



City of Keene, New Hampshire

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 17, 2021

4:30 PM

ZOOM

Commission Members

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Kenneth Bergman
Art Walker
Andrew Madison

Councilor Robert Williams
Brian Reilly, Alternate
Thomas P. Haynes, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate

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

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2020
3. Communication and Notifications
 - a. NHDOT Roadway Rehabilitation Project No. 43057 Route 9
4. Informational
 - a. Subcommittee reports
 - Outreach Subcommittee
 - Arm Fund Subcommittee
5. Discussion Items
 - a. Garlic Mustard Challenge
 - b. Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Stewardship Committee
 - c. Conservation Commission speaking events
 - d. Multiyear Pollinator Census results for Cheshire County
6. New or Other Business
7. Adjournment – Next meeting date **Monday, June 21, 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, April 19, 2021**

4:30 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Community Development
Department Director
Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation &
Facilities Director
Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present:

All Present

George S. Hansel, Mayor

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11 **1) Call to Order**
12

13 Chair Von Plinsky read the executive order authorizing a remote meeting: Emergency Order #12,
14 issued by the Governor of the State of New Hampshire pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04.
15 Pursuant to this order, The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM and members
16 present stated their locations and whether calling alone.
17

18 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2021**
19

20 *Revisions:* Line 256, change the word *plant* to *plan*. Line 419, add a comma after the word
21 acquired. Line 364, change *ironwood* to *ironweed*.
22

23 Councilor Madison moved to adopt the Minutes of March 15, 2021 as amended, which Mr.
24 Walker seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.
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26 Mr. Bergman stated for the record that he hoped to receive draft minutes from Staff Liaisons
27 sooner than one week or less before the next meeting if possible.

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3) Communications

a. National Grid – Herbicide Use Notification

The Chairman cited the notification that he received from a constituent unrelated to the Conservation Commission but regarded herbicide application throughout town and county rights-of-ways. The National Grid was requiring to notify the City of the spraying. The Chairman was not pleased with the idea, did not think the Commission could do anything to prevent it, and he did not understand why this was necessary in addition to all the regular mowing that occurred. He wanted this brought to the Commission’s attention so they could think together about how they could have more input for pesticides sprayed in town.

Mr. Bill thought this was important to consider, having just established Keene as a Bee City. He stated that at very least, the herbicide should not be detrimental those pollinator populations.

Vice Chair Clark’s property includes a right-of-way that is maintained regularly in this fashion. She said that in her experience, the herbicide is used typically on small trees (particularly white pine), that they rarely bother spraying bushes, and that they always delineate wetlands to prevent them from entering. The Chairman said he did not want to overstep but thought it important to share for Commission feedback.

Councilor Williams questioned whether there was a good way the Conservation Commission could monitor this work to ensure nothing bad happens. Mr. Lamb was unsure and said he thought the Commission would need to research what recourse exists. Mr. Lamb continued that this letter was a direct notification to landowners and the municipality of this intent – it was not a request or permit application, and he did not think there was any local jurisdiction to manage these activities. The letters provided landowners with contact information if they wanted to know more about the dates this would occur for their properties, but no further information was provided. Mr. Lamb concluded that research would be needed to determine if there was a role the Commission could play in this.

Mr. Haynes thought that calling the contact number to find out when this would occur could allow the Commission to at least post notices to local landowners that the activity would be happening over a certain span. The Chairman thought that was likely possible, citing one of the notices that said the property owners would be provided a span of 10 days during which the activity could occur.

Mr. Bergman suggested that the Commission could ask the NH Pesticide Board for details on the herbicides’ half-lives for soil and water, which he was sure they reviewed. He thought a simple request from the Commission for data sheets, etc. would be something they could provide. The Chairman said that the notification letters listed the specific herbicides that would be used and therefore, the Commission could do that research themselves too.

