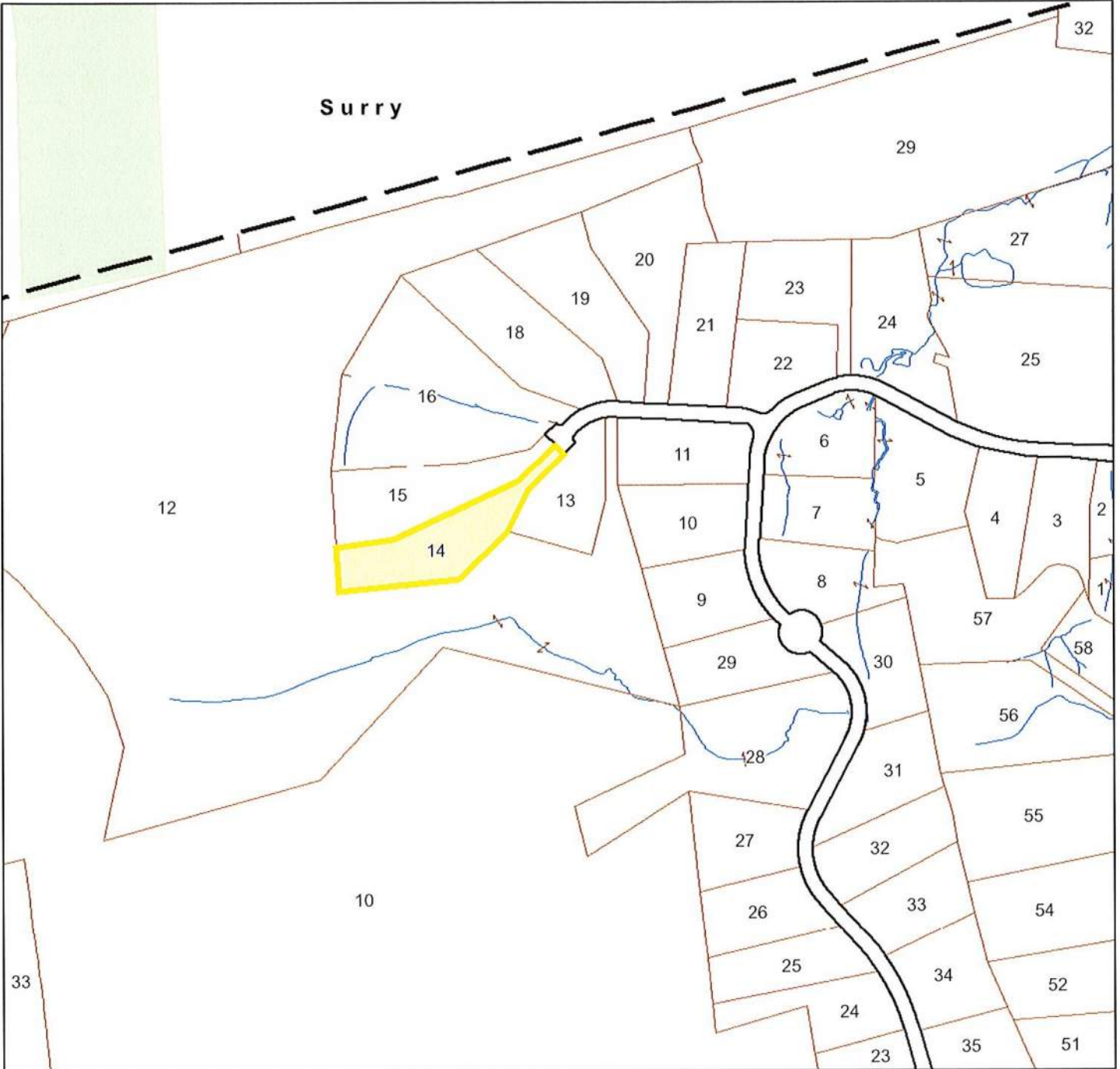
Keene, NH



1 inch = 500 Feet



January 12, 2021



Large Scale	Public Road	Conservation Land
CAI Town Line	Property Hook	
PWater	Property TIC	
Property Line	WaterLines	

Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
Headquarters: (603) 271-3421
Web site: www.wildlife.state.nh.us

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
Fax (603) 271-1438
E-mail: info@wildlife.state.nh.us

Scott Mason
Executive Director

01 February 2021

Dear Conservation Partner and/or Trails Specialist:

A quick Trails for People and Wildlife update

Last year we were happy to share with you and your colleagues a hot off the press copy of the “Trails for People and Wildlife” handbook, a guide to planning trails that allow people to enjoy nature and wildlife to thrive.

