



City of Keene, New Hampshire

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, December 21, 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
John Therriault

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

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2020
3. Communication and Notifications
NH DES letter – November 25, 2020
4. Informational
 - a. Subcommittee reports
 - Outreach Subcommittee
 - Arm Fund Subcommittee
5. Discussion Items
 - a. Continued discussion – Invasive Species Management
 - b. Continued discussion – Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Plan
 - c. Update – Bee City designation
6. New or Other Business
2021 Calendar
7. Adjournment – Next meeting date Monday, **January 19, 2021**

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

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1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

8 **Monday, November 16, 2020**

4:00 PM

Remotely via Zoom

Members Present:

Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Kenneth Bergman
Art Walker
Andrew Madison
Thomas P. Haynes, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate
Councilor Robert Williams

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Assistant City
Manager/Community Development Director
Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant
Andrew Bohannon, Parks, Recreation, and
Facilities Director

Members Not Present:

Brian Reilly
John Therriault

9
10
11 **1) Call to Order**
12

13 Chair Von Plinsky read a prepared statement explaining how the Emergency Order #12, pursuant
14 to Executive Order #2020-04 issued by the Governor of New Hampshire, waives certain
15 provisions of RSA 91-A (which regulates the operation of public body meetings) during the
16 declared COVID-19 State of Emergency. He called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM. Roll call
17 was conducted. Chair Von Plinsky asked if anyone has heard from John Therriault. Mr. Lamb
18 and Ms. Marcou replied no.
19

20 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2020**
21

22 Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 21, 2020. Mr.
23 Bergman seconded the motion.
24

25 Mr. Bergman stated that he has a correction for page 4, line 151- it says something about him
26 referencing the Airport Director saying they might be able to put a fence outside the object-free
27 zone. What he was saying is that the Airport Director said they might be able to put a shorter
28 fence *within* the object-free zone. He continued that he thinks that is no longer true, but that is
29 what he said at the time.

30 Mr. Lamb stated that he wrote that edit down.

31

32 Chair Von Plinsky asked if anyone else had corrections for the minutes. Hearing none, he called
33 for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

34

35 **3) Communications and Notifications**

36

37 None.

38

39 **4) Informational**

40 **a. Subcommittee Reports**

41 **i. Outreach Subcommittee**

42

43 Ms. Clark stated that she and Ms. Marcou have been working on posts for the various media
44 outlets that the Conservation Commission can use within the City. She continued that she has
45 sent Ms. Marcou 6 or 8 posts to use. Mr. Lamb replied that those are appearing on the
46 Community Development Department's Facebook page. He continued that he looked tonight
47 and it looks really nice. The photos are great, and the text is wonderful. Ms. Marcou has broken
48 them into digestible pieces for the social media world. They really appreciate Ms. Clark and her
49 contributions. Chair Von Plinsky agreed.

50

51 **ii. ARM Fund Subcommittee**

52

53 Chair Von Plinsky stated that there is nothing to report because the subcommittee has not met.
54 He continued that they hope to start meeting regularly again after the holidays.

55

56 **5) Discussion Items**

57

58 **a. Continued Discussion – Invasive Species Management**

59

60 Chair Von Plinsky stated that he really enjoyed the fun and informative walk the Committee
61 went on last month. He thanked Ms. Clark. He continued that it is fun walking on different parts
62 of the rail trail but depressing to see all the invasive species out there. He asked for discussion
63 on the topic.

64

65 Mr. Bohannon stated that he was looking at the Facebook page – he will cross post the
66 Conservation Commission's content on the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department's page.
67 He continued that the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board has listed, in the new master plan,
68 initiatives to get aggressive on the invasive species. He continued that their plan was to do
69 several follow up programs/workshops in the spring with potentially Steve Robarge from the
70 County, and Ms. Clark. The spring would provide more time to plan and organize which would
71 be beneficial. It was a little rushed this past go-round but it worked out in the end. He believes
72 this work is really important, not only for the Ashuelot River Park but also Ladies Wildwood

73 Park. Mr. Bohannon stated that he follows another community on their social media site that is
74 doing what the Conservation Commission is looking for. He will find that information for the
75 Committee and share with them. Chair Von Plinsky thanked him.

