



**City of Keene, New Hampshire**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

**4:30 PM**

Due, the COVID-19 State of Emergency, this meeting will be conducted using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online by visiting [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) and enter the **Meeting ID: 848 7815 1022**.

If you are unable to attend the meeting online, you may call the **toll-free # (888) 475-4499** and enter **Meeting ID: 848 7815 1022** to listen to the meeting.

If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call 603-757-0676 during the meeting.

**Commission Members**

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair  
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair  
Kenneth Bergman  
Brian Reilly  
Art Walker

Andrew Madison  
Councilor Robert Williams  
Thomas P. Haynes, *Alternate*  
Steven Bill, *Alternate*

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – **February 18, 2020**
3. Communication and Notifications
  - a. 43 Production Avenue – Liberty Utilities notification to NHDES Wetlands Bureau regarding geotechnical borings within a wetland
  - b. Standard Dredge and Fill Application by City of Keene for Winchester Street Reconstruction and Replacement of the Island Street Bridge  
<https://ci.keene.nh.us/sites/default/files/Community%20Development/Conservation/Winchester%20Street%20Reconstruction%20for%20concom%205-18-20.pdf>
4. Informational
  - a. email from Bob King – West Hill Property
  - b. Outreach Subcommittee report
5. Discussion Items
  - a. Bee City USA – Mr. John Therriault
  - b. ARM Fund Project Concept – North Lincoln Street
  - c. Proposed Land Acquisition off Old Gilsum Road– Gary Boes
6. New or Other Business – Invasive Species – Councilor Williams
7. Adjournment – Next meeting date Monday, **June 15, 2020**

*\*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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
4 MEETING MINUTES  
5  
6

7 **Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

**4:30 PM**

**2nd Floor Conference Room,  
City Hall**

**Members Present:**

Alexander Von Plinsky IV, Chair  
(Arrived at 5:08 PM)  
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair  
Arthur Walker  
Brian Reilly  
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

**Staff Present:**

Rhett Lamb, Community Development  
Director/Assistant City Manager

**Members Not Present:**

Kenneth Bergman  
Andrew Madison  
Steven Bill, Alternate

**Guest:**

Mayor George S. Hansel

8 **1) Call to Order**

9 Vice Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM., Mr. Haynes acted as a voting member.  
10 Councilor Bobby Williams was present but would not be an official member until February 20.  
11

12 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020**

- 13 • Page 4, §5.A. – change “Old Homestead Highway,” to “Old Gilsum Road.”  
14 • Page 3, in the third line of the last paragraph – change “display much of the force,” to  
15 “displace much of the force.”  
16 • Page 6, in the second paragraph – change “problematic for logs in the wetland,” to  
17 “problematic for timber mats in the wetland.”  
18

19 Mr. Haynes moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2020, which Mr. Reilly seconded and  
20 the Commission carried unanimously.  
21

22 **3) Mayor Hansel: Discuss the Idea of the Conservation Commission Absorbing the Duties**  
23 **of the Agricultural Commission**

24 Mayor Hansel was at the meeting to begin a conversation as to whether the Commission should  
25 absorb the duties of the Agricultural Commission, which has struggled to achieve quorum in  
26 recent years. Because the charges of both Commissions overlap in some areas – particularly  
27 surveying and inventorying agricultural and conservation lands – the Mayor is considering  
28 modifying the Conservation Commission’s charge to include the Agricultural Commission’s  
29 duties. The Mayor shared the Agricultural Commission’s charge and duties:

- 30 ▪ § 2-1105 – Membership. The Agricultural Commission shall consist of seven members. Each  
31 Agricultural Commission member shall be a resident of the City. One Commission member  
32 shall be a member of the Keene City Council and one Commission member may be a  
33 member of the planning board. No more than two alternate members may be appointed. In  
34 determining each member’s qualifications, the mayor shall take into consideration the  
35 appointee’s demonstrated interest and ability to understand, appreciate, and promote the  
36 purpose of the Agricultural Commission. Members of the Agricultural Commission also may

37 serve on other City Boards and Commissions, including but not limited to the Conservation  
38 Commission.

39 ■ § 2-1108 – Powers, duties, and guidelines. In accordance with the provisions of RSA 674:44-  
40 e, the following powers, duties, and guidelines are hereby established for the conduct of the  
41 board. The Agricultural Commission shall have advisory and review authority, specifically as  
42 follows:

- 43 1. Survey and inventory all agricultural resources.
- 44 2. Conduct activities to recognize, promote, enhance, and encourage agriculture,  
45 agricultural resources, and agricultural-based economic opportunities.
- 46 3. Assist the planning board, as requested, in the development and review of those sections  
47 of the comprehensive master plan, which address agricultural resources.
- 48 4. Advise, upon request, City Boards and Commissions and other agencies in their review  
49 of requests on matters affecting or potentially affecting agricultural resources.
- 50 5. Coordinate activities with appropriate service organizations and nonprofit groups.
- 51 6. Publicize and report its activities.
- 52 7. Hire consultants and contractors as needed.
- 53 8. Receive gifts of money and property, both real and personal, in the name of the City of  
54 Keene, subject to the approval of the City Council, such gifts to be managed and  
55 controlled by the Agricultural Commission for its proper purposes.
- 56 9. Hold meetings and hearings necessary to carry out its duties.

57  
58 The Mayor was open to discussion and did not need a definite decision at this meeting. Vice  
59 Chair Clark asked if the Conservation Commission’s membership limit would increase with such  
60 a change. The Mayor said that the Commission’s size is limited by NH statute, but he is in  
61 conversation with the City Clerk to determine if the Commission could have more alternate  
62 members than permitted currently. Mr. Haynes suggested that a Conservation Commission  
63 subcommittee could be formed to focus on the absorbed agricultural duties.

64  
65 Mr. Reilly stated that this Commission often reacts to proposals that it must comment on by law  
66 (e.g., Wetlands Permits for the NH Department of Environmental Resources) and it did not seem  
67 the Agricultural Commission had similar duties. Mayor Hansel agreed that the Agricultural  
68 Commission serves currently in an advisory role for agricultural matters that come before  
69 Council. He asked the Conservation Commission to consider whether they can provide that  
70 guidance to Council when needed.

71  
72 Mr. Haynes asked if the Agricultural Commission has a budget that would transfer as well. The  
73 Mayor was unsure but if there was a budget, he imagined it would be nominal. He said that the  
74 money the Conservation Commission can use from the Land Use Change Tax Fund is not only  
75 intended for conservation, but also for agricultural purposes.

76  
77 Mr. Reilly asked if there are current Agricultural Commission members that would want to serve  
78 as Conservation Commission alternates. Mayor Hansel said he had not had that conversation yet  
79 and his next step was to gauge that interest.

80  
81 Mr. Walker asked the two Commissions would merge. The Mayor said that the Conservation  
82 Commission would broaden its charge by absorbing a narrower set of the current Agricultural  
83 Commission duties. Mr. Walker asked if the Conservation Commission would still meet  
84 statutory requirements with this change and the Mayor replied in the affirmative.

85

86 The Mayor asked members to reflect on this potential change before the next meeting and then to  
87 provide him a recommendation. Mr. Walker added that it would be opportune to invite any  
88 current Agricultural Commission members who are interested in serving to the next meeting. The  
89 Mayor and Mr. Lamb agreed that Charles Daloz and Mark Florenz have been active and would  
90 likely want to continue serving; Mr. Lamb will invite them to the next meeting. Vice Chair Clark  
91 added that it would be ideal if more Conservation Commission members were present at the next  
92 meeting to discuss as well. Members can send questions to Mr. Lamb via email before the next  
93 meeting.

94

95 **4) Informational**

96 **a. Subcommittee Reports**

97 **i. *Outreach Subcommittee***

98 Mr. Haynes reported that Vice Chair Clark led a successful Tracks & Trees walk at Goose Pond  
99 at the beginning of February with a mixed group of 12 participants. He said it was a great kickoff  
100 to what the Subcommittee hopes will become a Goose Pond through the season's event series.  
101 He has begun conversations with Jeff Littleton for a spring event, though no date is set.

102

103 The Subcommittee has begun planning a Tap to Toilet event, which will begin with a  
104 presentation from Jim Rousmaniere focused on Keene's water system. The Historical Society  
105 will sponsor and host the presentation so there is no need to rent a facility. No date is yet  
106 confirmed, though Mr. Rousmaniere is available on Wednesday nights and the Historical Society  
107 is available on Wednesdays April 15 and 22. Vice Chair Clark noted that April 22 might be the  
108 week of school vacation and Mr. Reilly added that April 22 is also Earth Day. Mr. Haynes  
109 imagined that more children would attend the subsequent water facility tours than Mr.  
110 Rousmaniere's presentation. Once the presentation date is confirmed, the Subcommittee will  
111 work with the City's Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, Eric Swope, to schedule the tours of  
112 the Water Treatment Facility and Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Swope would lead one  
113 tour, and he provided possible staff names for the other tour. These tours would be scheduled on  
114 Saturdays.

115

116 Vice Chair Clark reported that Keene will be represented at the statewide Fourth Grade Water  
117 Science Fair and she has plans in line for it.

118

119 **ii. *ARM Fund Subcommittee***

120 No one from the Subcommittee was at the meeting but Vice Chair Clark reported that she was in  
121 contact with Barbara Scully, who reported that approximately \$3.3 million were available in the  
122 ARM Fund this year, though it was unknown how much would be available for Keene's  
123 watershed; the funds are distributed statewide. Vice Clark recalled that the ARM Fund  
124 Subcommittee, including former member Denise Burchsted, was working to identify shovel-  
125 ready projects that ARM Funds could be applied to, but the status of that work was unclear. Mr.  
126 Haynes asked when applications are due and Vice Chair Clark believed May 29.

127

128 **b. *Concord Hill Easement Letter***

129 At the January meeting, the Commission agreed to send a letter, which was in the agenda packet.

130

131 **c. *ARLAC 2019 Annual Report***

132 Vice Chair Clark referenced the report from the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee  
133 (ARLAC) included in the meeting packet. She said that the conscientious Committee places  
134 great scrutiny on all matters that come before them. The Committee is comprised of two

135 representatives from Keene and ideally one representative from each member town at minimum,  
136 which is not always possible. Mr. Walker asked if ARLAC's review of permits and projects is a  
137 statutory role. Vice Chair Clark replied in the affirmative, stating that ARLAC was appointed by  
138 NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) per state statute and established in the early  
139 1990s and the Committee is always welcoming interested members. There are two state local  
140 advisory committee's – one for shore lands and one for river protection, the latter of which is  
141 ARLAC's role. Mr. Walker referenced the report, which mentioned that ARLAC is responsible  
142 for ¼ mile from the river. He asked if that ¼ mile is from the center of the river or starting from  
143 the bank on each side. Vice Chair Clark was unsure and thought it might be both sides of the  
144 river. Mr. Lamb thought it was likely beginning from the water surface and extending out the ¼  
145 mile.

146  
147 Vice Chair Clark recalled that Eversource spoke to this Commission in January about utility pole  
148 replacements. ARLAC was only able to comment on two poles near RT-12 that are within that ¼  
149 mile corridor and Eversource spoke with them about vegetation clearing through a lot of  
150 wetlands to access those poles. Mr. Lamb recalled that this Commission reviewed that  
151 Eversource work for a few access roads changing locations and requiring new road surfaces. He  
152 thought the Commission commented without a formal recommendation.

153

## 154 **5) Discussion Items**

### 155 **a. Old Gilsum Road Land**

156 Mr. Lamb reported that the Commission's recommendation and a memo from Andy Bohannon,  
157 the Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities went to the Finance, Organization & Planning  
158 Committee, which recommended that the City Manager be authorized to negotiate the purchase.  
159 Staff anticipated a positive Council vote to purchase the six-acre parcel at their February 20  
160 meeting.