We wanted to let you know that, although our planned series of in-person workshops had to be canceled because of their March/April timing, we have **posted a webinar describing the project on our website at wildnh.com/trails**. It can be viewed any time at your convenience. We hope you will check it out and help spread the word with anyone else that might be interested. We are also keeping the online maps available to you current with the latest data. Last August we incorporated new locations of rare species and updated it with the newest land cover layer used in the 2020 NH Wildlife Action Plan. We are excited to hear of several trails projects that are taking shape on the ground using this guidance and hope to add one or two of them as case studies to the wildnh.com/trails webpage soon.

We welcome your feedback. For more information about applying this tool contact Jim Oehler (james.oehler@wildlife.nh.gov) or Rachel Stevens (rachel.stevens@wildlife.nh.gov). For GIS technical assistance contact Katie Callahan (catherine.b.callahan@doit.nh.gov).



Thanks for all you do out there for both people and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Jim Oehler
State Lands Habitat Biologist
NH Fish and Game Department

Katie Callahan
GIS Coordinator
NH DOIT and
NH Fish and Game Department

Rachel Stevens
Stewardship Coordinator
Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Wildlife Ecologist, NH Fish and Game Dept.

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Pollinator.org recommendations for Public Lands

Public lands are maintained for specific reasons ranging from high impact recreation to conservation. In the Adirondack - New England Mixed Forest, forests have been cut for timber and the substantial development of second homes, agriculture and ecotourism. Less disturbed natural areas can be augmented with plantings of native plant species. Existing plantings around buildings and parking areas should be evaluated to determine if pollinator-friendly plants can be substituted or added to attract and support pollinators. Public land managers have a unique opportunity to use their plantings as an education tool to help others understand the importance of pollinators in the environment through signs, brochures, and public programs. In an effort to increase populations of pollinators the land manager can:

- Inventory and become knowledgeable of local pollinators.
- Provide connectivity between vegetation areas by creating corridors of perennials, shrubs, and trees that provide pollinators shelter and food as they move through the landscape.
- Maintain a minimum of lawn areas that support recreational needs.
- Restrict the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Provide water sources in large open areas.
- Maintain natural meadows and openings that provide habitats for sun-loving wildflowers and grasses.
- Remove invasive species and encroaching shrubs and trees.

Considerations for Pollinator Habitat

Food: Flowers provide nectar (high in sugar and necessary amino acids) and pollen (high in protein) to pollinators. Fermenting fallen fruits also provide food for bees, beetles and butterflies. Specific plants, known as host plants, are eaten by the larvae of pollinators such as butterflies.

- Plant in groups to increase pollination efficiency. If a pollinator can visit the same type of flower over and over, it doesn't have to relearn how to enter the flower and can transfer pollen to the same species, instead of squandering the pollen on unreceptive flowers.
- Plant with bloom season in mind, providing food from early spring to late fall. (see Bloom Periods pp.16-17)
- Plant a diversity of plants to support a variety of pollinators. Flowers of different color, fragrance, and season of bloom on plants of different heights will attract different pollinator species and provide pollen and nectar throughout the seasons.
- Many herbs and annuals, although not native,

are very good for pollinators. Mint, oregano, garlic, chives, parsley and lavender are just a few herbs that can be planted. Old fashioned zinnias, cosmos, and single sunflowers support bees and butterflies. • Recognize weeds that might be a good source of food. For example, dandelions provide nectar in the early spring before other flowers open. Plantain is alternate host for the Baltimore Checkerspot. • Learn and utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to address pest concerns. Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides.

Shelter : Pollinators need protection from severe weather and from predators as well as sites for nesting and roosting. • Incorporate different canopy layers in the landscape by planting trees, shrubs, and different-sized perennial plants. • Leave dead snags for nesting sites of bees, and other dead plants and leaf litter for shelter. • Build bee boxes to encourage solitary, non-aggressive bees to nest on your property. • Leave some areas of soil uncovered to provide ground nesting insects easy access to underground tunnels. • Group plantings so that pollinators can move safely through the landscape protected from predators. • Include plants that are needed by butterflies during their larval development.

Water : A clean, reliable source of water is essential to pollinators. • Natural and human-made water features such as running water, pools, ponds, and small containers of water provide drinking and bathing opportunities for pollinators. • Ensure the water sources have a shallow or sloping side so the pollinators can easily approach the water without drowning.

Ideas for our first year

1. Whenever land is disturbed, native wildflower seed should be scattered as part of the restoration.
2. Encourage homeowners to create small areas (50 to 100 sq-ft) for pollinators.
3. Conduct a Pollinator Survey to document species diversity in our first year.
4. Plant a Pollinator strip on a visible section of public land and provide educational signs.
5. Consider overseeding park lawn areas with White Dutch Clover.