



Due to the COVID-2019 State of Emergency, the MSFI Committee will be holding its meeting remotely using the web-based program, Zoom. City Councilors will be participating in this meeting remotely. Members of the public will be able to access this public meeting through a variety of options. To view the webinar visit the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/84196355734>. To listen via telephone, call 877 853 5257 and enter the meeting Webinar ID: 841 9635 5734. When the meeting is open for public comment, callers may press *9 if interested in commenting or asking questions. If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call 603-357-0622 during the meeting.

City of Keene

New Hampshire

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES,
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Council Chambers B
May 13, 2020
5:30 PM**

Janis O. Manwaring, Chair
Michael Giacomo, Vice Chair
Randy L. Filiault
Bettina A. Chadbourne
Robert C. Williams

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1. Background Presentation- Ammi Brown Trail - Public Works Department
 2. Edgar Hastings/Summit Ridge Association - Ammi Brown Trail Entrance
 3. Debra and Mike Hart - Ammi Brown Trail Entrance
 4. Nancy Sporborg - Ammi Brown Trail Entrance

MORE TIME ITEMS:

- A. Katie Schwerin – Proposal for Permanent Public Art Installation – Airport Property

Non Public Session
Adjournment



Transmittal Form

April 24, 2020

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM: Edgar Hastings/Summit Ridge Association

THROUGH: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

ITEM: 2.

SUBJECT: Edgar Hastings/Summit Ridge Association - Ammi Brown Trail Entrance

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council May 7, 2020.

Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication - Summit Ridge

BACKGROUND:

The Summit Ridge Association is raising the issue of trail users of the Ammi Brown Trail parking on private property near the entrance to the trail and the use of private driveways to turn around. The Association is asking for enforcement of no parking at the entrance to the Ammi Brown Trail to relieve the situation.

24 April 2020

Councilor Philip V. Jones, Councilor Randy Filiault, Councilor Thomas F. Powers
c/o City Clerk
3 Washington St.
Keene, NH 03431


Dear Councilors,

The Summit Ridge Association is a 26 unit condominium association made up of 9 buildings in Keene. Eighteen units are located on Skyline Drive and 8 units are located on Summit Ridge Drive. All units are in Ward 5. One 2-unit building is located directly across the trail entrance of the Ammi Brown Road (also located on Summit Ridge Drive) and another 2-unit building is 60 feet further. The residents of these 4 units are affected, often on a daily basis, by trail users who park vehicles at or near the trail entrance. It is important to note that this trail entrance is widely used throughout the year. Our Board receives regular complaints from these unit owners of trail users routinely parking their vehicles on their lawns and using their driveways as turn arounds. They report some vehicle owners choosing not to pull off to the side of the trail entrance but choosing to park fully on the road. This is a great safety concern especially in the winter, when our unit owners notice more vehicles parked in the road because of snow banks. Also, these unit owners have complained about increased noise, at all hours of the day, from trail users using automatic door locking devices and the subsequent horn warning that follows.

Our Board of Directors has been working with the City Engineer, Don Lussier, and others since February 2019 with regard to the proposed conversion of the Ammi Brown Road to a Class A Trail. As you may know, we have been asked to grant an easement to the City to improve the trail, maintain the entrance and regulate its use as part of the Cheshire Rail Trail expansion.

In general, our Board has been in support of this project, however, as discussions have continued with our unit owners, the Board is increasingly concerned with the parking issues mentioned above. Without doubt, trail use (and the need for parking) will increase following completion of this phase. We are well aware of the proposed signs and parking area at the entrance of Summit Ridge Drive that is part of this project. A parking area exists now but trail users continue to park at the trail entrance. The Board feels City enforcement of 'No Parking' at the trail entrance is crucial to insure that the quality of life of the above mentioned unit owners and the value of Summit Ridge Association property remains unaffected as this project is completed.

The Summit Ridge Association respectfully requests that you raise our concern with the appropriate departments with the objective of including parking enforcement as part of the suite of documents so our Board feels comfortable granting the requested easement.

Sincerely, 

Edgar T. Hastings, President
Summit Ridge Association
44 Skyline Drive
Keene, NH 03431

In City Council May 7, 2020.

Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.


City Clerk



Transmittal Form

May 5, 2020

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM: Debra and Michael Hart

THROUGH: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

ITEM: 3.

SUBJECT: Debra and Mike Hart - Ammi Brown Trail Entrance

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council May 7, 2020.

Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication_Hart

BACKGROUND:

Debra and Michael Hart who live directly opposite the trail entrance of the Ammi Brown Road are requesting that the City design the entrance so no cars can park at the entrance, that no parking signs be installed, that a sign explaining where parking is available be erected and that the Police Department enforce a no parking policy.

Debra J Hart
Michael E Hart
42 Summit Ridge Drive
Keene, N.H. 03431
4/30/2020

In City Council May 7, 2020.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.