71 Vice Chair Clark said she followed the prompts in the letter to find out dates for her land, and
72 she was told to contact Lucas Tree Service and the foreman in charge, which she intended to do
73 for specific details on her property. She suggested that perhaps the best Commission action
74 would be to alert other property owners who have rights-of ways passing through their land. The
75 Chairman asked whether everyone impacted in town should have been alerted. Vice Chair Clark
76 replied that the notice was only published in the newspaper and so she would not have known for
77 her land if the Chairman had not brought this to the Commission's attention. Mr. Bill suggested
78 that the Commission could notify nearby landowners with wells on their properties, who might
79 be more interested in the solubility, half-life, and application of these materials. Fortunately, Mr.
80 Lamb said there were no spraying sites on the map very close to private property wells.

81
82 The Chairman was glad to bring this to everyone's attention for discussion and thoughts.

83

84 **b. Antioch Bee Proposal – Michael Akresh, Ph.D.**

85

86 Mr. Lamb received calls and emails during the prior few weeks from an environmental studies
87 professor at Antioch University New England, Michael Akresh, Ph.D., who was present with his
88 student and research assistant, Alaina Bandanza. Mr. Akresh began by commenting on the
89 previous agenda item on power lines, which is a part of his research foci. He said that such
90 selective herbicide application is usually safe and is better for bees and wildlife than mowing, but
91 he was unsure how those herbicides effect water. Ms. Bandanza could share a publication on the
92 issue.

93

94 Mr. Akresh said he worked mainly with birds, snakes, moths, ants, and other insects; Ms.
95 Bandanza was interested in bee research. Together, they intended to initiate a statewide study of
96 bee abundance and diversity in fens and other wetlands to answer a variety of research questions.
97 He thought it was great that the Commission was interested in both bees and wetlands. With that
98 interest, the researchers were present soliciting funds to survey the fens and wetlands at Keene's
99 Dillant Hopkins Airport for bee and plant diversity. The surveys are intended to reveal wetland
100 health. Transects of insect traps between the wetlands and adjacent forests would help to
101 determine how far to conserve outside the wetlands, best supporting bee communities and
102 successful land management. This study at the Airport could provide insight for other areas of
103 the City too and help the Commission with its interests at the Airport. The researchers hoped to
104 accomplish similar studies across NH but said that they lacked sufficient funding. Mr. Akresh
105 concluded that he sought funding for this study in any amount (he would prioritize sites that
106 offered funding) to offset costs of traps, pins, boxes, and a sufficient hourly summer stipend for
107 Ms. Bandanza and possibly one other research assistant. This was meant to be a two-year study,
108 though Mr. Akresh was unsure whether the same sites would be used in the second year. There
109 were more details in the proposal included in the [meeting packet](#). He appreciated any funding
110 possible.

111

112 Mr. Therriault mentioned that mason bees had hatched at his house this same day with
113 tremendous activity that would benefit fruit tree populations. Mr. Therriault continued asking

114 how much funding would be needed approximately for one wetland at the airport. Mr. Akresh
115 said that any amount was welcomed but he referenced another site where they did this work that
116 required approximately \$2,000 to conduct the work for 25 hours three times per season in
117 addition to the more consuming lab hours to process the samples. If they were only in the field
118 for 40 hours, he noted that would be a \$600 salary for Ms. Bandanza at \$15/hour before an
119 additional two weeks or more of processing. There were funds available through the Antioch
120 University Federal Work Study program to match these salary funds. Mr. Akresh reiterated that
121 these costs were why they were more prone to sites that could provide even modest funding
122 support.

123
124 Mr. Bill said that Meetinghouse Pond in Marlborough was a nice bog to consider. Ms. Bandanza
125 agreed that the site was on her list due to fens with significant rare or threatened plant species,
126 but that permission would be required to work on state-owned lands. Mr. Bill also suggested
127 contacting the groups associated with Ashuelot River Park, where there are several wetlands. Mr.
128 Akresh said he first contacted the Airport Director, David Hickling, thinking land around the
129 runways were owned by the Airport, but learned they were in fact owned by the City almost
130 entirely on the eastern side toward the river.

