



City of Keene, New Hampshire

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, July 20, 2020

4:30 PM

ZOOM

Commission Members

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

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

- This meeting will be conducted using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online by visiting www.zoom.us/join and enter the Meeting ID: **853 6707 9929**.*
- If you are unable to attend the meeting online, you may call the toll-free # (888) 475-4499 and enter Meeting ID: **853 6707 9929** to listen to the meeting.*
- More info on how to access this meeting is available on the Conservation Commission webpage at <https://ci.keene.nh.us/conservation-commission>
- If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call **603-757-0622** during the meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2020
3. Communication and Notifications
 - a. Thank you letter from ARLAC
4. Informational
 - a. Subcommittee reports
 - Outreach Subcommittee
 - Arm Fund Subcommittee
5. Discussion Items
 - a. Airport CIP Wildlife Fence project – Birding/Habitat viewing along Airport Rd
 - b. Land Use Code project update
 - c. Continued discussion – Invasive Species Management
6. New or Other Business
7. Adjournment – Next meeting date Monday, **August 17, 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
4 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
5 MEETING MINUTES
6

7 **Monday, June 15, 2020**

4:30 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Councilor Bobby Williams
Brian Reilly
Andrew Madison
Ken Bergman
Art Walker
Steven Bill, Alternate
Thomas Haynes, Alternate (non-voting)

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Community Development
Director/ACM
Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

8 **1) Call to Order**

9 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and read the executive order
10 authorizing a remote meeting: Emergency Order #12, issued by the Governor of the State of New
11 Hampshire pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04. Pursuant to this order, Mr. Lamb called roll.
12 All members were calling alone from their home addresses.
13

14 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2020**

15 Revision: line 249: replace "...adding to much work..." with "adding too much work..."
16

17 Mr. Bergman moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020, which Mr. Walker seconded, and
18 the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
19

20 **3) Communications & Notifications**

21 **a. Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee (ARLAC) Donation**

22 Mr. Lamb referenced a letter in the meeting's agenda packet from Barbara Skuly, Chairman of
23 the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee (ARLAC), who wrote to the Commission seeking
24 a \$125 donation, which they request annually from each town that their testing and monitoring
25 work benefits. The letter notes that in summer 2019 volunteers from Keene and other towns
26 logged more than 150 hours to accomplish aspects of the program. Mr. Lamb recalled that in
27 2019, the Conservation Commission chose to donate more than the \$125 requested to help
28 ARLAC purchase necessary equipment. The Commission also chose to make that more
29 substantial gift in 2019 because funds remained in the Commission's budget that would have
30 been returned to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Annually, City
31 Council allocates \$1,500 to the Commission's budget and the remainder of that budget at the end
32 of the fiscal year returns to the General Fund; it does not roll over to the Commission's next
33 fiscal year budget. As of the date of this meeting, \$1,500 remained in the Commission's budget.
34 With two weeks left, the Commission had made no expenditures this fiscal year.
35

36 Mr. Bergman moved for the Conservation Commission to donate \$125 to ARLAC, which
37 Mr. Madison seconded.

38 Mr. Bergman said that \$125 is a tremendous bargain and that the City gains so much for it.
39 Mr. Lamb said that like last year, funds remain in the budget and the Commission could choose
40 to donate more to ARLAC. The Chairman agreed with Mr. Bergman that the donation is a
41 bargain and he thought the Commission should donate more. Mr. Bill was also in favor and
42 suggested \$200. Mr. Madison supported the increase also if those funds will not be available for
43 Commission use after July 1. As a former ARLAC volunteer, Mr. Madison agreed that their
44 services provide important data to the State and local municipalities and so donations are a wise
45 Commission investment. Ms. Clark suggested \$500. In response to Mr. Bergman and
46 Mr. Madison, the Chairman and Mr. Lamb agreed that there should be no outstanding
47 encumbrances that the Commission should need these extra funds for by the end of the fiscal
48 year, even with the potential \$900 Membership dues for the next agenda item. The Chairman
49 added that while the Commission needs to steward well the taxpayers' money, he thought this
50 was a good use. Mr. Reilly agreed that \$500 was a reasonable investment for the return.
51 Mr. Walker stated that if only two weeks remained to spend the money he supported spending
52 the funds and recommended a higher contribution as well. Because Vice Chair Clark was
53 unaware of any expenses in the next two weeks for Japanese knotweed management in the
54 potential ARM Fund fill removal project, Mr. Bill supported a higher donation also. The
55 Chairman said that if the Commission made the full \$900 donation requested in the next agenda
56 item, that \$600 would remain that could be donated to ARLAC. All Commission members
57 agreed with a \$600 donation, knowing that ARLAC would spend it well and that it is still a
58 bargain.