76

77 Ms. Clark stated that there is quite a bit of water chestnut in the stream right before it gets to the
78 wetlands at the airport. Chair Von Plinsky asked what time of year would be best to identify
79 those budding species. He asked if it would be best in the March, or April months. Ms. Clark
80 asked for clarity on identifiers for these species with Chair Von Plinsky replying yes just in case
81 if the Committee would want to concentrate work in this area. Ms. Clark replied that April
82 would be better.

83

84 Councilor Williams thanked Ms. Clark for last month's outdoor meeting. He continued by
85 sharing a thought with respect to when in the spring to get active around invasive species
86 management again; he suggests addressing garlic mustard, which pops up early and is easy to
87 remove. This could be used as a good public education opportunity. Councilor Williams
88 mentioned the "The Garlic Mustard Challenge," which provides materials the Commission can
89 use to promote to the public. Garlic mustard is the easiest invasive species people can go after,
90 with simply pulling it up and it's gone. This species doesn't continuously grow back as others
91 which can be a struggle.

92

93 He continued that when he conceives of what invasive species projects to use to educate the
94 general public in Keene, he sees different tiers with garlic mustard on the low tier as it is easy for
95 untrained people to identify, pull and can be left on the side the road. There are smaller stands of
96 knotweed also in that category. At the other end there are very big projects that would take
97 significant amounts of funding, possibly pesticides, and large scale planning which the
98 Commission should consider though they would need to figure out funding and political support.
99 Their best bet would be to make sure that invasive species projects are integrated into other,
100 broader projects. For example, if they are redoing Russell Park; that is a good time to set aside
101 some budget and take care of the knotweed problem there.

102

103 Councilor Williams continued that then there is a big middle tier. One example is the buckthorn
104 growing in the cemetery. One spot of buckthorn he would love to get rid of is in the middle of
105 the cemetery and if they removed it they would probably want to put a shrub in. Councilor
106 Williams questioned what the process would be to see a project like that to completion. Ideally
107 someone from the City would look at projects such as this and would affirm the project. Or
108 alternatively, they would say they know buckthorn is a problem in this specified area and lay out
109 a plan for its removal and planting of other non-invasive plants. That kind of thing would
110 require another level of process and planning. His goal is to have, to the extent possible, the City
111 grease the skids and make that easy to do, or if something like that is happening, to get people to
112 participate.

113

114 He continued that one more thing to mention is the public education aspect. He wants to put out
115 the possibility of including the Library in some of this. Possibly they could have equipment to

116 be borrowed from the library, and they are great at distributing literature and promoting
117 programs and that sort of thing.

118
119 Andy Bohannon stated that Councilor Williams triggered some thoughts for him. He continued
120 that Staff tries to make things more efficient, instead of trying to create barriers to folks wanting
121 to do things with the City. In thinking about that, if the Commission wanted to target the any of
122 the cemeteries and if they are aware of any potential cost, Mr. Bohannon could probably present
123 the idea to the Trustees of Trust Funds. This avenue could provide the Commission with
124 potentially \$4,500-\$5,000. He continued stating projects such as this maybe an Eagle Scout
125 project or a general project for a neighborhood association to jump on board with. As projects
126 such as these, it is part of ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the cemeteries and providing these
127 projects for public participation may provide the Commission with funding from the Trustees.
128 Councilor Williams replied that that sounds good. Chair Von Plinsky agreed.