131
132 Mr. Bergman said he welcomed any support for this project due to the prospect of wildlife
133 control fencing being installed eventually that would impinge on the Airport's wetlands in more
134 than one location and would likely require an environmental impact assessment. He said that
135 funding this research would show the Commission's engagement, support, and commitment in
136 addition to supporting the Airport Director's application for funds from the Federal Aviation
137 Administration (FAA). Due to the vital importance of the Airport's numerous wetlands –
138 particularly to the birding community – Mr. Bergman supported any funding possible for this
139 project from the Commission.

140
141 Councilor Williams said he also favored some level of support. He continued that this study
142 could provide the Commission and City vital information about local pollinator communities. He
143 added that the Airport was one of the best funded organizations in town, with subsidies from the
144 FAA for example. Further, given the Airport's emissions, Councilor Williams expected them to
145 contribute to this project in some way and he hoped Mr. Akresh would follow-up on that
146 possibility with the Airport Director. Mr. Akresh explained that the Airport Director who sent
147 him to Mr. Lamb in search of funds from the Commission. Mr. Akresh added that he hoped to
148 commence the study in May but was unsure whether sufficient funding would be obtained in
149 time. The Chairman said that the Commission could approve funding from its budget at this
150 meeting that would be disbursed quickly, though it would be limited. Regarding funds from the
151 Airport, Mr. Lamb said that unless it occurred through the Airport Department, the funding
152 would have to be approved by the City Council in the form of a donation.

153
154 Mr. Lamb continued stating that approximately \$1,400 remained in the Commission's budget,
155 which renews annually on July 1. There was also the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee
156 annual request for \$125 pending as the next agenda item, in addition to the annual request for

157 dues from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, to which this Commission donated
158 less than requested last year (approximately \$400). Mr. Lamb thought the Commission could
159 provide \$500 reasonably to this pollinator research project.
160

161 Mr. Haynes wondered whether the Land Use Change Tax Fund could be used for such a
162 donation or if the fund focused solely on land purchase. Mr. Lamb thought the farthest the Tax
163 Fund could be stretched would be for evaluation studies for land management plans in
164 anticipation of property purchases or easement acquisitions. Use of the Tax Funds would also
165 require Council involvement.
166

167 Mr. Bergman moved to donate \$500 to the Antioch Bee Proposal provided; the Conservation
168 Commission receives a report upon project completion, which Mr. Haynes seconded.
169

170 Mr. Akresh agreed that a report would be no problem. He added that he spoke with the Airport
171 Director about a bee education day for the community at the Airport, for which Mr. Akresh also
172 welcomed Commission participation. The Chairman believed there would be Commission
173 interest.
174

175 Councilor Williams suggested, following this meeting, that a letter be sent to the Airport Director
176 from the Conservation Commission urging the Airport Development and Marketing Committee
177 to match this donation. Mr. Lamb would need to learn that Committee's capacity to donate due
178 to their focus on marketing but said such an event could contribute possibly to the Airport's
179 branding. Mr. Lamb and the Chairman would work to send this letter to the Airport Director.
180

181 Mr. Therriault said that part of being a Bee City means working to develop a baseline of
182 municipal pollinator species. He said that the third week of June is Pollinator Week and in
183 addition to this Airport study, the Commission could organize a citizen science event at Ashuelot
184 River Park that week. The Chairman thought that was a great idea and Mr. Bohannon would
185 follow-up with Mr. Therriault.
186

187 The motion to donate \$500 to the Antioch Bee Proposal passed on a unanimous roll call vote.
188

189 **c. Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee – Funding Request for River**
190 **Monitoring Program**
191

192 The Chairman recalled that this was an annual \$125 request from the Ashuelot River Local
193 Advisory Committee (ARLAC) to continue their annual surveilling of E. coli in the river.
194 ARLAC makes this annual request from every town that their surveys serve. In 2020, the
195 Conservation Commission made a supplemental donation for ARLAC equipment that needed
196 replacing. Vice Chair Clark, who is a member of ARLAC, did not think such a supplement was
197 needed this year given the bee study that the Commission supported also. The Chairman said that
198 \$125 seemed fair for what Keene gains from the surveys. Mr. Haynes agreed and added that if

199 Commission funds remain closer to the fiscal year’s end, the Commission could support ARLAC
200 further with the remainder at that time.