161

162 Mr. Lamb cited an email from Mr. Bill asking if the Commission should visit and tour this  
163 parcel. Mr. Lamb thought that Mr. Bill might have missed some details in his absence. Mr. Lamb  
164 did not think it necessary to visit primarily because the general state of the parcel should be  
165 comparable to the other City inholdings surrounding it. Additionally, it would be a one-mile  
166 walk off-trail in the winter. Mr. Walker agreed, noting that the Commission did not walk the land  
167 on Beech Hill before recommending purchase. Mr. Lamb thought it was most important for  
168 Council to receive the Commission's recommendation. Ms. Clark recalled that Mr. Bill offered  
169 to walk the property himself, but Mr. Lamb said it might be difficult to discern from other  
170 surrounding woodlots. Mr. Reilly asked if proceeding with purchase would require a boundary  
171 survey. Mr. Lamb said it depends on the state of existing deeds and the surrounding area. It  
172 might not be necessary because the City owns the surrounding lots. The City would conduct a  
173 phase one environmental study on the parcel, which is a paper exercise looking at prior use files  
174 for the property. If an activity were identified that might have been a contamination source, then  
175 further ground studies would be called for. Mr. Lamb did not think ground studies would be  
176 needed in this instance because there had not been use of this parcel to his knowledge beyond  
177 forestry and farming activities decades ago.

178

### 179 **b. NHDOT Floodplain Compensation**

180 Mr. Lamb referred to the nice layout that NH Department of Transportation (DOT) sent so that  
181 the Commission could be familiar with project advancement. The summary included a well-done  
182 explanation of the late 1990s state highway bypass project when the City successfully negotiated  
183 that upon project completion, DOT would comply with the City's Floodplain Protection

184 Ordinance and supply compensatory storage for fill. To do so, DOT must dig holes of equal size  
185 and volume elsewhere in the floodplain, and in this instance, the volumes are high. Staff has  
186 been revisiting the original construction drawings to determine the amount of fill that occurred  
187 and therefore where it could be compensated, which is challenging without competing with other  
188 important natural resources. Mr. Lamb said the City might identify potential impacts to water  
189 resources (e.g., shore lands) that are pivotal in deciding if DOT should move forward with the  
190 compensation.

191

192 Mr. Walker questioned where compensation would be possible along the confines of West  
193 Street. Mr. Lamb agreed that West Street is confined and therefore the only potential location is  
194 at the T intersection of RTs-9/12/101, where there are significant wetlands.

195

196 Ms. Clark said that Barbara Scully spoke with The Public Works Director, Kürt Blomquist,  
197 about potential compensation in the Beaver Brook watershed but Mr. Blomquist thought it was  
198 only possible in the Ash Swamp Brook or Ashuelot River watersheds. Mr. Lamb explained that  
199 the compensation is required to be within a certain distance and elevation of the fill itself to  
200 ensure there is sufficient storage within that same reach of the dominant river, which in this case  
201 is the Ashuelot. Staff is trying to be as flexible as possible in finding space for compensation and  
202 Mr. Lamb stated that he was open to the idea of using the Beaver Brook watershed for some  
203 compensation to help the City with frequent flooding on the east side.

204

205 Mr. Reilly asked if compensation is only possible on City-owned land. Mr. Lamb said no, they  
206 are looking all over the City. Vice Chair, Clark added that they are looking in Swanzy as well,  
207 specifically the compensatory area created just off the rail trail near the sand pits. Mr. Lamb  
208 recalled that the Floodplain Protection Ordinance was revised to allow that compensatory fill in  
209 what is now the cornfield at the corner of RT-101 and Winchester Street.

210

211 Councilor Williams questioned if compensation was possible along Beaver Brook in the corridor  
212 of renovations to the Patricia T. Russell Park (former Carpenter Field), where there are  
213 significant flooding problems. He recalled talks of improving flood mitigation efforts as a part of  
214 that project. Mr. Lamb agreed that is a good idea to consider, though he was unsure if the  
215 elevations that far up Beaver Brook would be sufficient for this particular compensation. Vice  
216 Chair Clark said that her recommendation is the area of cornfields along RT-101. She anticipated  
217 five acres available there and Mr. Lamb agreed. The Chairman asked who owns those cornfields  
218 and Mr. Lamb replied the estate of Emile Ledger. He continued saying that finding a location for  
219 compensation is a balancing act so as not to also disturb wetlands in the process.

220

221 Mr. Haynes asked if DOT would get back to the City with ideas for compensation. Mr. Lamb  
222 said that is why DOT is seeking advice of local experts to scout locations. A technical committee  
223 has been established to provide this advice. Mr. Lamb is on the committee and he would ideally  
224 like a member of the Conservation Commission to serve in that advisory role as well, if  
225 available. If a member of the Commission cannot participate, Mr. Lamb will continue providing  
226 monthly updates. Mr. Haynes and Vice Chair Clark suggested that Mr. Madison, who recently  
227 returned to the Commission, is a hydrologist and could possibly contribute to this effort.

228

229 Mr. Reilly asked what the compensatory storage would look like when complete. Mr. Lamb said  
230 they are sort of like bathtubs. He recalled a similar project at the Woodland Cemetery, where  
231 approximately one acre of soil was removed to a level just before intersecting with groundwater  
232 and therefore restoring the wetland. Mounds were constructed to alter elevations to mimic the

233 wetlands, which the City hopes DOT would do in this instance as well, removing soil in the most  
234 effective way to create new volume and better natural resource habitat. Mr. Reilly asked if  
235 wetland vegetation would be sown at the bottom of the compensatory areas and Mr. Lamb said  
236 that was yet to be determined.

237

238 **c. Airport Road Habitat**

239 Mr. Haynes reported that due to timing complications, he was unable to speak before the  
240 Finance, Organization & Personnel Committee about the airport fence project during their  
241 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) review. Still, Councilor Steve Hooper suggested that the  
242 Commission should submit a statement on the project to Council, which Mr. Lamb agreed to  
243 enter into the Council record for CIP review. Mr. Lamb is also sharing the statement with David  
244 Hickling, the new Airport Manager.

245

246 Mr. Reilly recalled questions about when this airport fence project was scheduled in the CIP. Mr.  
247 Lamb confirmed that it is funded for FY25, making funds available in July 2024, which is likely  
248 with the design phase would begin. Mr. Lamb added that the fence project is high on the Airport  
249 Manager's priority list. The Airport Manager indicated that he would seek Commission input,  
250 especially in scouting other funding sources for habitat viewing structures to minimize recreation  
251 impacts.

252

253 **6) New or Other Business**

254 Mr. Haynes said that the ARM Fund discussion should continue for the Chairman. The Chairman  
255 said the ARM Fund Subcommittee had not met due to scheduling. Still, he said it occurred to  
256 him to talk with local organizations like the Harris Center and Monadnock Conservancy because  
257 the ARM Fund grant process opens May 1. As opposed to the Subcommittee taking lead on a  
258 particular project, he thought there might be opportunities to collaborate with one of these  
259 organizations on an ARM Fund project for this grant round. He said this could be a good way to  
260 pool resources and accomplish something without all the work falling to this Commission. The  
261 Chairman will contact the Conservancy to identify opportunities for partnerships. Mr. Lamb saw  
262 no problems with that outreach from staff's standpoint.

263

264 Vice Chair Clark recalled that former Commission member Denise Burchsted was working with  
265 the Public Work Director, Kürt Blomquist, and City Engineer, Don Lussier, to identify shovel-  
266 ready projects for possible ARM Funds. Mr. Lamb offered to speak with the Public Works  
267 Director. He recalled discussion about a few possible City projects with wetland impacts that  
268 could be eligible for ARM Funds, but no project was exclusively dedicated to wetland  
269 restoration. Staff was working with Peter Walker (head of the DOT advisory committee), who is  
270 representing Liberty Utilities, which is going to build a Compressed Natural Gas plant at the end  
271 of Production Avenue. The project means they must re-permit with many wetland impacts that  
272 will also require mitigation. Peter Walker asked the City if there were mitigation projects  
273 possible that he could ask Liberty Utilities to fund as a part of their mitigation package. They  
274 looked at the second phase of the Woodland Cemetery project to redirect the small stream that  
275 crosses under North Lincoln Street into the cemetery and then into a large, adjacent City-owned  
276 wetland area. Mr. Lamb said that would have been the next shovel-ready project possible for  
277 ARM Funds but DES denied the site. Mr. Lamb agreed it would be a good time to speak with the  
278 City Engineer and Public Works Director again.

279

280 Mr. Walker asked why DES denied that second phase of Woodland Cemetery project. Mr. Lamb  
281 thought they did not see great enough benefit for the work that would be involved. The work



282 would redirect a small feeder stream to the system running at the end of Beaver Brook and into a  
283 wetland and upland area to dechannelize and spread it out just south of the cemetery. Mr. Lamb  
284 is willing to return to that project for ARM Funds but imagines there would be a lot to sell on its  
285 value.

286  
287 Mr. Haynes agreed with Councilor Williams about ideas for Russell Park. Mr. Lamb said that  
288 project is going into design phase right now, and it would not be a good time for a letter of  
289 interest yet for several months. Mr. Haynes asked if that could be a future ARM Fund project.  
290 Mr. Lamb would follow-up with the Director of Parks, Recreation, & Facilities to keep track of  
291 the Russell Park progress. Councilor Williams reported that he is on the Russell Park advisory  
292 committee, which just met for the first time and would continue to monthly through completion  
293 of the \$1.275 million project involving the fields and playground. He thought that if funds could  
294 be found for Beaver Brook habitat improvements that there would be opportunities at the park,  
295 especially where kids could be involved with water activities.

296  
297 Vice Chair Clark recalled a parcel on Church Street where a house burned down. She said the lot  
298 is vacant now and though it is privately owned, it could be a great incorporation to Russell Park.  
299 Councilor Williams agreed that the advisory committee is aware of that parcel, which is  
300 challenging to develop in the middle of the floodplain; it could be a parking area for access to the  
301 field, among other possible uses. Mr. Lamb said there is plenty of time for this Commission to  
302 develop ideas for Russell Park.

303  
304 Vice Chair Clark said that ARM Fund pre-proposals are due May 29. She noted another eight-  
305 acre City-owned parcel abutting North Lincoln Street near Woodland Cemetery. Mr. Lamb said  
306 that is where a channel was to be diverted from the cemetery in the second phase of that project.  
307 Vice Chair Clark said the back of that property has lovely alder swamps and the front of the  
308 property contains a lot of invasive species that have grown through fill there, and so she said a  
309 lot of that fill could be dug out. Mr. Lamb thought it was a good idea for the ARM Fund  
310 Subcommittee to begin looking at ideas toward an application. Vice Chair Clark added that  
311 regardless of receiving funding, this is a good practice for the Commission. Chair Von Plinsky  
312 will try to assemble the Subcommittee.

313  
314 Mr. Lamb noted that John Therriault was present, who recently presented before the Municipal  
315 Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee encouraging Council to make Keene a “Bee  
316 City.” Mr. Therriault explained that Bee City USA is funded through the Xerces Society for  
317 Invertebrate Conservation and is intended to enhance habitat for all pollinators, not just bees. He  
318 said the process is simple for the City: assign a City staff liaison to the program, establish a  
319 standing Committee to spearhead pollinator efforts, place a sign in the City identifying  
320 participation, review City policies and procedures to be pollinator friendly, and complete an  
321 annual report. For example, Mr. Therriault said that the invasive Japanese knotweed is pervasive  
322 in the Beaver Brook watershed abutting Russell Park and those plants could be replaced with  
323 native species to support native pollinators. Mr. Lamb said this matter would be on the  
324 Commission’s March agenda as a referral from City Council for advice and Mr. Therriault would  
325 return for that discussion. Mr. Haynes noted that this relates to the Commission’s potential  
326 absorption of the Agricultural Commission’s duties and Mr. Lamb agreed. Mr. Therriault is  
327 interested in being an alternate Commission member to help in this advisory role. Vice Chair  
328 Clark suggested that Mr. Therriault communicate with the Cheshire County Conservation  
329 District, which has pollinator efforts.