129
130 Mr. Bergman thanked Councilor Williams and Ms. Clark for their leadership in this initiative.
131 He continued that one thing that occurs to him is if they develop a vigilante force for getting rid
132 of invasive species like this, they want to make sure it is in appropriate places. They are talking
133 about targeting cemeteries, which is good. They want to be clear to not impinge on property
134 rights in a way that would alienate people and make them opposed to the Commission's efforts.
135 Also, it would be nice to have pamphlets about some of these invasive species, so if they see
136 these invasive on private property, they can give to property owners to raise their awareness.
137 Mr. Bergman continued that a few days after Ms. Clark's demonstrations on the rail bed, he
138 noticed on the other side of the bridge, there was clearing done on the State right-of-way north of
139 the rail bed. There are some ditches there and a lot of the landscape behind the fringe along the
140 bank that Ms. Clark was pointing out has been cleared away in the lowland areas to the north up
141 to West St. It would be interesting to see if the State did this and to see if invasive species move
142 into this newly-cleared land that was mowed down to a stubble. He does not know who did that
143 or why or when it happened, but it was a day or two after the Commission was there so it is
144 interesting timing and maybe more than a coincidence.

145
146 Chair Von Plinsky stated that he likes the idea of focusing on an area, like a cemetery or
147 somewhere they are sure is not private property. He continued that it is a good place to begin
148 and gain community involvement. He also stated he would like to look at The Garlic Mustard
149 Challenge, which sounds oddly fun.

150
151 Mr. Bill asked if maybe the Library could have a set of reference materials, the actual physical
152 specimens that people could come in and look at to see if that is what they have on their
153 property. He continued that his other thought is to get local teachers and students involved. The
154 high school has an ecology club who may be looking for projects. Chair Von Plinsky replied
155 yes, and that would lend itself to being in an enclosed area to start with. Mr. Bill replied yes,
156 even at the high school there are possibilities.

157

158 Ms. Clark stated that there are lots of terrific ideas. She continued that it would not be too hard
159 to make mounts of these invasive species and have them in placards that people can view at the
160 Library. Secondly, she knows a very reputable firm that handles invasive species and if Mr.
161 Bohannon or anyone else who is interested wants to take a walk with them at some point they
162 could get ballpark figures about what it would take to clear the invasive species professionally.

163
164 Mr. Bohannon replied stating his interest. He continued that he reached out to a couple in early
165 October and was not able to obtain that type of pricing information. He got the pricing for the
166 goats but that is a different program. If Ms. Clark could share that information or help
167 coordinate, that would be appreciated.

168
169 Mr. Lamb stated that Mr. Bohannon said in the chat box that flyers or pamphlets are available
170 from the UNH Cooperative Extension.

171
172 Mr. Walker asked if they should have a subcommittee working on this with assigned tasks. He
173 continued that it would mean that instead of just beginning in April, they could actually put their
174 feet on the ground in April. They could be working on pamphlets and so forth now and
175 throughout the winter.

176
177 Chair Von Plinsky replied yes, it is good idea, although they need to be careful to not spread
178 themselves too thin. He asked if anyone had anything else on this topic. Hearing none, he stated
179 that they will keep this on the agenda for next month. He asked Ms. Clark to help Mr. Bohannon
180 with the cost estimate folks, and for Councilor Williams to look more into the Garlic Mustard
181 Challenge and see when that it and see if that is something the Commission can set up, so they
182 can hit the ground running in the spring. He continued that like Mr. Walker said, they do not
183 want to be talking about this in April; they want to be *doing* something in April.

184
185 **b. Continued Discussion – Airport CIP Wildlife Fence Project – Birding/Habitat**
186 **viewing along Airport Rd.**

187
188 Mr. Bergan stated that he distributed a copy of a report he wrote in revised form in October; he
189 thought he shared it with the group but maybe did not. It included some maps and a Flickr site
190 where he posted maps and photos. He continued that he went on a tour of the grounds
191 surrounding the runways with the Airport Director David Hickling last month. He displayed an
192 aerial photo and explained the locations marked on it, stating that “A” is area nearest to the C&S
193 hangar and near the letter “B” is a long ditch. They drove over around the ditch to the grassy
194 area and up towards “C” which is the end of the runway that faces Airport Rd. to the northwest.
195 That is the shorter runway which is used several times a month. There is that great loop on
196 Airport Rd. where the marshland and wetland area is of prime interest to many viewers. He
197 explained the location of a 35-foot wide grassy strip and a nearby three-foot-high berm that
198 descends to a lower level where they thought that because it was lower than the grass at the
199 runway it might be possible to put a lower fence, without impinging on the wetlands.