201

202 Mr. Haynes moved to donate \$125 to the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee, which Mr.
203 Walker seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

204

205 **4) Informational**

206 **a. Subcommittee Reports**

207 **i. *Outreach Subcommittee***

208

209 Vice Chair Clark said she continues sending approximately four Nature Nuggets to Ms. Marcou
210 twice monthly for distribution to the City’s website and various social medias. The Vice Chair
211 tries to keep the posts seasonally appropriate so that people learn the sights and sounds around
212 them. She would create an upcoming post about the Garlic Mustard Challenge. The Chairman
213 encouraged all Commissioners with social media to share the Nature Nuggets with their personal
214 networks for greater reach. If any Commissioners want to create Nature Nuggets on their areas of
215 specialty, they could send three or four-sentence paragraphs to Ms. Marcou in a Word document
216 with accompanying photos.

217

218 **ii. *ARM Fund Subcommittee***

219

220 The Subcommittee had not met but the Chairman hoped to meet with Mr. Bergman and anyone
221 else interested before the May meeting. The Chairman would share the Zoom meeting link with
222 the whole Committee.

223

224 **5) Discussion Items**

225 **a. Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Plan Stewardship Committee –**
226 **Mayor Hansel** [*The Chairman heard this agenda item at the beginning of the*
227 *meeting, out of order, following approval of minutes.*]

228

229 Mayor Hansel had received the Conservation Commission’s recommendation to create a new
230 City Committee to steward the Greater Goose Pond Forest (GGPF) Management Plan and he
231 was present at this meeting to understand better what the Commission sought from the new
232 group. The Mayor wanted the Commission to consider whether this group could form as an Ad
233 Hoc Committee with a short, approximately one-year term to meet an extremely specific charge
234 of gathering information or preparing reports to return to City Council. He also asked the
235 Commission to consider whether this group could form as a subcommittee to the Conservation
236 Commission, which he thought could be a likely option depending on the outcome of this
237 conversation. Mayor Hansel said the Commission could create a subcommittee with no political
238 action and he thought there would be the same level of support as for any other Committee. A
239 subcommittee would report their findings or requests for resources to the Conservation
240 Commission. Considering those were the two routes, the Mayor asked to hear more about the
241 Commission’s vision.

242 The Chairman said that the Greater Goose Pond Forest Management Plan – Mayor Hansel was
243 on the Commission during its development – called for the formation of a Committee to steward
244 the plan through its various recommendations from trail management, to forest management, and
245 limited sustainable logging, among others. As such, the goal was to form a group that would
246 allow the public to play a significant role in stewarding the forest. He said that the Commission
247 did discuss a possible subcommittee and while not necessarily opposed, there was concern for
248 overextending Commissioners to oversee the subcommittee.

249

250 Mr. Haynes did not think the long-term stewardship over more than a decade that was called for
251 in the Plan could be accomplished with a short-term group. He said that continuity of members
252 would be essential to the guide this Management Plan’s appropriate implementation long-term.

253

254 Mayor Hansel thought the closest similar official Committee in the City currently was the
255 Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board (ARPAB) overseen by Mr. Bohannon, as well as their
256 separate non-profit counterpart, The Friends of the Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park. Mr.
257 Bohannon agreed, stating that the Friends non-profit donated the funds originally for the City to
258 purchase the park and continued today as the fundraising entity for things needed in the park.
259 Conversely, he said that the ARPAB was an official City Committee appointed by the Mayor to
260 oversee the long-term goals and maintenance of the park. The ARPAB also has fiduciary
261 responsibility for the park, with the ability to seek funds from trustees for park work that goes
262 beyond the normal business practices of the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department. As such,
263 Mr. Bohannon thought the ARPAB was a good comparison to what the Conservation
264 Commission sought to act as a long-term advisory group for activities in the GGPF.