330

331 Mr. Haynes said that Commission membership needed to be updated on the City website and that  
332 the Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan is not yet available on the website. He added  
333 that the Commission’s description still lists “development of natural resources,” and he thought  
334 the Commission had voted to remove the word “development.” Mr. Lamb agreed that the  
335 webpage still reflected the old language and he would work to revise it. Mr. Haynes added that  
336 the Commission webpage could be an ideal location to post outreach activities as well as photos  
337 and links to events. If members send information to post, he would forward it to the proper staff  
338 for publishing on the website.

339  
340 Vice Chair Clark said there would be a Clean Water Café event on March 24 at the Old County  
341 Courthouse from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The event would include representatives from the CT  
342 River Conservancy, Cheshire County Conservation District, and ARLAC. There will be a brief  
343 film on the Source to Sea event from the CT Conservancy. The event provides networking  
344 opportunities for those interested in clean water.

345  
346 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date is Monday, March 16, 2020**  
347 Next year, Chair Von Plinsky hoped the January and February meetings could be changed to the  
348 second Monday of the month instead of the third Tuesday so that it is easier for him to attend.  
349 The meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

350  
351 Respectfully submitted by,  
352 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker  
353 February 25, 2020

354  
355 Reviewed by Rhett Lamb, Community Development Director/ACM



April 28, 2020

Ref: 52420.06

Jessica Bouchard  
NHDES Wetlands Bureau  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Liberty Utilities - Notice of Geotechnical Explorations  
43 Production Avenue, Keene

Dear Ms. Bouchard:

VHB, on behalf of our client Liberty Utilities (Liberty), submits this letter pursuant to NH Administrative Rule Env-Wt 309.02(i), which allows drilling geotechnical borings within wetlands provided certain conditions are met, including notification of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Wetlands Bureau, the local governing body, and the municipal conservation commission.

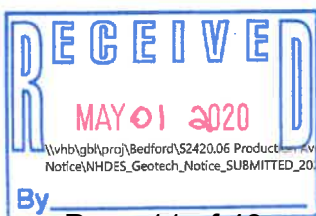
As you may recall from our January 15, 2020 meeting, Liberty owns a propane/air gas distribution system in Keene and is developing plans to upgrade this system. The upgrade would include construction of a combined LNG/CNG facility on property owned by Liberty at 43 Production Avenue (the Site). To further assess the subsurface conditions for design purposes, Liberty plans to conduct a geotechnical exploration program on the Site, as depicted on the attached Exploration Location Plan. The program includes up to five borings in total, with three borings located to the west side of the Site, one boring to the east, and one boring at the end of the former cul-de-sac. This work is currently planned for May 14-15, but the schedule is dependent on weather conditions and the availability of the drilling contractor.

All geotechnical boring activities will be conducted in accordance with Rule Env-Wt 309.02(i), and will comply with the applicable sections of Rule Env-Wt 307. The proposed geotechnical explorations will be conducted from a track-mounted drilling unit operating in the adjacent wetland. If necessary, the track-mounted machine will be placed on timber swamp mats to minimize disturbance of wetland soil and vegetation. Appropriate erosion control methods will be used as necessary. No wetland will be permanently filled as part of the geotechnical work, and any ruts created during the track-mounted drilling will be restored and seeded and mulched as required. Consistent with Rule Env-Wt 309.02(i), the work is not located within tidal wetlands or prime wetlands, and the work would not impact a bog or marsh system.

Liberty Utilities, by way of a copy of this letter, has also notified the City of Keene Mayor's Office and the Keene Conservation Commission.

2 Bedford Farms Drive  
Suite 200  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
P 603.391.3900  
F 603.518.7495

Engineers | Scientists | Planners | Designers



\\vhb\gbl\proj\Bedford\52420.06 Product - Keene\docs\Permits\2020 Geotech Notice\NHDES\_Geotech\_Notice\_SUBMITTED\_2020-04-28.docx

Ms. Jessica Bouchard  
Ref: 52420.06  
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We appreciate the Wetlands Bureau's assistance with this project. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at [pwalker@vhb.com](mailto:pwalker@vhb.com) or (603) 391-3942 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter J. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Peter J. Walker  
Principal Environmental Scientist

cc: City of Keene, Office of the Mayor  
Keene Conservation Commission  
Don Lussier, City Engineer  
Mark Stevens, Liberty Utilities  
Lisa Damiano, Sanborn, Head and Associates

Attachments:

Exploration Location Plan  
USGS Map

# KEENE WINCHESTER STREET RECONSTRUCTION



NHDOT STATE PROJECT NO. 10309B  
FHWA FEDERAL PROJECT NO. STP-0111(007)

PREPARED FOR:  
CITY OF KEENE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE



STANDARD DREDGE & FILL APPLICATION



PREPARED BY:



**McFarland Johnson**

53 REGIONAL DRIVE  
CONCORD, NH 03301  
(603) 225-2978

**MARCH 2020**

**14. IMPACT AREA:**

For each jurisdictional area that will be/has been impacted, provide square feet and, if applicable, linear feet of impact.

**Permanent:** impacts that will remain after the project is complete.

**Temporary:** impacts not intended to remain (and will be restored to pre-construction conditions) after the project is completed.

**Intermittent Streams:** linear footage distance of disturbance is measured along the thread of the channel.

**Perennial Streams/ Rivers:** the total linear footage distance is calculated by summing the lengths of disturbance to the channel and each bank.

JURISDICTIONAL AREA	PERMANENT Sq. Ft. / Lin. Ft.		TEMPORARY Sq. Ft. / Lin. Ft.	
Forested wetland		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Scrub-shrub wetland		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Emergent wetland	98	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	218	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Wet meadow		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Intermittent stream channel	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Perennial Stream / River channel	0 / 0	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	604 / 72	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Lake / Pond	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Bank - Intermittent stream	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Bank - Perennial stream / River	304 / 78	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	1738 / 169	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Bank - Lake / Pond	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Tidal water	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF	/	<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Salt marsh		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Sand dune		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Prime wetland		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Prime wetland buffer		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Undeveloped Tidal Buffer Zone (TBZ)		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Previously-developed upland in TBZ		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Docking - Lake / Pond		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Docking - River		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Docking - Tidal Water		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
Vernal Pool		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF		<input type="checkbox"/> ATF
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>402 / 78</b>		<b>2560 / 241</b>	

**15. APPLICATION FEE:** See the [Instructions & Required Attachments](#) document for further instruction

Minimum Impact Fee: Flat fee of \$ 200

Note: Current fee of \$0.40 was used to calculate fee

Minor or Major Impact Fee: Calculate using the below table below

Permanent and Temporary (non-docking) 2962 sq. ft. X \$0.20 = \$ 1,184.80

Temporary (seasonal) docking structure:          sq. ft. X \$1.00 =          \$

Permanent docking structure:          sq. ft. X \$2.00 =          \$

Projects proposing shoreline structures (including docks) add \$200 =          \$

Total = \$ 1,184.80

The Application Fee is the above calculated Total or \$200, whichever is greater = \$ 1,184.80



**WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION – ATTACHMENT A**  
**MINOR AND MAJOR - 20 QUESTIONS**  
 Land Resources Management  
 Wetlands Bureau



Check the Status of your application: [www.des.nh.gov/onestop](http://www.des.nh.gov/onestop)

RSA/ Rule: RSA 482-A, Env-Wt 100-900

**Env-Wt 302.04 Requirements for Application Evaluation - For any major or minor project, the applicant shall demonstrate by plan and example that the following factors have been considered in the project’s design in assessing the impact of the proposed project to areas and environments under the department’s jurisdiction. Respond with statements demonstrating:**

1. The need for the proposed impact.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a complete streets improvement that accommodates all modes of transportation, while addressing daily traffic congestion issues, and improving safety along the Winchester Street corridor. The project will also improve the safety, integrity, and continuity of Island Street by addressing the structurally deficient bridge structure.

The existing bridge carrying Island Street over the Ashuelot River is a Bailey type temporary steel truss bridge. The previous bridge superstructure was removed in 1979 and the temporary bridge was installed on the existing full height cast-in-place concrete abutments. This single span truss structure has a span length of 90 feet. The bridge is on the NHDOT Municipal bridge “Red List” primarily due to its “temporary” status. In addition, the bridge is signed “Narrow Bridge” and there is a 15-ton posted weight limit.

Temporary bank impacts along the banks of the Ashuelot River are required for construction access for the replacement of the Island Street Bridge and drainage upgrades on the west bank at the Winchester Street Bridge location. Permanent bank impacts area associated with the construction of a retaining wall, installation of a new drainage outlet, and grading required for a stormwater treatment area. Temporary channel impacts at the Island Street Bridge are required for construction access to remove portions of the existing abutments. Temporary and permanent impacts to a palustrine emergent ditch wetland are required for drainage upgrades and improvements.

2. That the alternative proposed by the applicant is the one with the least impact to wetlands or surface waters on site.

The proposed action includes replacing the bridge carrying Island Street over the Ashuelot River (Bridge 127/068). The proposed replacement bridge consists of a 115’ single span bridge with steel multi-girder superstructure with cast-in-place concrete deck. A six-girder (minimum) system would be supported by integral concrete abutments constructed behind the existing abutments and founded on a single row of driven H-piles. The bridge would be built primarily using conventional bridge construction techniques.

In order to avoid impacts to the channel of the Ashuelot River the proposed bridge will be constructed behind the existing abutments. The existing abutments will be partially removed. The abutment removal work will require temporary channel impacts to allow the contractor to safely remove portions of the abutments while preventing debris from entering the Ashuelot River. Impacts to the palustrine wetland are associated with construction of a new drainage outlet and reconstruction of the existing headwall.

3. The type and classification of the wetlands involved.

Wetlands within the study area were delineated in June 2016 based on the 1987 US Army Corps of Engineers Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands and the 2012 Regional Supplement to the Corps Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region. Wetlands within the project corridor include two palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM1E), both ditches, and one manmade detention basin. The ordinary high water (OHW) and top of bank (TOB) of the Ashuelot River were also delineated in the vicinity of the Island Street Bridge and the west side of the River at the Winchester Street Bridge. The Ashuelot River has a Cowardin Classification of R2UB1H; riverine, lower perennial, unconsolidated bottom, cobble-gravel substrate, and a permanently flooded water regime.

4. The relationship of the proposed wetlands to be impacted relative to nearby wetlands and surface waters.

The project is located on the Ashuelot River approximately 25 miles upstream of its confluence with the Connecticut River. The portion of the Ashuelot River that runs through the project area is surrounded by dense urban development. There are no wetlands directly adjacent to the River. The wetlands located near the southern end of the project area are associated with stormwater runoff and drainage from the surrounding roadways and parking lots.

5. The rarity of the wetland, surface water, sand dunes, or tidal buffer zone area.

The wetlands and stream found in the vicinity of the project area are common throughout the state. There are no unusual natural features, rare species, or exemplary natural communities within the project area. The Ashuelot River is a NH Designated River, with a Community classification within the project area.