200

201 Mr. Bergman continued that what gives him pause, based on conversations with Mr. Hickling, is
202 Mr. Hickling had an engineering firm that specializes in airport engineering and design and is
203 familiar with FAA requirements, draw an alternative fence route. The closest to the end of the
204 runway that they would be allowed to put a fence in is shown in a red line on the map, and it
205 clearly enters wetlands. The blue line shows the original alternative two fencing proposal that
206 would extend from the C&S hangar across the wetlands to Airport Rd. and then all the way down
207 to the water treatment plant. This would follow that route initially and already it is impinging on
208 wetlands. As it bears to the left, it would have to enter the wetlands there, at some distance from
209 Airport Rd. but nevertheless still running through wetlands. It would then extend to the lower
210 left and be various distances from the runway and toward the intersection of two runways and to
211 the left of that they knew it was an area that would be trouble. The turquoise lines delineate
212 wetlands, and the red line, necessarily, even at the closest distance that it is permissible from the
213 runway, will have to intercept the wetlands in several places as it runs southward/left. The red
214 line continues on the west side of the runway from right to left, passing at intervals through
215 wetlands, and would eventually make its way over to the left. It would run along the current
216 fence along that side of the water treatment facility and then back down toward the runway.
217 Somewhere in that vicinity there is a channel or culvert that carries water from Wilson Pond
218 under that end of the runway. Then it goes into the woodlands there somewhere. It must follow
219 a channel, but he has walked in that area and has not been able to find it.

220
221 Mr. Bergman continued that the sobering news is that along both runways, using that alternate
222 route shown in the red line, there would be passage across wetlands. Probably the main impact
223 to the wetlands would be in construction and installation of the fence. It is possible that once it is
224 in, it would have minimal impact, but it would intercept movement of floating debris and of
225 otters and beavers, for example. They may not have any attempt to move across where that red
226 line is – typically otters are seen more to the right of that blue line, between the main marsh and
227 the uplands. There is a stream that flows maybe where Ms. Clark was saying the water chestnut
228 is, under Airport Rd. from the Edgewood neighborhood toward the marsh. Otters do pass along
229 that sometimes and muskrats are in the marsh. Beavers usually stick by the creek to the south.
230 So, there will be wetlands impacts.

231
232 He continued that Mr. Hickling pointed out that they will have to do another environmental
233 impact study with an assessment of wetlands, because with this map the wetlands delineation is
234 based on the 2017 (or earlier) Airport Master Plan. The wetlands may be more or less extensive
235 than shown; it is unclear. There is a lot up in the air. What is clear is that minimally, at the
236 upper/northwest end of the alternative short runway, that fencing would go across wetlands. The
237 blue line also crosses wetlands before it gets to Airport Rd. There is no perfect solution. They
238 are trying to protect the runway from wildlife incursions (mostly deer), in a way that is
239 acceptable to and allowable by the FAA, and they want to minimize wildlife impacts. Mr.
240 Hickling will have to come up with a plan that is acceptable to the NH Department of
241 Environmental Services (NHDES), this Conservation Commission, and perhaps the Town of
242 Swanzey's Conservation Commission. They would also like to preserve public viewing access
243 as much as possible, because it is heavily used by photographers, birders, and others, from Keene

244 and Swanzey and other towns and even people out of state. Mr. Hickling is quite aware of that.
245 The situation is perhaps not quite as simple as he (Mr. Bergman) came away thinking, after their
246 walk-through around the airport, and that is primarily because of what they see at the northwest
247 end of the shorter runway near the big loop of Airport Rd. and the marsh.