265

266 Mayor Hansel said that that a difficulty in forming new official committees was the ability to
267 maintain long-term enthusiasm. He wondered if there was a way for the Commission to begin
268 this process with a subcommittee to best identify what a new committee could do, to be the
269 recruiting entity for that new committee, and to help the committee gain its initial momentum
270 before establishing it as permanent.

271

272 Mr. Bergman thought than one reason for suggesting a separate committee was to engage a
273 broader constituency of interest groups beyond this Commission. Mr. Lamb said he thought that
274 was possible through what the Mayor suggested.

275

276 Mr. Lamb continued, adding his thought that primarily Mr. Bohannon would guide the agenda
277 for a new committee. Mr. Lamb agreed that the GGPF Stewardship Plan included many
278 suggestions for activities in the forest over the next several years, including timber management
279 and other activities that require significant coordination with forest users. Mr. Lamb said the idea
280 was for a new entity to be a sounding board for that Plan that developed through the
281 Commission’s great work. He said perhaps that work would start slowly but he cited a
282 recommended schedule laid-out in the Stewardship Plan beginning with trails work this year and
283 small scale forestry in the following years.

284

285 Councilor Williams asked whether subcommittee members were limited to Conservation
286 Commissioners only. Mr. Lamb said no, other stakeholders in Keene could be recruited to follow
287 the same recommended composition, including the potential for ex-officio, non-resident
288 members with relevant credentials if stated explicitly from the onset. Mr. Reilly suggested a
289 member of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests as a relevant ex-officio member because
290 they hold an easement on the forest.

291
292 Mr. Haynes noted that Mr. Bohannon already served as Staff Liaison to the ARPAB and
293 questioned whether he would want the same responsibility for a new GGPF entity. Mr.
294 Bohannon replied that such oversight would not free his time but that as Parks and Recreation
295 Director, his office would need to oversee critical trails and forest management projects with
296 political implications. As such, establishing a new entity like the ARPAB would require people
297 at the table focused on priorities and acting.

298
299 Mr. Bill said that that Stewardship Plan timeline for implementation began in 2019 and so action
300 was already delayed. There were contracts and other processes the Conservation Commission
301 could not put into action.

302
303 The Chairman restated his inclination that a subcommittee could overextend the Conservation
304 Commission with how much the Management Plan entails, especially with public issues like
305 timber harvesting. He was unsure the Commission was the right place to vet those politics.

306
307 Mr. Haynes asked how to create a Committee like the ARPAB. Mr. Lamb said a format like the
308 ARPAB was in mind when the recommended charge and membership were submitted to
309 Council. Now, the Mayor wanted to ensure there was sufficient focus for that charge and
310 whether a subcommittee could attain the same focus. The subcommittee could test assumptions
311 of the charge and viability of the concept as a good solution, and could then transition to a
312 permanent committee through the City Council. A subcommittee could provide one year for the
313 Commission, Mayor, and Council to determine decisively whether there is a true need for a
314 freestanding group.

315
316 Councilor Madison asked whether the ARPAB preceded the Friends non-profit. Mr. Bohannon
317 said that Friends non-profit donated the funds to the City to purchase the park and the ARPAB
318 was then created to oversee trust funds used in the park. Councilor Madison asked whether it was
319 prudent to wait until a Goose Pond non-profit forms before creating a City committee. Mr.
320 Bohannon said he envisioned this new entity growing from the GGPF and onto other natural City
321 spaces where similar work is needed; perhaps this could eventually evolve into an advisory board
322 for open spaces or forested land, with this first GGPF effort as the model. Mr. Bohannon agreed
323 with the Mayor's idea to begin with a subcommittee that could become permanent. Councilor
324 Williams supported the idea of a committee to oversee the City's forested lands more generally.

325

326 Commissioners agreed with the subcommittee concept and possibility to become permanent in
327 the long-term. Mr. Bill offered to serve, stating that the subcommittee could support short-term
328 management.