6. The surface area of the wetlands that will be impacted.

The proposed project will result in 98 square feet of permanent impacts and 218 square feet of temporary impacts to a palustrine emergent wetland. The impacts are in the vicinity of an existing culvert inlet. The area has been previously modified/disturbed and consists of a stormwater drainage ditch. The proposed impacts to the PEM wetland area are associated with the construction of a new drainage outlet.

The proposed project will also result in 304 square feet/78 linear feet of permanent bank impacts and 1738 square feet/169 linear feet of temporary bank impacts. The permanent impacts are associated with the installation of retaining walls at the Island Street Bridge, minor regrading and a drainage pipe replacement at the Winchester Street Bridge. The temporary bank impacts are associated with construction access for the bridge replacement, drainage upgrades, and the installation of a stormwater treatment area. The proposed project will also result in 604 square feet/72 linear feet of temporary channel impacts. These impacts are associated with construction access for demolishing portions of the existing abutments.



7. The impact on plants, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to:
- a. Rare, special concern species;
  - b. State and federally listed threatened and endangered species;
  - c. Species at the extremities of their ranges;
  - d. Migratory fish and wildlife;
  - e. Exemplary natural communities identified by the DRED-NHB; and
  - f. Vernal pools.

The project was submitted to and reviewed by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) and NHB determined that although there was an NHB record in the vicinity, to proposed project is not anticipated to impact this rare wildlife, plant, or natural community. Therefore, there are no state-listed species concerns associated with the proposed project.

The proposed project was also reviewed using the US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Tool and an Official Species List was generated. Species identified on the Official Species List as potentially occurring within the project area included the Federally-threatened northern Long-eared bat and the Federally-endangered dwarf wedgemussel. Based on consultation with USFWS the project area does not contain suitable habitat for northern long-eared bat. In addition, the section of the Ashuelot River in the project area does not contain dwarf wedgemussel or suitable habitat. Therefore, USFWS determined that the proposed project will have no effect on both species.

The proposed project is not anticipated to adversely impact any species at the extremities of their ranges or migratory fish and wildlife. As mentioned above, NHB did not identify any exemplary natural communities in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

There are no vernal pools in the vicinity of the project area.

8. The impact of the proposed project on public commerce, navigation and recreation.

The bridge replacement project is required to address deteriorating aspects of the bridge to maintain the integrity of the roadway. The project will not adversely impact commerce, navigation, or recreation. The Island Street Bridge replacement will require a full bridge closure during replacement. However, a signed detour route will be provided as an alternative route.

9. The extent to which a project interferes with the aesthetic interests of the general public. For example, where an applicant proposes the construction of a retaining wall on the bank of a lake, the applicant shall be required to indicate the type of material to be used and the effect of the construction of the wall on the view of other users of the lake.

The bridge replacement is consistent with the existing use and not anticipated to have an impact on aesthetic aspects of the area.

10. The extent to which a project interferes with or obstructs public rights of passage or access. For example, where the applicant proposes to construct a dock in a narrow channel, the applicant shall be required to document the extent to which the dock would block or interfere with the passage through this area.

**The bridge replacement project is consistent with the existing use of the site and will not result in obstructions to public rights of passage or access.**

11. The impact upon abutting owners pursuant to RSA 482-A:11, II. For example, if an applicant is proposing to rip-rap a stream, the applicant shall be required to document the effect of such work on upstream and downstream abutting properties.

**There are no anticipated impacts to upstream or downstream abutters.**

12. The benefit of a project to the health, safety, and well being of the general public.

**The proposed bridge replacement will maintain public safety by addressing deteriorating bridge conditions.**

13. The impact of a proposed project on quantity or quality of surface and ground water. For example, where an applicant proposes to fill wetlands the applicant shall be required to document the impact of the proposed fill on the amount of drainage entering the site versus the amount of drainage exiting the site and the difference in the quality of water entering and exiting the site.

**Two stormwater treatment areas will be constructed to treat stormwater runoff from the project area. These treatment areas will help protect the quality of groundwater and surface waters in the vicinity of the project.**

**All appropriate erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to prevent adverse impacts to water quality during construction.**

14. The potential of a proposed project to cause or increase flooding, erosion, or sedimentation.

**The project is not anticipated to result in increased flooding, erosion, or sedimentation. The proposed project includes the installation of two stormwater treatment areas and improvements to the existing drainage system. The project will also result in a net cut (removal) of approximately 230 CY of material within the 100-year floodplain. All appropriate BMPs will be implemented during construction to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation.**

15. The extent to which a project that is located in surface waters reflects or redirects current or wave energy which might cause damage or hazards.

**The project is not anticipated to reflect or redirect current or wave energy.**

16. The cumulative impact that would result if all parties owning or abutting a portion of the affected wetland or wetland complex were also permitted alterations to the wetland proportional to the extent of their property rights. For example, an applicant who owns only a portion of a wetland shall document the applicant's percentage of ownership of that wetland and the percentage of that ownership that would be impacted.

**All future proposed impacts to the Ashuelot River and palustrine wetlands in the project area would be required to comply with applicable state and federal regulations.**

17. The impact of the proposed project on the values and functions of the total wetland or wetland complex.

**The project will not impact the overall functions and values of the Ashuelot River. The areas of the banks impacted by the proposed project will be stabilized and allowed to revegetate naturally.**

**The impacted wetland near the southern end of the project area provides minimal functions and values including sediment/toxicant retention; nutrient removal/retention; and floodflow alteration. The impacts from the proposed project will have a negligible effect on the functions and values provided by the existing wetland. The wetland area will continue to provide these functions and values following completion of the proposed project.**

[irm@des.nh.gov](mailto:irm@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2147

NHDES Wetlands Bureau, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

18. The impact upon the value of the sites included in the latest published edition of the National Register of Natural Landmarks, or sites eligible for such publication.

No such sites exist in the vicinity of the project.

19. The impact upon the value of areas named in acts of congress or presidential proclamations as national rivers, national wilderness areas, national lakeshores, and such areas as may be established under federal, state, or municipal laws for similar and related purposes such as estuarine and marine sanctuaries.

There are no federally designated rivers, wilderness areas, or lakeshores in the vicinity of the project. The portion of the Ashuelot river that runs through Keene, NH is a Designated River under RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) for its outstanding natural and cultural resources. The Rivers Management and Protection Act classifies the entire length of designated rivers using four categories: Natural, Rural, Rural-Community, and Community. State regulated protection measures apply to each of these categories. The segment of the Connecticut River within the project area is classified as Rural-Community. No protection measures associated with this classification restrict the construction of the proposed project. The project will not affect the characteristics contributing to its designation under the Rivers Management and Protection Program. A copy of the NHDES permit applications will be sent to the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) since the project falls within the Designated River Corridor, 1,320 feet (one-quarter mile) of the normal high-water mark of the river.

20. The degree to which a project redirects water from one watershed to another.

# CITY OF KEENE

## WINCHESTER STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

### WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION

### SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### Introduction

The City of Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire is proposing a roadway reconstruction project along Winchester Street and Island Street. The proposed project involves intersection improvements including replacing two existing intersections with roundabouts, sidewalk improvements, drainage improvements, including the construction of stormwater treatment areas, and replacement of the Island Street Bridge over the Ashuelot River.

NHDES issued new wetland rules effective December 15, 2019. The Keene Winchester Street project began several years prior to the adoption of the new wetland rules. The project was in the final design phase and a draft application had been completed when the new rules went into effect. Based on discussions between NHDOT and NHDES it was determined that the Keene Winchester Street project would be exempt from the new wetland rules. Therefore, this Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit Application has been prepared following the wetland rules that were in effect prior to December 15, 2019.

The following information is intended to supplement the NHDES wetlands permit application.

#### Purpose & Need.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a complete streets improvement that accommodates all modes of transportation, while addressing daily traffic congestion issues, and improving safety along the Winchester Street corridor. The project will also improve the safety, integrity, and continuity of Island Street by addressing the structurally deficient bridge structure.

The need for the project has been identified as follows:

- The high volume of turning traffic at the Winchester Street, Key Road and Riverside Plaza signalized intersection causes excessive queues and delays.
- The high volume of traffic on Winchester Street makes left turns from Island and Pearl Streets difficult, causing excessive queues and delays.
- Portions of the project area corridor have poor geometry that creates safety issues for all users and has resulted in approximately 346 crashes over an eight-year period (2007-2015).

- Many pedestrians cross Winchester Street without using a crosswalk or signal.
- Bicycle facilities do not exist in the corridor.
- Poor aesthetics are currently present for a 'Gateway' corridor into Keene and its downtown.
- The Island Street Bridge over the Ashuelot River is on the State's Municipal "Red List" as it is considered a temporary bridge. This bridge has been down posted to 15 tons and has substandard width, bridge and approach rails.

## Project Description

### Existing Conditions

The project starts at the intersection of Winchester Street and NH Route 101 and extends north approximately 2,000 feet to the west side of the bridge over the Ashuelot River. In addition, the project extends up Island Street from Winchester Street for a distance of approximately 300 feet to include the replacement of the existing temporary bridge over the Ashuelot River.

The existing bridge carrying Island Street over the Ashuelot River is a Bailey type temporary steel truss bridge. The previous bridge superstructure was removed in 1979 and the temporary bridge was installed on the existing full height cast-in-place concrete abutments. This single span truss structure has a span length of 90 feet. There are no available plans for the previous structure. It is assumed the existing concrete abutments are founded on pile foundations; however, this cannot be confirmed. The bridge is on the NHDOT Municipal bridge "Red List" primarily due to its "temporary" status. In addition, the bridge is signed "Narrow Bridge" and there is a 15-ton posted weight limit.

### Surface Waters

The Ashuelot River is the only surface water identified in the vicinity of the proposed project. According to the latest FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer maps, the River has an associated Regulatory Floodway identified throughout the project area as well as expansive 100-year floodplain. Portions of the project are located within the FEMA mapped 100-year floodplain. The project as proposed will not impact the regulatory floodway of the Ashuelot River and will not result in an increase in the base flood elevation within the floodway. Floodplain impacts have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable and avoiding impacts entirely is not practicable due to the location of the existing roadway and bridge within the floodplain. The proposed project will result in a net cut (removal) of approximately 230 cubic yards of material within the 100-year floodplain. The proposed removal of material within the floodplain will create additional flood storage volume and is not anticipated to increase the base flood elevation.

At the location of the Island Street crossing the Ashuelot River is a 5<sup>th</sup> order stream, with an approximately 115 square mile watershed. The River has a Cowardin Classification of R2UBH, or riverine, lower perennial, with an unconsolidated bottom, and permanently flooded hydrologic regime. This segment of the Ashuelot is also a NH Designated River. The Ashuelot River flows from west to east through the Island Street Bridge before taking a sharp bend to the south and continuing under the Winchester Street Bridge approximately 450 feet downstream.

Based on the size of the watershed (as well as NH Designated River status, and FEMA mapped Regulatory Floodway/100-year floodplain) the Island Street Bridge stream crossing is classified as a Tier 3 stream crossing based on the NHDES wetland rules.

#### *Wetlands*

Palustrine emergent wetlands were delineated in the vicinity of the southern end of the project area. The three (3) wetland areas have been previously disturbed by prior roadway construction/development activities in the surrounding area. The wetland areas in the vicinity of the project have been ditched/modified for drainage and stormwater purposes.

#### *Proposed Project*

The proposed action involves replacing the existing Winchester Street and Key Road intersection and as well as the intersection of Winchester Street, Pearl Street and Island Street with hybrid two-lane roundabouts with necessary associated widening. The construction of the roundabouts and the associated roadway improvements will not directly impact any wetlands or surface waters in the vicinity. The project will require an Alteration of Terrain Permit. The proposed project will result in an additional 29,185 square feet (0.67 acres) of new impervious pavement surfaces. There are not currently any formal stormwater treatment areas that provide treatment for stormwater runoff within the project area. The project is proposing drainage upgrades and improvements including the construction of three stormwater treatment areas. The proposed stormwater treatment areas will treat approximately 2.52 acres of impervious pavement, compared to the 0.67 acres of additional impervious added from the proposed roadway project.