City Clerk

Councilor Philip V. Jones, Councilor Randy Filiault, Councilor Thomas F. Powers

Dear Councilors,

Deb and I are part of the Summit Ridge Association. We are one of the units directly across from the trail entrance of the Ammi Brown Road so our neighbors and ourselves are the most affected. I have been hiking this trail for 45 years and it was one of the reasons we chose to live where we are. We are in full support of people using the trail for non-motorized recreation and enjoying its rustic wilderness as I have for all these years. I have met many people on these trails that are friendly and respectful. Many of these people are the ones that park in the lot on Summit Road. We have also had to endure the arrogant, nasty entitled people who believe they have a right to park in front of no parking signs (please see attached pictures from this week), with their whole car parked in the road, parking on the associations lawn or parking on our front lawn. When you try to explain to them that there is parking on Summit Road, they usually respond that they pay Keene taxes and can park where they want or that the state owns the property so they have every right to park there. They steal the no parking signs and litter the area. Last winter there were multiple cars parked one behind the other, fully in the road on a corner of Summit Ridge Drive before the trail head. People had to walk around the cars into oncoming traffic to get around them. When the police were notified they drove right past doing nothing. I am not sure anyone from the City of Keene realize the amount of pedestrians that walk around this neighborhood. I have only called the police 4 time since I moved here, all related to cars parked fully in the road creating a hazard for both pedestrians and other drivers trying to go around the vehicles in the road. All the vehicles were using the trail system. In the winter time with the road narrowed because of snowbanks and cars parked in the road this is an accident waiting to happen. For some reason this hazard is not a ticket offence to the Keene Police department.

As I said previously, we are in full support of people using the trail. We support the proposed conversion of the Ammi Brown Road to a Class A Trail, for the Association to grant an easement to the City to improve the trail, maintain the entrance and regulate its use as part of the Cheshire Rail Trail expansion. All we ask is that the City of Keene designs the entrance so no cars can park at the entrance, no parking signs are installed, a sign explaining that parking is at the lot on Summit Road (many people I talk to have no idea that is where they are to park) and the Keene Police enforce a no parking policy on Summit Ridge Drive before and after the trailhead.