329

330 Mr. Bergman said that when stewarding any plan with a hot topic like timber harvesting that
331 includes more than a decade of recommendations, the City would need clarity as to whether that
332 plan could be re-litigated by the new group of stakeholders. He wondered whether the
333 Management Plan was fixed or if new political leanings could lead to changes in the Plan's
334 advice over time. Mr. Bill thought the plan included provisions already for its adaptation over
335 time. Mr. Lamb agreed with Mr. Bergman that these issues would be litigated upon the creation
336 of every new project because the community cares about the GGPF. A new dedicated entity
337 would be pivotal in promoting ideas in the Plan to the public for the projects to proceed
338 successfully in the future.

339

340 Mayor Hansel said that a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission would also allow this
341 effort to begin immediately and keep momentum, with the Commission overseeing the
342 recruitment and to help determine scope (i.e., whether this group could serve a greater purpose
343 beyond the GGPF). The Mayor had no problem recommending a new committee if the ideas are
344 formed fully in advance because there would be implications that are challenging to revert.

345

346 With this agreement for the Commission to shepherd the subcommittee, Chair Von Plinsky
347 thought this should be a critical agenda item in May. Mr. Lamb said that Commissioners could
348 reference the [February 2021 meeting agenda](#) that included the roster proposed and brainstorm
349 individuals to recruit over the next month. The Chairman thought there had been some luck
350 recruiting already.

351

352 Commissioners expressed appreciation for the Mayor's time.

353

354 **b. Garlic Mustard Challenge**

355

356 Councilor Williams shared a map of Keene's east side and garlic mustard locations he identified
357 there. He found less in the town center or within parks, which he thought likely due to the Parks,
358 Recreation, and Facilities Department funding for maintenance of road edges, cemeteries, parks,
359 and more. The stands of garlic mustard he located were not huge, but were expanding. The
360 Councilor discussed three areas of focus that he suggested for the Garlic Mustard Challenge
361 (GMC). If things went well at the smaller first site, he suggested larger scale efforts at the second
362 and third sites.

363 1. Top of Beaver Street

364 a. A former road and adjacent City-owned lot along Beaver Street both have
365 pervasive garlic mustard in addition to the prevalence of many other invasive
366 species. Councilor Williams suggested that Commissioners meet there in advance
367 to determine what could be done to address the other invasive species present
368 during the GMC.

- 369 2. Beaver Street at Beaver Brook
370 a. Neighbors had expressed interest in pulling weeds at this other City-owned lot.
371 3. Cheshire Rail Trail next to Keene Ice
372 a. This City-owned property is also overrun with invasive species, including garlic
373 mustard.
374

375 Additionally, Councilor Williams said that he created a flyer to describe the GMC and how to
376 participate, which could be included with the Green Up Keene materials distribution. The
377 Councilor suggested Tuesday, May 11 at 5:30 PM for the first event at the top of Beaver Street.
378 He shared his own email as the contact and thought they could build more web presence on the
379 City website with additional information.
380

381 The Chairman liked the idea of a first event at the top of Beaver Street but cited concern with
382 parking at that location. Councilor Williams said the flyer would suggest that people walk or
383 bike and to not fill the neighborhood with cars despite enough suitable parking in the area. A
384 reasonable recommendation would also be for participants to park at Robin Hood Park and walk
385 to the GMC site.
386

387 Mr. Bill wondered if there would be sufficient participation on a weekday as the Councilor
388 suggested. Councilor Williams said that the upper Beaver Street site was smaller, and he was
389 concerned that high turnout would overwhelm that site. Whereas a subsequent weekend event at
390 one of the other sites could then draw a larger crowd on a weekend. Mr. Bill added that there was
391 significant garlic mustard also along Baker Street.
392

393 Mr. Therriault said that the envelopes he received from the Chairman would work. He would
394 either deliver the envelopes of seeds to Councilor Williams or to Green Up Keene to hand-out
395 himself; the seeds were an American meadows New England pollinator mix with annual and
396 perennial species, none of which were invasive.
397