The proposed project includes replacing the bridge carrying Island Street over the Ashuelot River (Bridge 127/068). The proposed replacement bridge consists of a 115' single span bridge with steel multi-girder superstructure with cast-in-place concrete deck. A six-girder (minimum) system would be supported by integral concrete abutments constructed behind the existing abutments and founded on a single row of driven H-piles. The bridge would be built primarily using conventional bridge construction techniques. In order to avoid impacts to the channel of the Ashuelot River the proposed bridge will be constructed behind the existing abutments. The existing abutments will be partially removed. The abutment removal work will require temporary channel impacts to allow the contractor to safely remove portions of the abutments while preventing debris from entering the Ashuelot River.

Stormwater runoff from most of the proposed new pavement as well as areas of existing pavement will be treated in stormwater treatment systems. The overall goal of stormwater management design is to treat runoff from an area that is at least twice the area of impervious that is being added, which would result in an overall net improvement in runoff treatment and receiving water quality. Currently there is no water quality treatment for any of the existing closed drainage systems. The first two closed drainage systems outlet directly to the Ashuelot River, and therefore would not need to meet pre-developed vs. post development flows because the river flows are significantly larger. The proposed closed drainage systems will mimic the existing closed drainage as much as possible and will discharge to existing locations. There are three proposed water quality treatment systems within the footprint of the project. These locations include: wet pond that will discharge to the Ashuelot River, north of the Winchester Street bridge; a bioretention system within the grassed median of Winchester Street collecting water



surface runoff from the high side of the super elevation between the proposed roundabouts; and a stormwater pond at the closed drainage system south of Key Road and Winchester Street Intersection. These features will allow the project to meet pre-developed versus post-developed flows.

The majority of the work is located within existing right-of-way. However, easements will be required for portions of the proposed project including construction of the stormwater treatment area in the northwest quadrant of the Winchester Street Bridge, drainage upgrades, and replacement of the Island Street Bridge. The City of Keene has not secured the easements at this time; however, all the necessary easements will be obtained prior to the start of construction and can be submitted to NHDES at that time.

Impacts

The follow table summarizes the impacts associated with the proposed project.

WETLAND IMPACT SUMMARY					
IMPACT LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	PERMANENT IMPACT		TEMPORARY IMPACT	
		(SF)	(LF)	(SF)	(LF)
A	PEM1E	98		218	
B1	BANK	151	39	538	60
B2	BANK	81	10	276	29
C	BANK	62	26		
D	BANK	10	3		
E	BANK			200	20
F	BANK			294	24
G	BANK			249	19
H	BANK			181	17
I	R2UBH			303	35
J	R2UBH			301	37

Impacts to the palustrine wetland are associated with construction of a new drainage outlet and reconstruction of the existing headwall. Impacts in this area total 98 square feet of permanent impacts and 218 square feet of temporary impacts for reconstruction of the existing headwall and the placement of a stone outlet pad. The existing wetland consists of a ditched, drainage area. Impacts are located in the vicinity of an existing culvert inlet. This area has experience prior disturbance associated with the original construction of the drainage features.

Temporary impacts to the bank of the Ashuelot River total 1738 square feet/169 linear feet. Temporary impacts are required for construction access for the replacement of the Island Street Bridge,

construction of the stormwater treatment area in the vicinity of the Winchester Street Bridge, and the removal and replacement of existing drainage outlets. Permanent bank impacts total 304 square feet/78 linear feet and are associated with construction of a retaining wall at the Island Street Bridge.

The proposed project will also require 604 square feet/72 linear feet of temporary channel impacts in front of the existing abutments of the Island Street Bridge. These impacts are associated with construction access to allow the contractor to access the existing abutments and safely remove portions of them, while preventing debris from entering the river.

### Minimization and Avoidance Measures

Wetland and stream impacts were avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The proposed bridge structure at the Island Street Bridge is being constructed behind the existing abutments. Portions of the existing abutments will remain in place. This approach helped to avoid permanent channel impacts within the Ashuelot River. Drainage outlets at the Winchester Street Bridge will outlet above the ordinary high water to avoid impacts to the channel of the river.



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104  
<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>



In Reply Refer To:  
Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2019-SLI-0627  
Event Code: 05E1NE00-2019-E-07550  
Project Name: Keene-Winchester Street

September 16, 2019

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Mammals

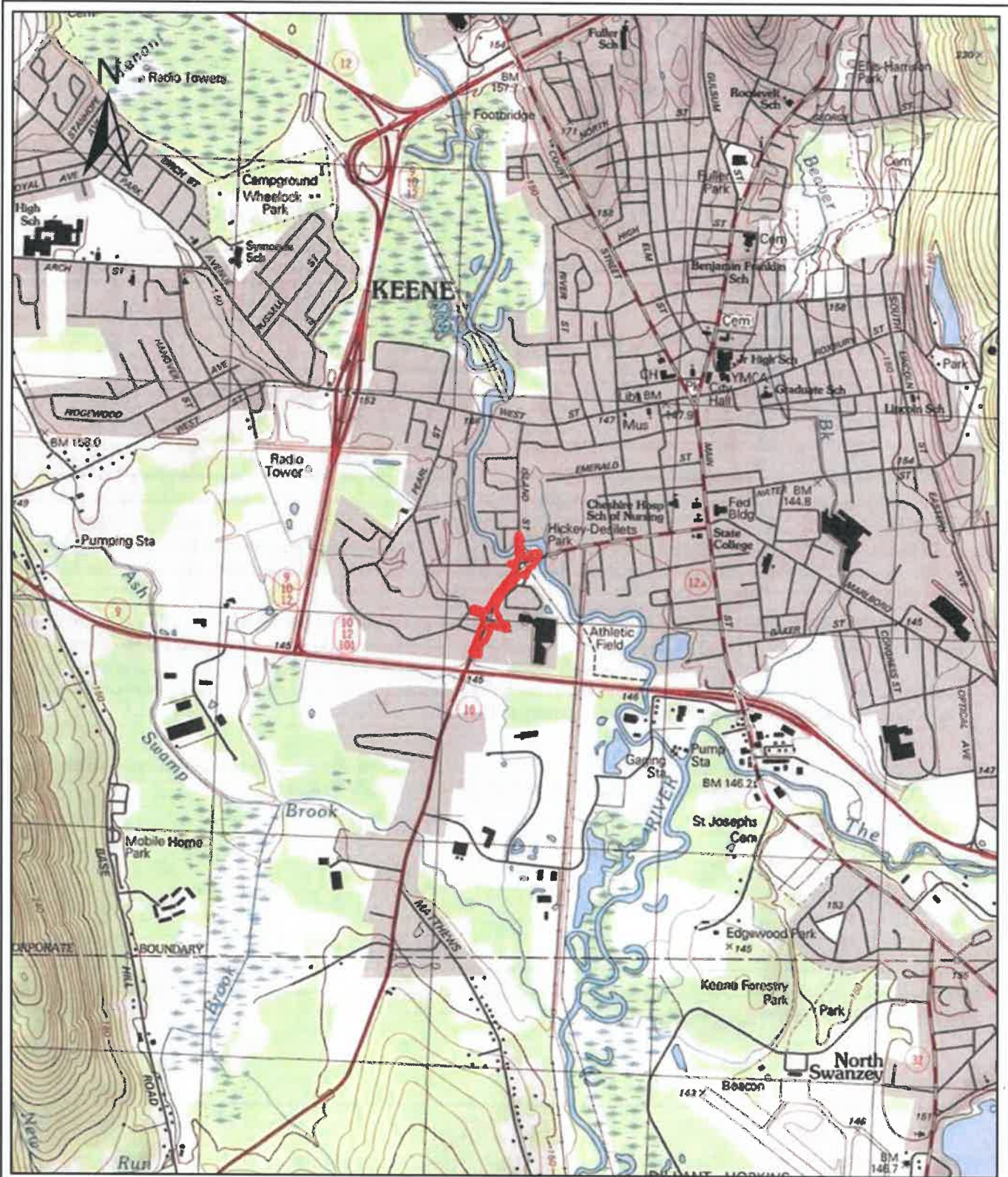
NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

### Clams

NAME	STATUS
Dwarf Wedgemussel <i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/784">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/784</a>	Endangered

### Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



 Project Location



WINCHESTER STREET RECONSTRUCTION  
CITY OF KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

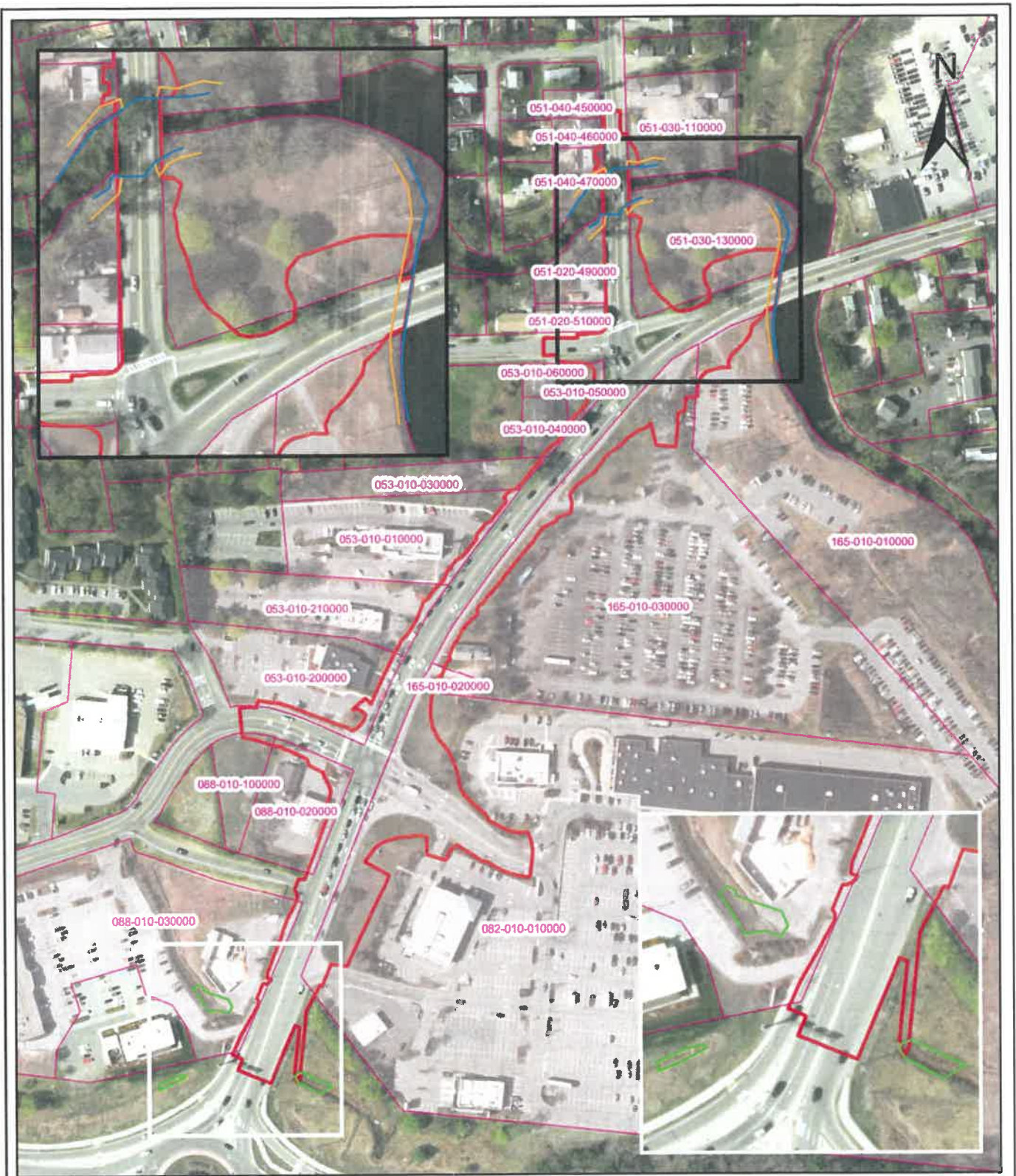
## USGS LOCATION MAP

SCALE:  
1 inch = 2,000 feet

DATE:  
FEBRUARY 2020

FIGURE:  
1

 McFarland Johnson



- Project Location
- Delineated Wetlands
- Delineated Ordinary High Water (OHW)
- Delineated Top of Bank (TOB)
- Tax Parcels
- Project Abutters