248
249 Mr. Bergman continued that Mr. Hickling said he is looking to have a Zoom conference with a
250 variety of parties, such as NHDES, and NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), which is
251 through whom they would make a grant request to the FAA to cover the fencing. Mr. Hickling is
252 concerned about the cost and wants it to be as inexpensive as possible. He thinks the FAA might
253 be able to make some allowances to minimize wetland impacts, but inevitably there are going to
254 be some impacts. Hopefully those would be primarily during construction, which could be
255 staged during the colder months of the year. He wonders if it would be possible to use a wider
256 mesh fence at the part where it runs through wetlands so that fish, floating vegetation or debris,
257 and maybe even minks or otters could slip through. There are a lot of questions. He just got this
258 map today from the Airport Director, who just had it finished a couple days prior by the
259 engineers.

260
261 Mr. Lamb stated that he has talked with Mr. Hickling as well. He continued that Mr. Hickling is
262 really open to options, and sees a fence that is closer to the runway as an important advantage, as
263 opposed to enclosing a large area of habitat and wetland, because that is where the critters live
264 that might end up on the runway. From an airport safety standpoint, he likes the fence closer to
265 the runway. Mr. Bergman stated that he heard that from Mr. Hickling, too. He continued that
266 however, the engineers gave Mr. Hickling a wake-up call with what they said had to happen at
267 the end of runway 14-34 up near the loop of Airport Rd. and the marshland.

268
269 Mr. Bill stated that the alternate red line route is quite circuitous. He asked what is determining
270 its location and for clarification, asked that it was not just the distance from the runway. Mr.
271 Bergman replied that the effort is to place it as far from the runway as possible on solid turf but
272 not to impinge on wetlands. Mr. Bill asked, that the fence will still be going through wetlands.
273 Mr. Bergman replied yes, apparently it has to, to satisfy the FAA. He continued that to the upper
274 left/northeast, that is sticking to the turf, the area that is mowed. What is not clear to him from
275 that map is where the blue line (the original alternative one) heads from the C&S hangar up
276 toward Airport Rd., the tree line on the right is unclear. Some is pine tree upland and some is
277 probably some kind of wet area. There are lots of wetlands on the other side of Airport Rd. as
278 well, to the west. The engineers are trying to help come up with the cheapest, shortest fence
279 route, but they also want it to be effective in eliminating wildlife incursions into the runway.
280 There are sometimes foxes, coyotes, and bears but mostly deer. The hope is that at the upper end
281 where it runs through the marsh, the big loop at Airport Rd., it might be possible for the FAA to
282 allow a shorter fence because deer are unlikely to be crossing those wetlands and then jump.
283 They go in the wet meadow area around the corner and have other ways of getting in. He
284 continued that a lot of this information is probably going to come through in some kind of
285 conference or negotiation between NHDOT, FAA, NHDES, and engineers. Mr. Hickling said he
286 would like to have a Conservation Commission member, but he himself thinks it would be great

287 if there were two members there, to hear all this and contribute. Mr. Bergman stated that he is
288 not thoroughly grounded in wetlands regulations and what role the NHDES might play in this; he
289 can only look at the situation as a user. Someone like fellow Commission member, Andrew
290 Madison might be a better person to have speak, although he is not sure if a Conservation
291 Commission member would be allowed to participate at such a conference or to what extent.
292 That conference might happen in the next couple months. Mr. Hickling wants construction to
293 start in 2022 and spend next year doing the planning though they do not want to do planning
294 until they know what is allowed and not allowed.