398 Councilor Williams agreed to complete the flyer and submit it to City Hall for printing in
399 advance of Green Up Keene. Chair Von Plinsky would then pick-up the flyers from City Hall
400 and deliver them to the Green Up Keene welcome table when he picks up his supplies early on
401 Friday. Councilor Madison suggested a Facebook event to advertise, which Mr. Lamb agreed
402 was possible through the Community Development Department Facebook. Councilor Williams
403 said an event could be generated on Nature Groupie where volunteers could sign-up for this
404 event and connect with other efforts in the region.
405

406 The Chairman recalled discussion of alternatives to black plastic bags and landfill disposal. He
407 and Mr. Walker discussed this possibility at the NH Invasives Academy they attended, where
408 alternatives to plastic bags were frowned upon. While black plastic bags are bad for the
409 environment, it was the best solution to ensure the plant does not propagate elsewhere. The only
410 other reasonable option was to place all plants picked under a tarp secured to the ground to avoid
411 plastic disposal and plant spread, though this option is not foolproof. Councilor Williams thought

412 the black bags were best for an event like this for now to keep things simple, though he would
413 like to experiment with the tarp method. Mr. Bill said that in his experience, garlic mustard has a
414 deep taproot and simply pulling the plant top is usually insufficient. He suggested recommending
415 that volunteers bring a garden tool with them; for example, tools for pulling dandelions would be
416 effective.

417
418 Councilor Williams hoped a few Commissioners would meet in advance of May 11 to walk these
419 locations, discuss other invasive species present, and establish plans for reseeding, other
420 replanting, or follow-up care that would be needed at each site. He suggested an online garlic
421 mustard training through Nature Groupie scheduled for April 26 that he hoped Commissioners
422 could attend. As such, he suggested these site visits on Sunday, April 25 or during the following
423 week. The Councilor would share the map he presented at this meeting with the other
424 Commissioners. Emails should be distributed to other commissioners through Mr. Lamb or Ms.
425 Marcou to ensure no quorum is achieved through reply-all emails. A meeting of two or three
426 commissioners to scout would remain under the quorum minimum of four members. The GMC
427 event would not count for establishing a quorum. Councilor Williams would solicit help from
428 two other Commissioners to scout and schedule together.

429
430 Councilor Williams asked whether there would be issues accessing the City-owned properties.
431 Mr. Lamb would investigate any implications for those properties. The former roadway was
432 public and therefore there were no issues.

433
434 Councilor Williams said he encountered a lot of garlic mustard along roadsides that were not
435 necessarily public-owned properties but within the right-of-way; he asked whether to advise the
436 public to pull garlic mustard in such areas. Mr. Lamb said that many parts of the City have
437 narrow roads and sidewalks that abut private property lines directly. Therefore, in areas directly
438 off the City rights-of-way, City crews that could distinguish those property lines should remove
439 the garlic mustard. He said that a challenge with such invasive species eradication is public
440 education, which the City's road crews would need too.

441
442 **c. Old Gilsum Road – Goose Pond Forest**

443
444 Mr. Lamb introduced this topic, which he said could be revisited in more detail at a later, less
445 busy meeting. He shared a map of the Class VI Old Gilsum Road area from Timberlane Drive to
446 Drummer Hill, and the Gilsum town line at the top of the Greater Goose Pond Forest (GGPF).
447 Approximately one mile from the Timberlane Drive/Drummer Hill powerline crossings, there are
448 eight outparcels owned by individuals/trusts and one parcel owned by Eversource. These
449 outparcels remain from when the former Class V Old Gilsum Road was closed initially when the
450 highway was created. In 1984, the gate was installed at Timberlane Drive and Old Gilsum Road,
451 closing the Class VI roadway to motorized public access. Today, Old Gilsum Road can be
452 accessed by motor vehicle only by those nine remaining property owners and no one else. Mr.
453 Lamb said a member of the public sought to access the Fontaine property via Old Gilsum Road
454 by motor vehicle through a lease. After some confusion, the lessee submitted a new request that