**WINCHESTER STREET RECONSTRUCTION  
CITY OF KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**TAX MAP**

SCALE:  
1 inch = 250 feet

DATE:  
FEBRUARY 2020

FIGURE:  
2





Photo 1 – Island Street Bridge (127/068) Facing North (5/15/2019)



Photo 2- Northern Bridge Abutment and Adjacent Retaining Wall (5/15/2019)

IMPACT LOCATION F





Photo 3 – Ashuelot River and Southern Bridge Abutment Facing Southwest (5/15/2019)

IMPACT LOCATION E



Photo 4 – Island Street Bridge Facing South (5/15/2019)



Photo 5 – Retaining Wall in Northwest Bridge Quadrant (5/15/2019)

IMPACT LOCATION C



Photo 6 – Retaining Wall in Southwest Bridge Quadrant (5/15/2019)

IMPACT LOCATION D



Photo 7 – Ashuelot River from Island Street Bridge Facing Upstream (Southwest) (5/15/2019)



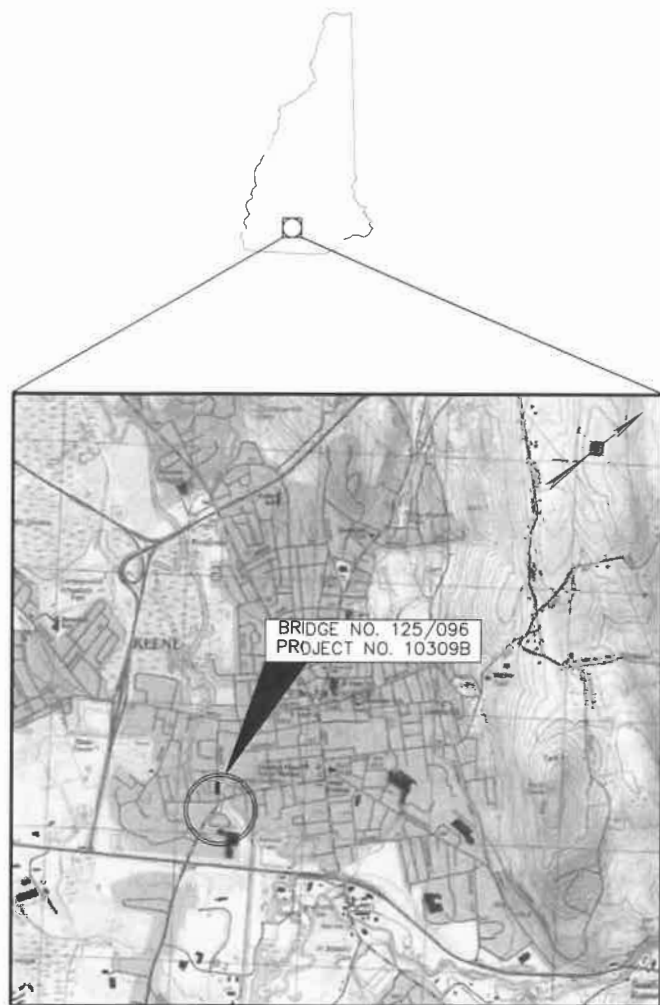
Photo 8 – PEM1Ed Wetland Drainage Inlet (6/30/2016)

**IMPACT LOCATION A**

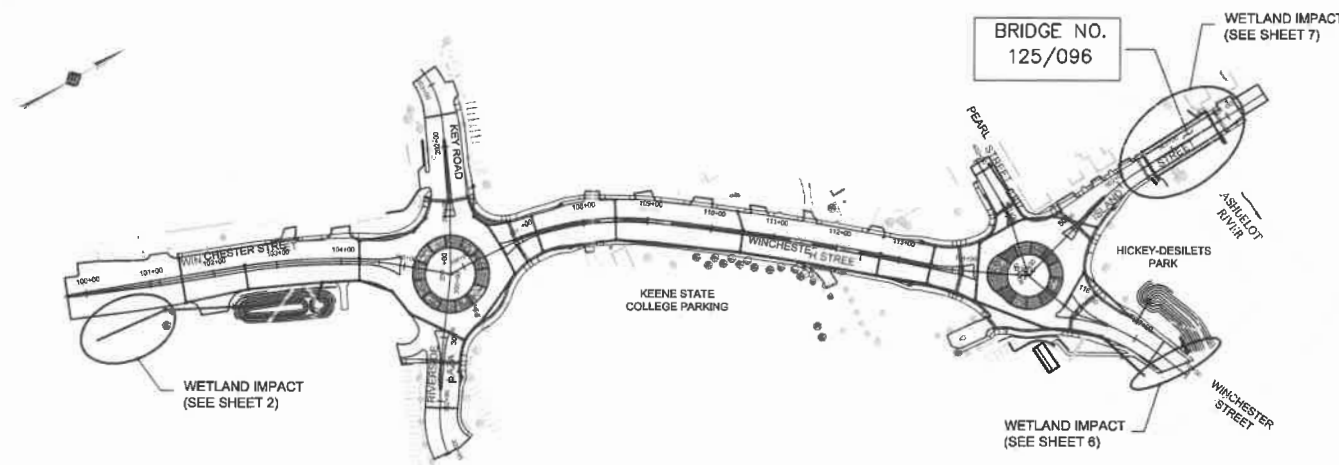
CITY OF KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**WETLAND IMPACT PLANS**  
**WINCHESTER STREET IMPROVEMENTS**  
 STATE PROJECT NO. 10309B  
 ISLAND STREET BRIDGE OVER ASHUELOT RIVER  
 BRIDGE NO. 125/096

DESIGN DATA WINCHESTER STREET	
AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC 2013	28,000
AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC 2033	34,000
PERCENT OF TRUCKS	2%
DESIGN SPEED	30 MPH
LENGTH OF PROJECT	0.33 MILES

INDEX OF SHEETS	
SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	TITLE SHEET
2-3	STANDARD LEGEND AND SYMBOLS
4-9	WETLAND IMPACT PLAN
10	GENERAL PLAN AND ELEVATION
11	BRIDGE PROFILE
12	EARTHWORK SECTIONS



LOCATION MAP



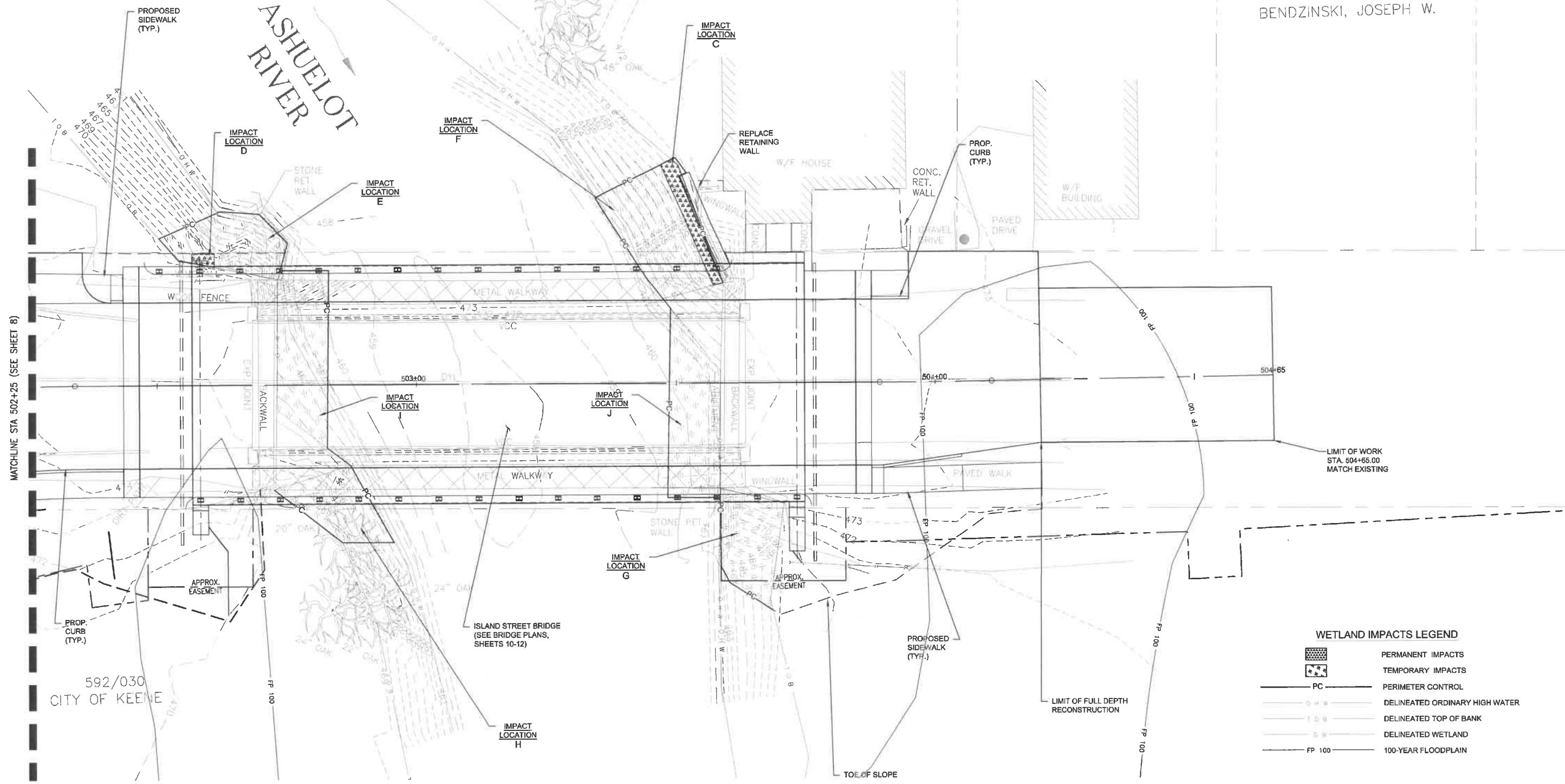
LAYOUT  
SCALE: 1" = 150'

592/025  
LORTIE, LEONARD M.

592/026  
BENDZINSKI, JOSEPH W.