295

296 Chair Von Plinsky asked Mr. Lamb if he has heard a time table for this sort of conference. Mr.
297 Lamb replied that if construction starts in FY 2022 that could actually, potentially be July 2021.
298 He continued that in all likelihood that would be a fall start, not July, but Mr. Hickling needs to
299 start the design process in the next couple months. He does not have a date for this conference
300 but he is aware that Mr. Hickling was trying to put that together. He will follow up with Mr.
301 Hickling and find out, and let him know that the Conservation Commission would like two
302 members on that call. Chair Von Plinsky replied that that would be great, because the
303 Commission has a lot to bring to the table. He continued that there are a few things that seem
304 like low-hanging fruit. Following the tree line is great, but if you are enticing deer into an open
305 field that is inside the fence, why not put that outside of the fence if it is not going to hurt
306 anything else? Having Commission members at the table would be great. They can sort through
307 exactly who that is once they know when the conference will be.

308

309 Mr. Bergman stated that for most airports near wetlands, geese are an issue. He continued that
310 there are several pairs of geese that breed at the Airport, but so far geese and ducks have not
311 proven to be a major problem for pilots there, and Mr. Hickling is not quite sure why, but he is
312 grateful for that. It is mostly deer. They go out with those “flash bang” things almost every day
313 to scare them away.

314

315 Chair Von Plinsky thanked Mr. Bergman for all of his work with this. He continued that they
316 look forward to hearing from Mr. Lamb about a date for the conference and then they will
317 determine who from the Commission will join that.

318

319 **c. Continued Discussion – Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Plan**

320

321 Chair Von Plinsky asked Mr. Bohannon if he has anything on this. Mr. Bohannon stated that he
322 reached out to Swift Corwin, who was part of the document writers/consultants of the Plan. The
323 two of them took a walk through a different property that Mr. Bohannon needed some work
324 done. They talked about Goose Pond and the best effective method. He continued that Mr.
325 Corwin did not want to give him any type of scope of work needed, because Mr. Corwin wants
326 to be able to bid on the project. Mr. Corwin recommended a conversation with Steve Robarge
327 though Mr. Bohannon stated and Mr. Robarge have been playing phone tag for a couple weeks.
328 His plan is to work with Mr. Robarge, create an RFQ, and go out for qualifications, with the
329 management practices to be complete in the next spring/summer. The one concern Mr.

330 Bohannon stated is that whomever receives the contract will be getting paid from the logging
331 process. Mr. Bohannon also stated that he will have more information for the Commission at
332 their next meeting and that be project is beginning.

333

334 Ms. Clark stated that she is active on the UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Council, and
335 Mr. Robarge has moved up from County Forester to the State's Coordinator of Foresters. The
336 County is hoping to hire a new Forester and starting the process by the first of January. Ms.
337 Clark stated that might be part of why it is so hard to get a hold of Mr. Robarge. Mr. Bohannon
338 replied that it is a coordination of two different schedules though Mr. Robarge has returned all of
339 his phone calls.

340

341 Chair Von Plinsky stated that the Commission will discuss this further next month with the hope
342 that Mr. Bohannon can connect with Mr. Robarge. Mr. Bohannon stated that he would like to
343 start the outline for the Chair and the Commission to review, and approve to be provide the RFQ
344 for the early winter when a lot of companies would be looking to bid on it. He definitely wants
345 to talk with Mr. Robarge as there may be a better time of year to push an initiative like this
346 forward. He continued that he has a little bit to learn about this process. It will be his first time
347 doing an RFQ of this nature, so he wants to work closely with Mr. Robarge on this process.

348

349 Mr. Bill asked if there is an estimate for the amount of acreage of logging that would be done to
350 support this. Mr. Bohannon replied that there were definitely outlined portions of Goose Pond
351 that were highlighted to be cut. He continued that he does not have the number of acres off the
352 top of his head, but it was three or four lots. It could create a better sustainable forest initiative,
353 which Mr. Corwin and Jeff highly recommended. Mr. Lamb stated that there is pretty extensive
354 information on all of the areas proposed for active management. Mr. Bohannon stated that they
355 put up the links on the Community Development Department web page, the Conservation
356 Commission web page, and the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department web page. So there
357 is visibility for the project in multiple locations.