59

60 Mr. Bergman withdrew his motion and Mr. Madison withdrew his second.

61

62 Mr. Bergman moved for the Conservation Commission to donate \$600 to the Ashuelot River
63 Local Advisory Committee, which Mr. Madison seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous
64 roll call vote.

65

66 **b. NH Association of Conservation Commissions Renewal**

67 Mr. Lamb referenced a letter in the meeting's agenda packet from Barbara Richter, Executive
68 Director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (ACC), with the annual \$900
69 request, which they refer to as membership dues. Mr. Lamb said these dues are not a flat rate and
70 are based on population. Keene's rate has been \$900 for some time. Last year, the Commission
71 elected to donate less; he thought \$300 or \$350. The Chairman said that he wanted the
72 Commission to use the NH ACC resource better because they have many smart people doing
73 things that this Commission is trying to accomplish, and this group should lean on NHACC's
74 experience/expertise. He added that the letter references NHACC's representation in the State
75 Legislature and he has seen them at those meetings having a positive impact, which he said the
76 Commission should support whether the matters effect Keene directly.

77

78 Vice Chair Clark moved for the Conservation Commission to donate \$900 to the New
79 Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, which Mr. Walker seconded, and the
80 motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

81

82 **4) Informational**

83 **a. Roxbury Street Bridge over Beaver Brook – Commencement of Work**

84 Mr. Lamb referenced a letter in the meeting packet from the City’s Engineering Division
85 notifying the Commission of the commencement of work on the Roxbury Street Bridge over
86 Beaver Brook. This notification is required because the Commission reviewed and commented
87 on the project plans through both Wetlands and Non-Specific Site Permits and recommended
88 that the permits move forward.

89
90 **b. Subcommittee Reports**

91 **i. Outreach Subcommittee**

92 Work is halted due to Covid-19.

93
94 **ii. ARM Fund Subcommittee**

95 Vice Chair Clark referenced the last meeting’s discussion of applying for ARM funds to remove
96 fill in an area off North Lincoln Street and said that she completed the preproposal, which City
97 staff submitted. However, the application had to be withdrawn at the last minute when
98 Hydrogeologist, Steve Brackett, recommended not removing the contaminated fill. The Vice
99 Chair said that her recollection from 2008 about the degree of contamination was inaccurate. The
100 Chairman said it was unfortunate and upsetting to withdraw the application but he thanked Vice
101 Chair Clark for her extensive work despite the project not coming to fruition. The Vice Chair
102 thought there were still potential options to remove the Japanese knotweed at that location
103 because Mr. Brackett said it is okay to disturb top layers of the fill to treat the knotweed with
104 best management practices.

105
106 Mr. Bill asked what contaminants are in the fill and whether the fill has been monitored for
107 leaching into the wetlands. Mr. Lamb said that he recently reviewed Mr. Brackett’s 2008 report,
108 which describes “urban fill” comprised of ash and residue from burning coal that is suspected to
109 have come from the B&M Railroad. Mr. Lamb said that the best management practice is to leave
110 the fill in place, which poses no leaching threats or human exposure to hazardous chemicals. To
111 remove, treat, and dispose of the fill safely would require extensive/expensive efforts. While not
112 necessarily cost prohibitive, the Chairman said that ARM funds in this watershed are limited and
113 it would have been problematic to go far over budget after project commencement.

114
115 Mr. Bergman asked whether the nature of the contamination or the location within the fill
116 warrants posted signage. Though not an expert in the field, Mr. Lamb thought that if such a
117 degree of contamination existed when the City purchased the property then signs would have
118 been posted. To his knowledge, the contamination is covered with clean fill and so there is no
119 opportunity for human exposure.