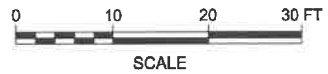


ASHUELOT RIVER



**WETLAND IMPACTS LEGEND**

	PERMANENT IMPACTS
	TEMPORARY IMPACTS
	PERIMETER CONTROL
	DELINEATED ORDINARY HIGH WATER
	DELINEATED TOP OF BANK
	DELINEATED WETLAND
	100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN



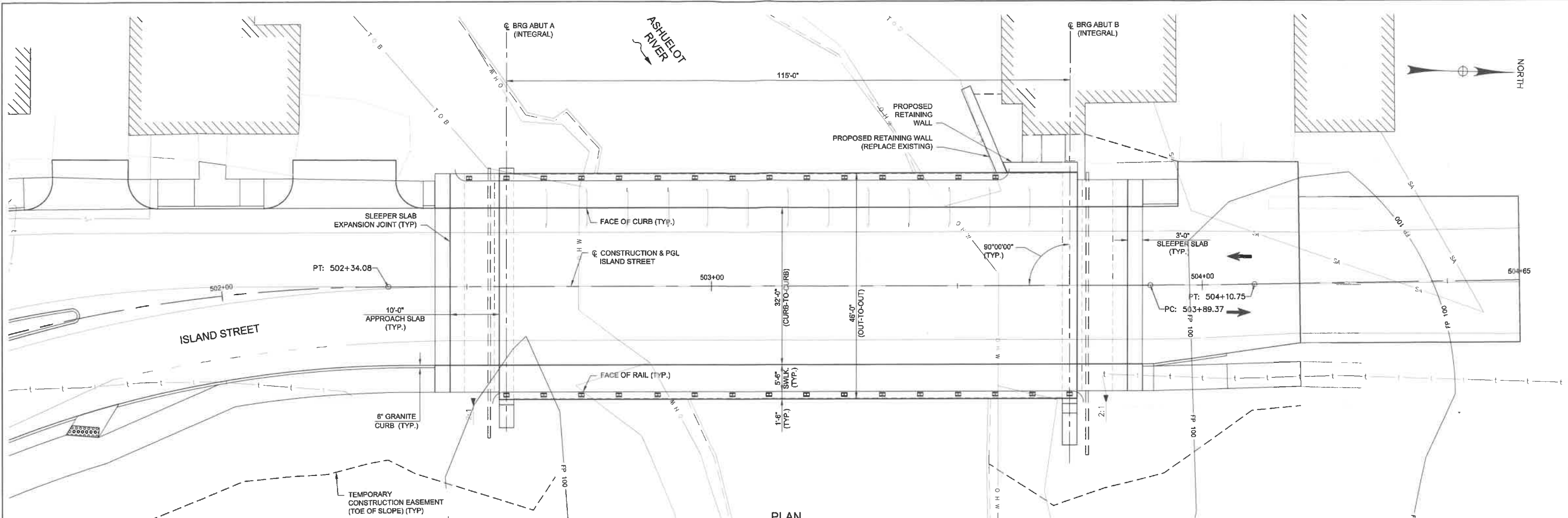
MATCHLINE STA 502+25 (SEE SHEET 8)

LIMIT OF WORK  
STA. 504+65.00  
MATCH EXISTING

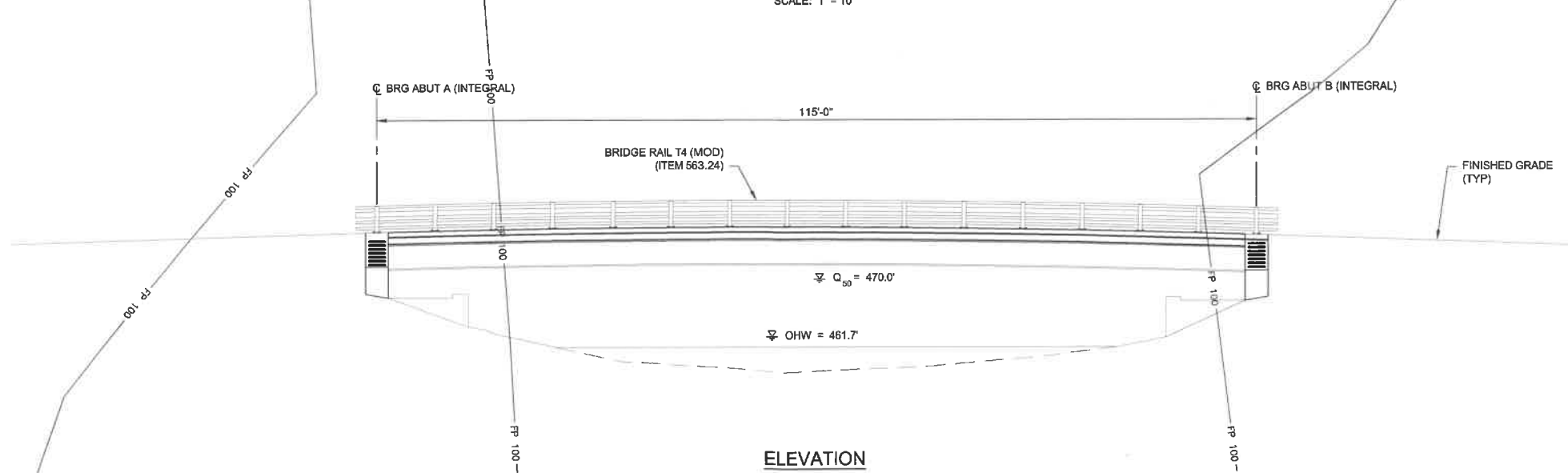
LIMIT OF FULL DEPTH  
RECONSTRUCTION

TOE OF SLOPE

592/030  
CITY OF KEENE



**PLAN**  
SCALE: 1" = 10'

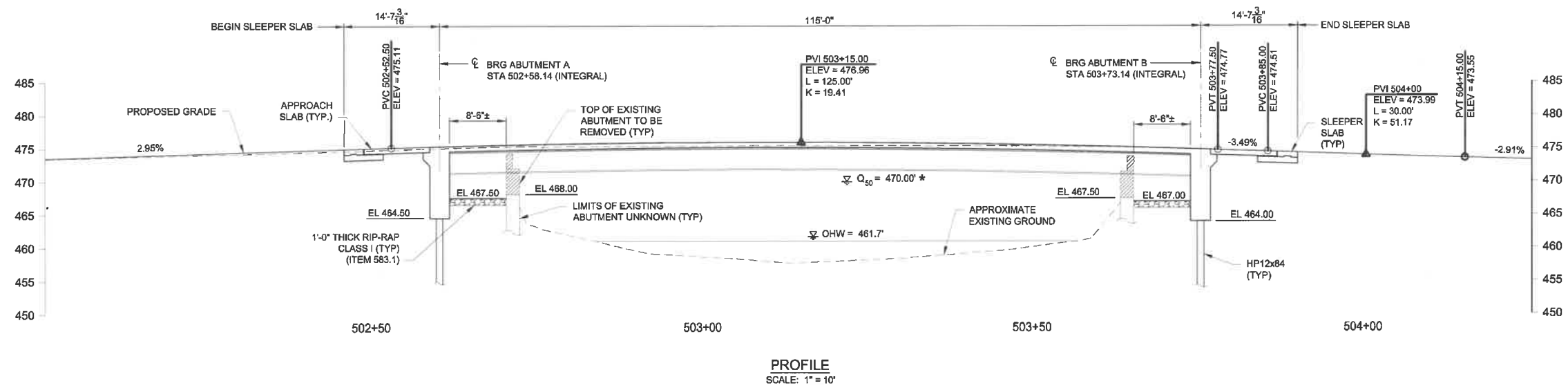


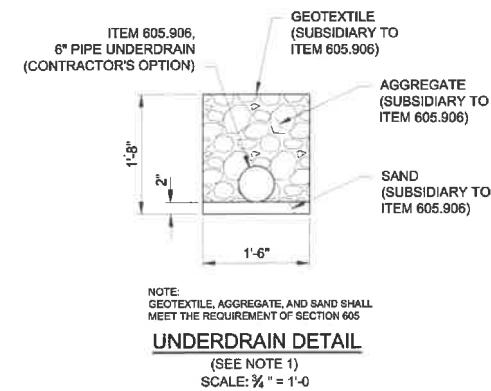
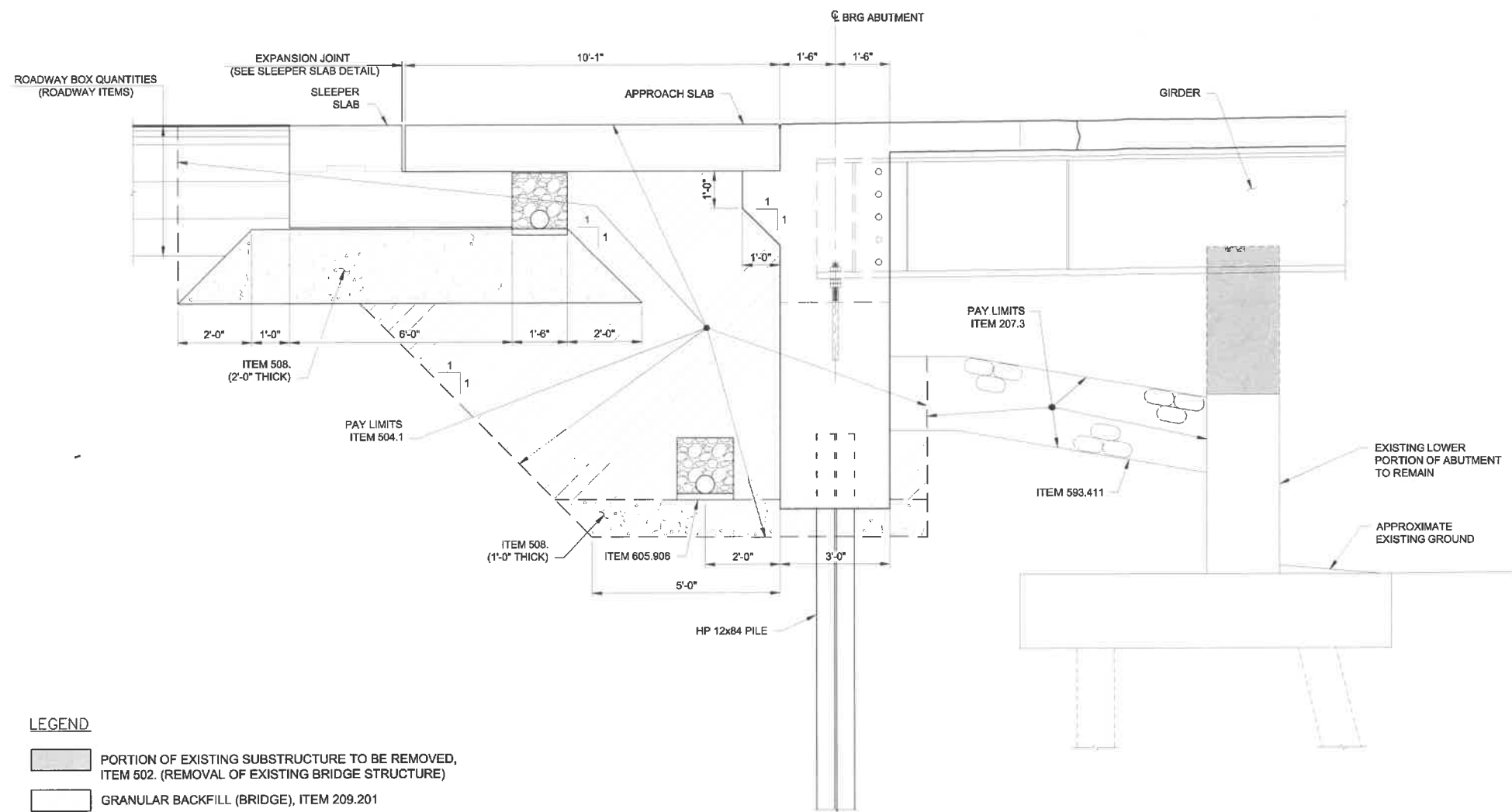
**ELEVATION**  
SCALE: 1" = 10'

**HYDRAULIC DATA \***

DRAINAGE AREA:	115 SQ. MILES
DESIGN FLOOD DISCHARGE:	$Q_{50} = 5,120$ CFS
DESIGN FLOOD ELEVATION:	470.0 FT
BRIDGE FULL WATERWAY OPENING PERPENDICULAR TO RIVER:	1150 SQ. FT.