358

359 Mr. Lamb stated that at a future meeting it would be good to talk about the Commission and its
360 involvement. One key recommendation that came out of that report was to set up a stewardship
361 committee. He continued that in the last discussion they talked about the Commission wanting a
362 role, either through the stewardship committee or separately, to talk about each one of these
363 proposed cuts as it was going to be proposed and come forward for a contract of some kind.
364 It would be important to talk about the Commission's role with the stewardship committee and
365 how to get that process started to create that group. Chair Von Plinsky replied yes, it would be
366 good to talk about that. He asked who is responsible for setting up that stewardship committee.
367 Mr. Lamb replied that the City Council has the authority to create that committee. He continued
368 that the work to create the management plan itself was started with the Conservation
369 Commission. He suggests that the Conservation Commission is the group that would push this
370 along, in addition to City Staff. Probably the Commission should discuss this and make a
371 recommendation to the City Council about a stewardship committee. Chair Von Plinsky replied
372 that this should be on next month's agenda. If the ball is in their court, they have the power to

373 get the right people on a committee like that. He asked everyone to think about it and maybe
374 have ideas next time for not the names of individual people to ask to join it, but for the skillsets
375 of people they should ask to be a part of it. Mr. Lamb asked that they also think about what they
376 think the role of the Commission should be with respect to the future of Goose Pond.

377

378 **6) New or Other Business**

379

380 Mr. Bergman stated that Mr. Lamb showed them, in passing, a map of the tax ditches. He asked
381 if they could look at that map more closely. Mr. Lamb replied yes, he will send that as a digital
382 file.

383

384 Ms. Clark asked if anyone else attended the NH Association of Conservation Commission
385 meetings. She continued that she went and there were good sessions on the wetland regulations
386 the state has formally adopted, and turtle conservation in NH. She has some links if anyone is
387 interested.

388

389 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date Monday, December 21, 2020**

390

391 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 5:29 PM.

392

393 Respectfully submitted by,
394 Britta Reida, Minute Taker
395 Staff edits submitted by,
396 Corinne Marcou



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

November 25, 2020

NH DEPT OF SAFETY
PO BOX 483
CONCORD, NH 03301

**Re: Request for More Information – Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application (RSA 482-A)
NHDES File Number: 2020-02558
Subject Property: Ash Brook Court, Keene, Tax Map #110, Lot #1**

Dear Applicant:

On November 25, 2020, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Wetlands Bureau reviewed the above-referenced Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application (Application). Pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, XIV(a)(2) and Rules Env-Wt 100 through 900, the NHDES Wetlands Bureau determined the following additional information is required to complete its evaluation of the Application:

1. Utility projects that establish a new utility corridor are classified as Minor Projects, per Rule Env-Wt 521.06(b)(2). This Expedited Minimum Impact (EXP) Application can be converted to a Standard Dredge and Fill Application once the department receives the following material:
 - a. A completed Standard Wetland Application form, per Rule Env-Wt 311.03(b)(1).
 - b. Attachment A form - Minor or Major Projects, per Rule Env-Wt 313.03.
 - c. Per Rule Env-Wt 311.03(b)(6), an avoidance and minimization narrative or checklist as specified in Env-Wt 311.07. Either the Wetlands Bureau narrative or checklist forms can be completed, or a personalized written narrative can be used.
 - d. A functional assessment of wetlands on the project site as specified in Env-Wt 311.10, per Rule Env-Wt 311.03(b)(10). The Bureau's functional assessment worksheet may be used in lieu of the Highway Methodology evaluation form, if preferred.
 - e. A NHB Datacheck for a standard project, per Rule Env-Wt 311.06(g).
2. An abutter notification for map/lot 109-029-000 was not provided. Please provide either a certified mail receipt indicating that this abutter has been notified, or verify that the property owner owns other adjacent lots and has already been notified.
3. Plans indicate that wetland impacts will be less than 10 feet from the adjacent property on map/lot 109-027-000. Per Rule Env-Wt 307.13(d), if an activity will be extended to less than 10 feet from a property line, the applicant must obtain written consent from the affected abutter and the department must receive a copy of the signed letter.