120
121 Mr. Bill asked if the knotweed roots are deep enough to penetrate and bring contaminants to the
122 surface and he questioned whether bioremediation would be warranted in the future.

123 Mr. Madison said it was unlikely that knotweed would penetrate that sort of fill and bring
124 contaminants to the surface. Mr. Madison explained the urban fill from a railroad would be likely
125 comprised mainly of creosote that stays attached to its surface until dug up and disturbed, for
126 which clean-up costs can run in the six figures. He said that the knotweed at this location might
127 actually stabilize soil above the fill.

129 **5) Discussion Items**

130 **a. Bee City USA – Continued Discussion – Mr. John Therriault**

131 Chair Von Plinsky discussed how to move this initiative forward with Councilor Williams and
132 John Therriault, who was calling alone from his home address. Councilor Williams said that
133 there was much discussion at the last meeting of what a Bee City *could* do but not what it *would*
134 do specifically. Before defending the idea to City Council, the Councilor wanted to understand
135 better the types of projects, the workload for this Commission, and the support that would be
136 needed from City staff.

137

138 Mr. Therriault said that being a Bee City has three minimal annual requirements: 1) one project
139 enhancing pollinator habitat such as improving a City park with pollinator forage; 2) one
140 educational event that could be as simple as a school field trip to the observation hive at
141 Stonewall Farm; and 3) review City policies and procedures to ensure pollinator friendliness
142 such as during Parks Department lawn management. He said it is not a constant activity but
143 rather raising awareness and improving pollinator habitat incrementally.

144

145 Councilor Williams asked how the three elements – education, habitat building, and policy –
146 would be determined. Would this Commission as an entity be responsible for organizing and
147 implementing the education and habitat aspects, or would the Commission identify and sponsor
148 such projects implemented by non-profit organizations, for example? Councilor Williams was
149 concerned about the Commission’s responsibility in identifying projects and ensuring they are
150 executed to meet these Bee City requirements. Regarding the task to review policies and
151 procedures, Councilor Williams said it is a great idea but he was unsure whether a plan/timeline
152 would be needed for it to be clear to Council that the City, and specifically this Commission,
153 would be reviewing those policies. Policy changes require public comment and Council support.

154

155 Mr. Walker asked for examples of specific projects from the Bee Cities of Burlington, VT and
156 Durham, NH. Mr. Therriault could not provide examples from those cities because neither had
157 submitted their 2019 annual reports on time. Other 2019 reports from cities in the south describe
158 enhancing park areas and rehabilitating roundabouts with pollinator gardens. In Keene, he
159 posited that small portions of lands overseen by the Conservation Commission could be
160 improved with pollinator habitat and developed as educational areas. If Council approved
161 becoming a Bee City, Mr. Therriault said it simply means that anytime the Commission
162 considers an action, that they question whether it is pollinator friendly on a case-by-case basis.
163 Mr. Therriault had not yet heard from the Mayor about joining the Conservation Commission as
164 an alternate member to act as the Bee City point-of-contact.

165

166 Mr. Bill asked if the Commission would be obligated to run education events or to foster
167 someone else doing so. Mr. Therriault said that he leads events routinely at local schools so it
168 would be no additional work for him.

169

170 Mr. Bergman said that Peter Hansel and Laura Andrews in west Keene received a grant from the
171 Cheshire County Conservation District for pollinator gardens. He recalled that Mr. Therriault
172 offered to pay the annual \$200 Bee City USA fee and he asked whether that is possible in City
173 policies. Mr. Lamb said that could occur through the donation process to City Council, however,
174 he was unaware of instances of donations directly to a specific use, but he was unsure why it
175 could not occur.

176 Mr. Madison wondered whether some requirements like education must be implemented by the
177 City or if non-profit support could be leveraged, such as Stonewall Farm or the Cheshire County
178 Conservation District. Mr. Therriault said yes, that the role as Bee City is more as a facilitator.