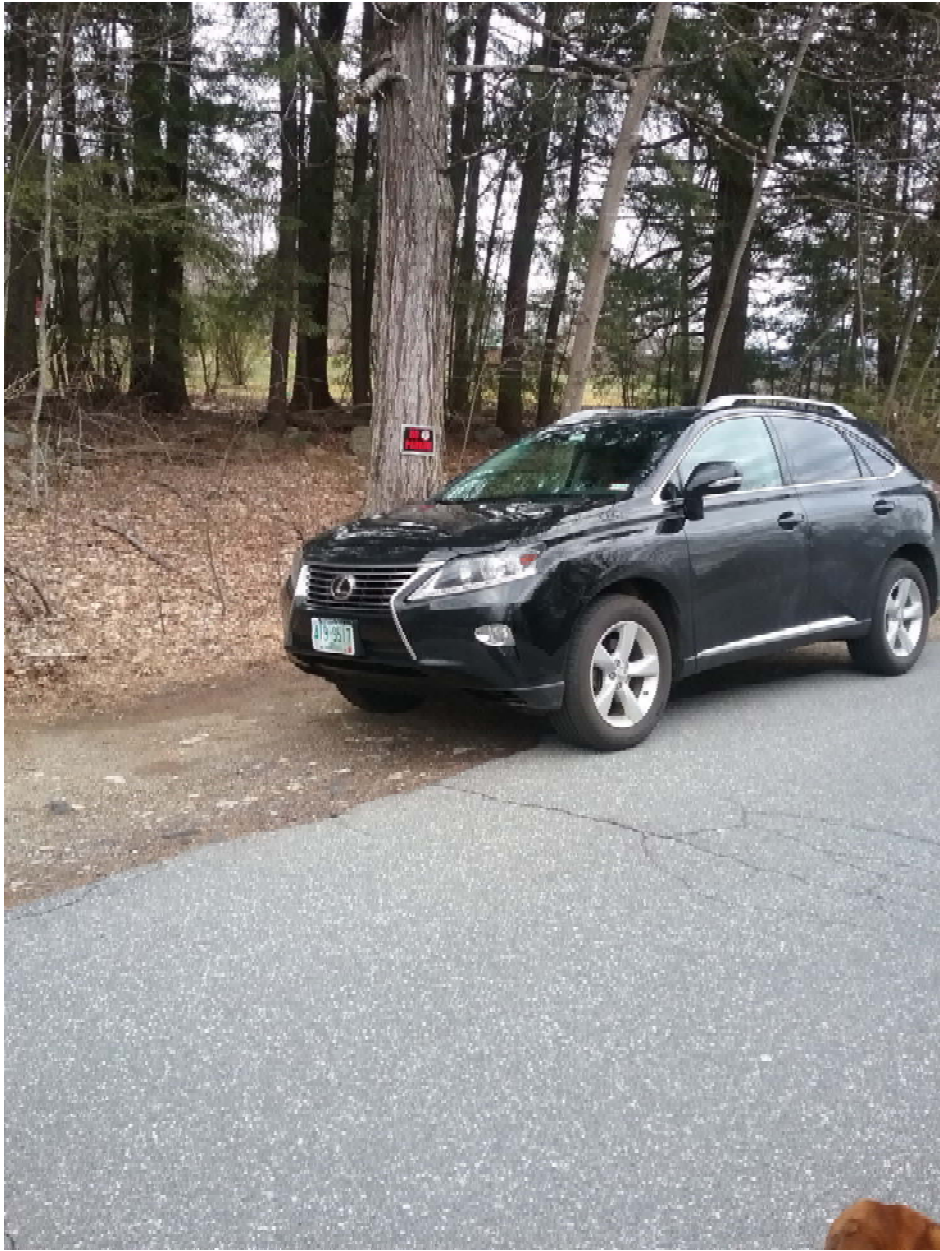
Sincerely,

Debra J Hart

Michael E Hart

Michael Hart

05/05/2020









City of Keene, N.H.
Transmittal Form

April 30, 2020

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM: Nancy Sporborg

THROUGH: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

ITEM: 4.

SUBJECT: Nancy Sporborg - Ammi Brown Trail Entrance

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council May 7, 2020.

Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication - Sporborg

BACKGROUND:

Nancy Sporborg is recommending the City reconsider its planned upgrade to the Ammi Brown Trail and instead use the path off of Summit Road, just up from the planned parking lot and divert traffic away from the Summit Ridge neighborhood.

April 30, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Planning Department and City Council:

I am asking for you to reconsider the planned upgrade to the Ami Brown Road because I believe it will irrevocably change the neighborhood and the trail from a quiet neighborhood and a beautiful natural trail. You have a clear option which is to develop the path off of Summit Road, just up from the planned parking lot that would divert traffic AWAY from the neighborhood instead if into the neighborhood.

I wrote a letter to Rhett Lamb, Will Schoefmann and the City of Keene Planning Department on Feb. 19, 2017 stating my concerns about the project to grade and hard-pack Ami Brown Road off of Summit Ridge Drive and asking to be put on a list to receive updated information about this project in 2017. I have received nothing from the City, although I have been a Keene taxpayer all my life, and now find out the project is going forward.

This project is a mistake for the following reasons:

1. The Ami Brown Road is a beautiful natural resource. It is why many of us live here, so we can have access to the woods. The path is well-used by bikers, dog walkers and families. To grade it and stone-pack it will take away its natural beauty.

2. Adding a parking lot, and "improving" the trailhead and the trail will lead to more use; more noise, more cars parking where they shouldn't be parking, more garbage and more traffic. I believe that these proposed improvements will easily triple the number of people using that resource, way more than would be comfortable for anyone looking for a quiet walk or ride in the woods. And you have an alternative — use the path off of Summit Road, just up from the planned parking lot and DIVERT traffic away from the neighborhood instead of into the neighborhood.

3. Whether you have a parking lot on Summit Road or not, people will continue to park near the trailhead.

4. There are many bikers that use this path. They come down the Ami Brown Road fast and I have had a few close calls with bikers going too fast and not realizing that there were people and dogs on the path in front of them. Can you imagine the increase in speed if the path is graded and hard-packed?

5. The City is proposing a stone dust overlay on the trail. How do you propose to keep the stone dust overlay on the trail which happens to be a steep hill? Rain, snow and use will erode the overlay within a few short years.

My questions to you:

1. Who wants this project done besides people who work for the City of Keene who probably want to win an award for their city bike-path and want to complete a bike path loop that is already complete? How many taxpayers in the City of Keene have requested this path be "improved"?

2. Have you talked with the people who walk on this trail? The vast majority of them do not want increased use and do not feel the need to "improve" the path. The walkers don't want more bikers. How can you assure the safety of the walkers when you are inviting the world to your new bike

path?

3. Have you talked with the bikers who use the path? The vast majority of them realize how lucky they are to have access to these beautiful woods and do not want the increased traffic either.

4. Have you considered the possibility of a biker hitting a pedestrian because they would be able to go full speed down a graded, stone-dust overlay path?

5. Have you talked to the land owners who own land near the trail and along the railroad bed? Many have allowed the bikers to build paths through their woods under the condition that there is no mapping, so that only the few who know the area would use them. And you think that bikers won't access those paths once they get on the Ami Brown Road? The land owners will not be happy with the increased traffic.

6. Have you told Summit Ridge Condo Association that this "improvement" to the path, and the parking lot on Summit Road will bring in more bikers and more people and more garbage and more noise and will, in fact, not solve their current problem of people parking at the trail head, but will make it worse?

7. Why not use the path off of Summit Road, just up from where the parking lot is planned, diverting traffic away from the Summit Ridge neighborhood?

The Ami Brown Road (the path leading to the rail trail) is a community resource BECAUSE it is natural, beautiful, quiet and cared for by its travelers. I, for one, want to keep it that way.

Respectfully,



Nancy S Sporborg
Stone House Commons
8 Sugar Maple Lane
Keene, NH 03431

603-903-3858

In City Council May 7, 2020.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.



City Clerk