Please submit the required information as soon as practicable. Pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, XIV(a)(2), **the required information must be received by the NHDES Wetlands Bureau within 60 days of the date of this request (no later than January 24, 2021), or the application will be denied.** Should additional time be necessary to submit the required information, an extension of the 60-day time period may be requested. In accordance with applicable statutes and regulations, the applicant is also expected to provide copies of the required information to the municipal clerk and all other interested parties.

Pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, XIV(a)(3), the NHDES Wetlands Bureau will approve or deny the Application within 30 days of

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29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095

NHDES Main Line: (603) 271-3503 • Subsurface Fax: (603) 271-6683 • Wetlands Fax: (603) 271-6588

TDD Access: Relay NH 1 (800) 735-2964

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receipt of all required information, or schedule a public hearing, if required by RSA 482-A or associated rules.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Jessica.Bouchard@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4064.

Sincerely,



Jessica Bouchard
Wetlands Specialist, Wetlands Bureau
Land Resources Management, Water Division

cc: Keach-Nordstrom Associates, Inc. c/o Joshua M. Brien
Keene Municipal Clerk/Conservation Commission

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City of Keene

New Hampshire

A RESOLUTION Relating to Bee City USA

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

WHEREAS: the mission of *BEE CITY USA* is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of 90% of the world's wild plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS: insect pollinators, including wild native bees and European honey bees, are vital to a healthy ecosystem and agricultural production, worldwide; and

WHEREAS: bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS: pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers; and

WHEREAS: ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest building, hive cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators;
- Is pesticide free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

WHEREAS: supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interaction among community stewards, including commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, University researchers, Master Naturalists, Master

Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, garden suppliers and clubs; and

WHEREAS: in order to enhance understand among City staff and City residents about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain the, the City of Keene, New Hampshire chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, the governing legislative body of the City of Keene, New Hampshire does hereby approve Resolution #XXXXXX accepting the City of Keene's designation as a "Bee City USA" community and committing to the standards of said designation as follows:

1. The City of Keene Conservation Commission is hereby designated as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor.
2. The Community Development Director, City of Keene is designated as the *BEE CITY USA* liaison
3. Facilitation of the City of Keene *BEE CITY USA* program is assigned to the City of Keene Conservation Commission
4. The City of Keene Conservation Commission is authorized to and should:
 - a. Celebration: Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June), pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the City of Keene's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat
 - b. Publicity & Information: Install and maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City of Keene website which includes, at a minimum, a copy of this resolution, links to the national *BEE CITY USA* website, contact information for the local government's *BEE CITY USA* liaison and contact information for the City of Keene Conservation Commission, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s)
 - c. Habitat: Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Identification and inventory of the City of Keene real property that can be enhanced with pollinator friendly plantings
 - ii. Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines and shrubs and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species
 - iii. Creation of a least toxic pesticide management plan
 - iv. Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public
 - v. Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage

- d. Policy: Encourage, through the Open Spaces & Greenway Connections Chapter of the City of Keene's Master Plan, acknowledgement and commitment to the *BEE CITY USA* designation
- e. Plan Review: Review the Land Stewardship Plan for specific city properties, and other relevant documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures
- f. Renewal: After completing the first full year as a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the City of Keene's *BEE CITY USA* designation following the format provided by *BEE CITY USA*, including a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities, and paying the renewal fee based on the City of Keene's population

George Hansel, Mayor



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2021 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4:30PM
via Zoom Meetings

Site Visit, if needed, at 3:30PM

TUESDAY, January 12 (Monday Holiday)

TUESDAY, February 16 (Monday Holiday)

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20