179
180 If Keene were a Bee City and wanted to improve pollinator habitat in a roundabout, for example,
181 Mr. Reilly asked who would pay for that work. Mr. Therriault said that some roundabouts are
182 already sponsored by businesses or groups that might be amenable to making those
183 improvements, which require minimal input. For example, effective pollinator patches only
184 require a minimum 4'x4' area to attract most pollinators.

185
186 Mr. Bergman said that eventually it would be important to assess the effectiveness of a project
187 like this to determine whether pollinator populations were improved by such efforts.

188 Mr. Therriault said that would be a good opportunity to collaborate with the University of New
189 Hampshire, which already conducts pollinator studies; Mr. Bergman said they might have ideas
190 about optimal planting as well.

191
192 Mr. Bill suggested that the Ashuelot River Park would be a good place for pollinator projects
193 because there are already many sponsored garden beds there.

194
195 The Chairman said it sounded more like a matter of coordination without hitting the City's
196 budget.

197
198 Councilor Williams asked who would be responsible for creating the annual report.

199 Mr. Therriault assumed that he would as the Commission's Bee City point-of-contact. The
200 Chairman considered the long-term, when Mr. Therriault's time on the Commission ends, and
201 said that it would be a general responsibility of the Commission and whoever takes his place.
202 Mr. Therriault said it is not actually writing a report but answering nine-computer screens of
203 questions that generate a report, which in his experience takes about one hour of work. Councilor
204 Williams does not only want a report submitted to Bee City but also made available so that the
205 citizens of Keene know about this work; he thought the whole Commission should have input on
206 the responses before a report is final.

207
208 Councilor Williams was comfortable moving this matter back to the Municipal Services,
209 Facilities, & Infrastructure Committee with comments from these meetings' minutes for Council
210 review. The Chair, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Therriault could help participate in those conversations.

211
212 Chair Von Plinsky moved to recommend that the City Council approve a resolution to become a
213 "Bee City USA," which Mr. Bill seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

214
215 **b. Public Education & City Management of Invasive Species**

216 Councilor Williams presented information about the terrestrial invasive plant species found in
217 Keene. He said he was not an expert but took part in a two-day University of NH Extension
218 course on NH invasive plants, which he encouraged others to attend as well. Councilor Williams
219 summarized and/or showed photos of the following invasive plants:

- 220 ▪ Garlic mustard can be pulled from the ground but it grows back a lot. Some City properties
221 are invaded extensively by this plant.
- 222 ▪ Japanese barberry is a common decorative yard plant that escapes into the woods.
- 223 ▪ Burning bush grows into thickets on forest floors blocking native plants that grow there.

- 224 ▪ Vinca minor is a common decorative yard plant with blue flowers that also spreads into
- 225 forests, like those at Robin Hood Park.
- 226 ▪ Japanese knotweed grows near homes and can disrupt foundations effecting property values.
- 227 It might be prudent for the City to assess whether property taxes are being lost due to land
- 228 eaten by knotweed. It also blocks native plants from growing.
- 229 ▪ Callery pear is a decorative tree, also known as the Bradford pear and other names, that was
- 230 planted as a street tree because it was believed to be sterile. Today, the tree is hybridizing
- 231 with other pear species into a second generation of pear trees that are mostly unattractive
- 232 scrub that develop into a thicket.
- 233 ▪ Black swallow-wort
- 234 ▪ Glossy buckthorn
- 235 ▪ Common buckthorn
- 236 ▪ Oriental bittersweet
- 237 ▪ Tree of paradise
- 238 ▪ Norway maple

239

240 Councilor Williams identified another invasive species, Japanese stilt grass, which is spreading

241 from the southern US and once in an area it carpets the forest floor. The Councilor said it would

242 be important to ensure it does not enter the Keene ecosystem.