DISCHARGE & ELEVATION OBTAINED FROM FEMA REPORT.





- LEGEND**
- PORTION OF EXISTING SUBSTRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED, ITEM 502. (REMOVAL OF EXISTING BRIDGE STRUCTURE)
  - GRANULAR BACKFILL (BRIDGE), ITEM 209.201
  - STRUCTURAL FILL, ITEM 508.

**TYPICAL ABUTMENT EARTHWORK SECTION**  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

- NOTES:**
1. SEE ABUTMENT MASONRY SHEETS FOR SLOPE AND TERMINATION OF UNDERDRAIN (SHEETS BR-11 AND BR-12).



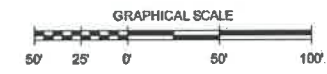
0320 SANBORN, L. TEAL, ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 15 BUTTRICK ROAD LONDONDERRY, NH 03053  
 TEL: 603-271-1100 FAX: 603-271-1101  
 WWW.SANBORNHEAD.COM  
 15 BUTTRICK ROAD LONDONDERRY, NH 03053  
 TEL: 603-271-1100 FAX: 603-271-1101  
 WWW.SANBORNHEAD.COM



- NOTE:**
1. THE BASE MAP WAS DRAWN FROM A PLAN ENTITLED "EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN OF LAND," PREPARED BY VHB OF BEDFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, DATED 12/14/16 WITH AN ORIGINAL SCALE OF 1" = 50'.
  2. THE PROPOSED INFORMATION IS FROM A PLAN ENTITLED "CONCEPTUAL SITE LAYOUT," PREPARED BY SANBORN HEAD & ASSOCIATES OF CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, DATED SEPTEMBER 2019.
  3. THE EXISTING CNG DECOMPRESSION SKID AND FENCED AREA ARE FROM A DRAWING SET ENTITLED "RECORD DRAWING SET - KEENE TEMPORARY CNG," PREPARED BY SANBORN HEAD & ASSOCIATES OF CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, DATED DECEMBER 28, 2018.

**LEGEND:**

B-1  
20' PROPOSED SOIL BORING LOCATION AND DESIGNATION WITH APPROXIMATE BORING DEPTH



**DRAFT** **PROGRESS PRINT**  
4/20/20

**SANBORN HEAD**

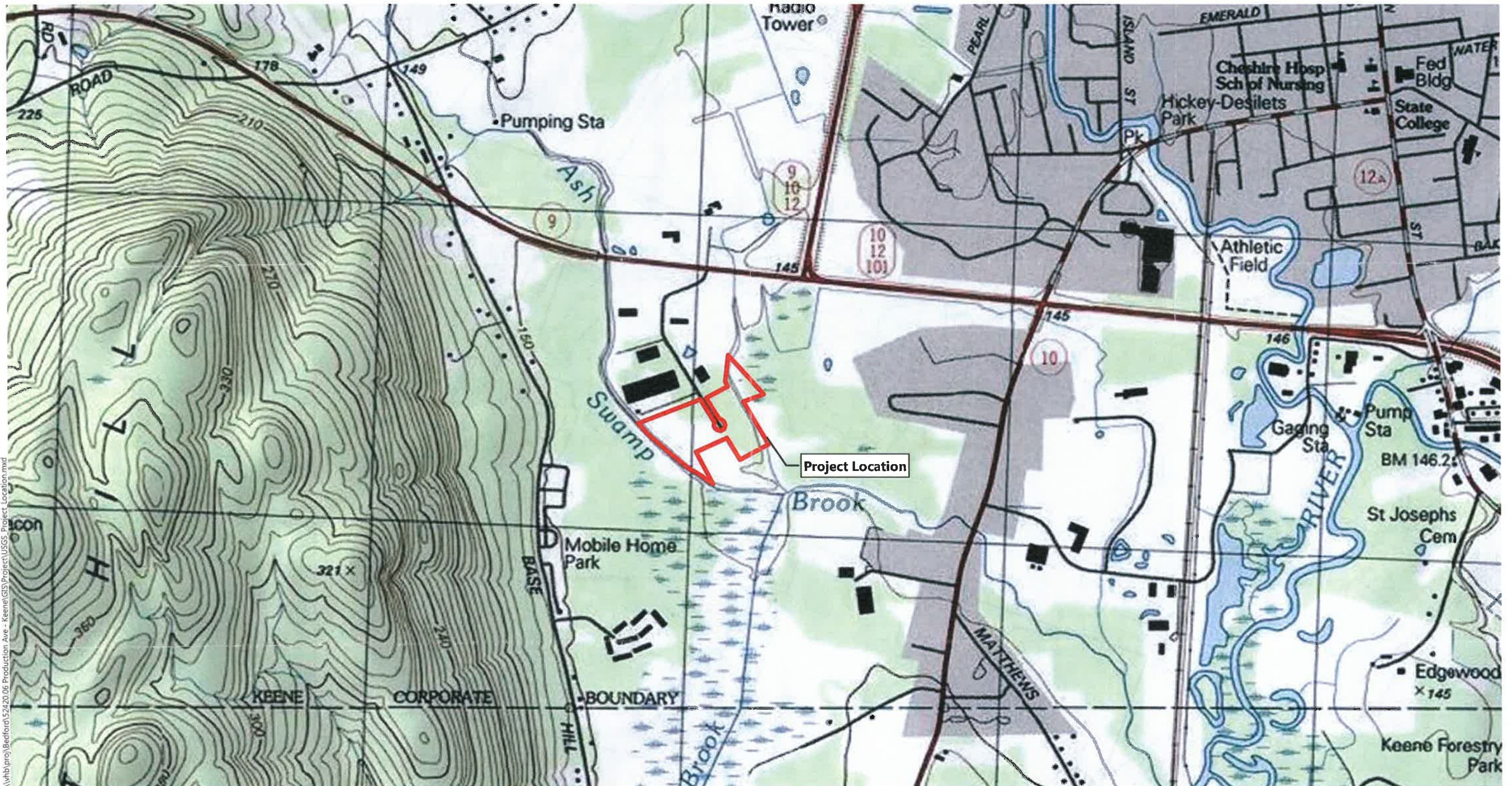
**Liberty Utilities**  
15 BUTTRICK ROAD  
LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03053

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

DRAWN BY: D. DOMBROWSKY  
 DESIGNED BY: L. TEAL  
 REVIEWED BY: L. TEAL  
 PROJECT MGR: L. DAMIANO  
 PIC: E. STEINHAUSER  
 DATE: APRIL 2020

**PRODUCTION AVENUE CNG/LNG PROJECT**  
**LIBERTY UTILITIES**  
 KEENE, NH  
**EXPLORATION LOCATION PLAN**

PROJECT NUMBER:  
**4155.02**  
 SHEET NUMBER:  
**1 OF 1**



\\vhb\proj\Bedford\152420.06 Production Ave - Keene\GIS\Project\USGS Project Location.mxd



Legend  
 Project Site



Proposed Natural Gas Facility  
Production Ave

Keene, New Hampshire

USGS Site Location Map

Source: USGS 7.5-min Quads (Keene); City of Keene Tax Maps; VHB

## Leona Langella

---

**From:** Rhett Lamb  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:26 PM  
**To:** Conservation Commission  
**Cc:** Leona Langella  
**Subject:** FW: West Hill issue

Hello Conservation Commission,

Bob King asked that I forward this email to you.

We are planning to hold a virtual ConCom meeting at the regular meeting time on Monday 5/18. Stay tuned for an agenda and details later this week.

Rhett

---

**From:** Bob King <bking31415@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 8:51 PM  
**To:** Rhett Lamb <wrhettlamb@gmail.com>; Rhett Lamb <rlamb@ci.keene.nh.us>  
**Subject:** West Hill issue

Hi Rhett, hope you are doing well in these challenging times! We've got a little situation on our West Hill property. Since we've owned the land, the ATV (four wheeler) use has slowly increased. Then recently it skyrocketed. One neighbor suggested it was because Pisgah has been closed to ATVs because of COVID. So the riders are exploring different, non-state owned lands. Well, they have found West Hill, big time.

Annie and I hiked up there on Sunday and began posting signs: No Motorized Vehicles, primarily. In a week or so, we will post another round of custom signs which welcome foot traffic but prohibit motorized vehicles as well as predator hunting. This is all in line with our MC easement.

We wanted the Keene Cons Comm to know about this in case people call in saying "those rotten landowners are trying to throw us off of public roads". We have a high level of confidence in which roads are public (class 6) and which are not. We were careful in posting only our roads, and we've posted some spots where the 4-wheelers have literally cut new roads through our property to avoid wet spots on the class 6 roads (though those spots are in Swanzey).

Will you please convey this info to the cons comm? I would have emailed directly, but sadly I don't seem to know anyone on the commission at this time, other than the mayor.

Here's a photo we took Sunday. A few years ago this was a grassy woods road.

best,

Bob



January 22, 2020

Mayor George Hansel

Keene City Council

3 Washington Street

Keene, NH 03431

Subject: Bee City USA Application

All,

A Bee City promotes a healthy and sustainable environment for pollinators. This is important because much of the food the citizens of Keene live on depends on the services of our insect and bird pollinators to set fruit or fertilize the seeds necessary for the next generation. I suggest that the City of Keene consider becoming a Bee City.

The Xerces Society has established criteria to become a Bee City. In broad terms the steps needed are to: Raise Pollinator Awareness, Enhance Habitat and Celebrate Success. The administrative steps include an application, assigning a liaison for Bee City USA within a city committee, working with Bee City USA on a draft resolution, approving the resolution, making the formal application and following up with annual reports on activities and successes.

Currently there are only two cities within New England that have been approved for the program: Burlington VT and Durham NH.

There is more detailed information on this program at [www.beecityusa.org](http://www.beecityusa.org). I would be happy to make a presentation explaining this program to any committee designated by the city to review this suggestion.

In the event that the city decided to move forward, I would also be honored to volunteer to be a Grassroots Leader on the effort and as an officer of the Monadnock Beekeepers' Association I could also be a liaison to our local pollinator stewards.

Should you have any questions please contact me as indicated below.

Respectfully,



John Therriault

76 Bradford Road

Phone: 903-0213



City of Keene, N.H.  
*Transmittal Form*

April 27, 2020

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council

**FROM:** Gary Boes

**THROUGH:** Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

**ITEM:** C.1.

**SUBJECT:** Gary Boes - Offer of Sale - 0 Old Gilsum Rd

---

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description

Communiation - Boes

**BACKGROUND:**

Mr. Boes is offering to sell property that he owns to the City at 0 Old Gilsum Road.

Gary . Boes

652 Old Homestead Hwy.

Swanzey ,N.H. 03446

4/27/2020

Hello, Andy Bohannon

Thank you for all your help with the Goose Pond Land sale. Would you be so kind to ask if the City or Park & Rec would have an interest in our other piece of land. The Location

0 OLD GILSUM RD.

Map/Lot # 218/ / 004/000 000/000

We are willing to sell it to them for \$4,000. it is assessed for \$4,500.

Please let me know your thoughts and you are more than welcome to call me at 352-3609.

Best regards, Gary A. Boes





# Proposed land acquisitions off Old Gilsum Rd -- Boes



Keene, NH

1 inch = 551 Feet



May 14, 2020



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.