243

244 Councilor Williams continued presenting his ideas for invasive species management in the City:

- 245 1. Educate and enlist residents in the fight to contain invasive plant species.
 - 246 a. Authorization for volunteers to remove invasive plants on City property.
 - 247 b. Outreach to property owners with invasive plant problems.
- 248 2. Review list of permitted street trees.
 - 249 a. No more decorative pears. Find native alternatives.
 - 250 b. Establish a pear tree replacement program. Work with local nurseries.
- 251 3. Combat Japanese knotweed.
 - 252 a. Identify priority areas.
 - 253 b. Removal methods:
 - 254 i. Physical
 - 255 ii. Pesticide
 - 256 iii. Cover with landscape fabric and mulch, and then wait five years
 - 257 iv. Identify competing plants

258

259 Mr. Bergman applauded Councilor Williams for the presentation, and the energy and motivation

260 behind his ideas. He mentioned the aquatic purple loosestrife as well and Councilor Williams

261 recalled that this conversation focused on terrestrial plants, as managing aquatic invasives is

262 much more complex.

263

264 Mr. Madison questioned whether Councilor Williams initiated this conversation with City staff

265 in the Departments of Public Works and Parks, Recreation, & Facilities to understand any

266 current City actions to combat invasives. The Councilor said he spoke with some staff and that

267 he knew of past attempts with pesticides, but he was unaware of anything else the City is doing

268 programmatically to manage invasives. Mr. Lamb said that there is no overall City strategy for

269 invasive species removal. However, the Keene Planning Board approves site plans for large

270 residential and commercial development projects; developers are responsible for proving that

271 landscaping plans exclude NH banned invasive species. Mr. Lamb continued that the latest

272 conversation about callery pears is interesting because the City relied on them downtown in the

273 past. However, with the revelation of ash tree infestations by the emerald ash borer insect/larvae,
274 there would be an opportunity to replace those ash trees that are pending removal downtown
275 with native species that are also resilient enough to handle high road salt use.
276

277 Mr. Bergman referenced small/medium cities in the western US that are prone to invasives and
278 have compiled complete city tree inventories and asked if there is something similar in Keene for
279 City streets and rights-of-way. Mr. Lamb said no but the Keene State College geography
280 program recently did some inventory of urban trees though he did not think it was
281 comprehensive. Mr. Bergman recalled an inventory on the Keene State College campus but he
282 did not think it had been updated in some time.
283

284 Andy Bohannon, the Director of Parks, Recreation, & Facilities thanked Councilor Williams and
285 Mr. Bergman for emailing him on this topic. He recalled having some pear trees planted around
286 the Recreation Center two years ago because of their flowering capacity and ability to enhance
287 the park in early spring when there are many City events. He also planted the pears in response
288 to unsuccessful liberty elms in various City parks. Regarding tree inventories, Mr. Bohannon
289 noted that similar to the Keene State College campus, Bartlett Tree Service conducted an
290 extensive inventory of trees in the Ashuelot River Park and he offered to share that data with the
291 Commission. The park is comprised of more than 100 tree species valuing over \$300,000.
292

293 Regarding invasive species management at City parks and facilities, Mr. Bohannon said that
294 there had been some small projects. He noted that students from the Conway School for
295 Landscape Design are developing a master plan for the Ashuelot River Park and part of that plan
296 would be to remove knotweed along the river; he would share the plan with the Commission
297 when available. He added that Parks and Recreation have been understaffed for some time,
298 hindering the ability to manage invasives at the various locations he is aware of throughout the
299 City. Insufficient funds and labor have hindered management and so the City would rely on
300 grants or other opportunities to take action. He said that staff is open to those opportunities
301 because part of the City's mission statement is being good stewards of the environment. There
302 was a program some years ago to make Fuller Park and Ashuelot River Park chemical free,
303 which he would like to expand. Regarding pollinators, he said there is no longer someone to hay
304 an area of Monadnock View Cemetery, which could be converted well into a pollinator
305 wildflower area. He wanted the Commission to know he is always open to these ideas but the
306 City needs more resources.
307

308 Mr. Lamb noted that an aspect of invasive species management is the use of herbicides and he
309 asked if the City has a license to apply those chemicals. Mr. Bohannon said yes, there are three
310 staff members – Chuck Sweeney, Gary Croteau, & Tim Garland – licensed to use chemicals
311 according to best management practices.
312

313 Chair Von Plinsky liked the idea of educating citizens and making it easier for them to
314 participate in invasive species control on City land, but he asked what such a program would
315 look like. Mr. Lamb said that was a great question and he thought it could parallel similar
316 volunteer activities improving park trail systems. Mr. Bohannon agreed and cited historic
317 volunteer efforts on the Jonathan Daniels Trail, though he noted that depending on the level of
318 effort, background checks or other agreements could be needed. Mr. Lamb said there has also
319 been a long-term relationship with organizations like Home Depot, whose employees make
320 improvements at the Recreation Center Park. Mr. Lamb would look into the likelihood of a
321 program that gives people free reign to take actions on City land. The Chairman said that Keene

322 is a great walking community and he thought that there could be high success with trained
323 volunteers to manage these species, with minimal staff commitment. Mr. Bill added that upon
324 return to campus, Keene State College also has many volunteer days of service to contribute. He
325 asked if volunteers could apply chemicals and Mr. Lamb replied no. Mr. Lamb added that Keene
326 State College students have participated for many years in a Japanese knotweed-monitoring
327 program at the Woodland Cemetery. Mr. Bergman thought of the knotweed near Ladies
328 Wildwood Park that seemed to him would require an industrial scale treatment and removal
329 process with external funding. Mr. Lamb agreed that a project of that magnitude would require a
330 larger program. Still, Mr. Bergman said that the next few years would be the best time for the
331 treatment before the area grows further.

332
333 This matter would be agendized in July, providing staff more time to research.

334

335 **6) New or Other Business – Land Development Code Update**

336 Mr. Lamb noted that the Commission would hear a presentation in July or August from the
337 Community Development Department on the Land Use Code Update, a portion of which on
338 surface water relates to this Commission.

339

340 Mr. Bergman encouraged a conversation with the new Airport Manager about the proposed fence
341 and wildlife viewing. Mr. Lamb would invite the Airport Manager to an upcoming meeting.

342

343 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date: Monday, July 20, 2020**

344

345 There being no further business, The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.

346

347 Respectfully submitted by,

348 Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

349 June 21, 2020

350

351 Reviewed by Rhett Lamb, Assistant City Manager, Community Development Director

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale



July 3, 2020

Keene Conservation Commission
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Conservation Commissioners:

Thank for your generous contribution of \$600.00 in support of the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee's annual water quality monitoring program. It is gratifying to know you hold important the work of the Ashuelot River LAC and your ongoing and generous support is gratefully appreciated. The additional funds help to keep our equipment current and optimally functional.

It is your backing, along with the help of dedicated volunteers, which enables us to complete a regular assessment including E. coli of the length of the Ashuelot River.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Barbara Skuly, Chairman
Ashuelot River LAC

2021 - 2027 Capital Project Funding Request Airport



GENERAL PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Perimeter Fence

Project Number: TBD

Physical Location: Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport

Project Status: Ongoing CIP

Federal / State Regulation or Law: N/A

Master Plan (CMP) Focus Area: Strong Citizenship and Proactive Leadership

CMP Vision/Strategy: Infrastructure

V.O.I.C.E: Continually Assess Facilities and Infrastructure

Departmental Objective: To reduce the potential for accidents involving wildlife, increasing runways safety



PROJECT DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION

This project is intended to add perimeter fencing to fully enclose the entire airport. Currently, only the northern, eastern, and partial southern boundaries are fenced. The presence of wildlife on the runways creates the most significant safety issues because of the unexpected behavior of animals when startled. Wildlife enters the safety zones of the runways daily, and staff must make multiple wildlife inspections checking for deer, moose, turtles, fox, and coyote. In 2016 two deer on one of the runways caused an airplane to crash. The plane was destroyed, and over \$15,000 of damage was done to the airport equipment and landing lights. The funding for the fencing project will be covered by 90% federal, 5% state, and 5% City funds.

FINANCIAL PLAN & PROJECT SCHEDULE

	PRIOR YR	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	TOTAL
EXPENDITURES									
Design									0
Construction / Implementation						1,350,000			1,350,000
Property/Equip. Acquisition									0
Other									0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000
FUNDING									
Current Revenue						67,500			67,500
Capital Reserve									0
Debt Funded									0
Federal / State Grants						1,282,500			1,282,500
Other Sources									0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000