455 was heard by the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee on April 21 with a
456 reasonable compromise to use Old Gilsum Road twice over the season to bring-in and return
457 equipment intended to help improve the Fontaine property. Mr. Lamb recalled that the City had
458 purchased many similar outparcels over time for addition to the GGPF and he proposed in the
459 long-term for the Commission to lead evaluations of small parcels and recommendations to
460 Council for purchase. Their location on a Class VI roadway would preclude any reasonable
461 development on those properties and Mr. Lamb did not envision the City incurring the cost of
462 returning Old Gilsum Road to Class V.

463

464 The Chairman added this item to next month's agenda for greater discussion in May.

465

466 **6) New or Other**

467

468 Mr. Bill reiterated the Commission's membership issue that needed resolved as soon as possible.
469 Mr. Lamb said he works on it monthly with reminders to the Mayor and the City Clerk to fix the
470 problem, at which point it was out of Staff's hands pending Mayor Hansel's action.

471

472 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 17, 2021**

473

474 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

475

476 Respectfully submitted by,

477 Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

478 April 26, 2021

479 Edits submitted by,

480 Corinne Marcou, Admin. Assist.

481 and

482 Rhett Lamb, ACM/Community Development Dir.

483 May 12, 2021

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May 11, 2021

City of Keene, Conservation Commission
Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

Hoyle, Tanner
& Associates, Inc.

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Email: mbrunner@co.keene.nh.us tkessler@ci.keene.nh.us rlamb@ci.keene.nh.us

Re: Roadway Rehabilitation, Chesterfield-Keene
NHDOT Project No. 43057 / Hoyle, Tanner Project No. 092592.11

Dear Chairman Von Plinsky and Commission Members:

Hoyle, Tanner and Associates, Inc. is working with the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) who is planning to improve 9.3 miles of roadway along NH 9 within the Town of Chesterfield and City of Keene. The purpose of this project is to extend the life of the existing pavement, maintain drainage and guardrail systems, and delay more costly improvements. The need for improvements on these two road segments has been identified by the NHDOT Pavement Management Section. Sections will be resurfaced via Hot Bituminous Pavement (HBP) overlay, HBP inlay and Spot Inlay. Drainage, ADA curb ramps, guardrail and signing will be assessed in the field and deficiencies may be addressed. A location map identifying this road section is enclosed.

Engineering studies have been initiated to refine the scope and limits of work necessary for this project. The Department's Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To assist in this evaluation, I am asking that you notify me of any concerns relative to the project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, or cultural resources, such as wetlands, historic properties, and invasive plant species.

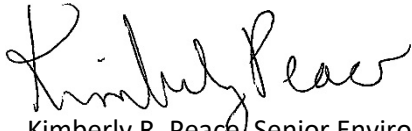
Some transportation projects require mitigation for possible wetland/stream impacts. The natural resources in this project area have not yet been identified and investigations are forthcoming. Preliminary engineering studies have begun, and the Department will attempt to avoid and minimize impacts through design before determining if there will be any stream or wetland impacts that may require mitigation. **As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the Town's/City's preferred/priority mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation. Please let us know if your Town/City has identified such priorities.** In the absence of any Town/City priorities to evaluate, the Department will pursue permittee responsible mitigation through the Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). If it is determined that no viable options exist through the SPIP, the Department will pursue a payment into the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), at which time those funds will become competitively available through the ARM fund grant process.

As such, does the Town/City have a list of priority mitigation efforts (Top 10 Priority List) that the DOT may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation? If so, please provide the list (e.g. problematic culvert/bridge crossings, land protection, habitat restoration, etc.).

The tentative advertising date for this project is October 4, 2022. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information regarding the project. This letter has been sent to the City Manager, Public Works Department, Planning, Licenses and Development Committee, Parks & Recreation Department, Heritage Commission, Historic District Commission, Historical Society of Cheshire County, Police Department, and Fire Department.

Thank you for your assistance.

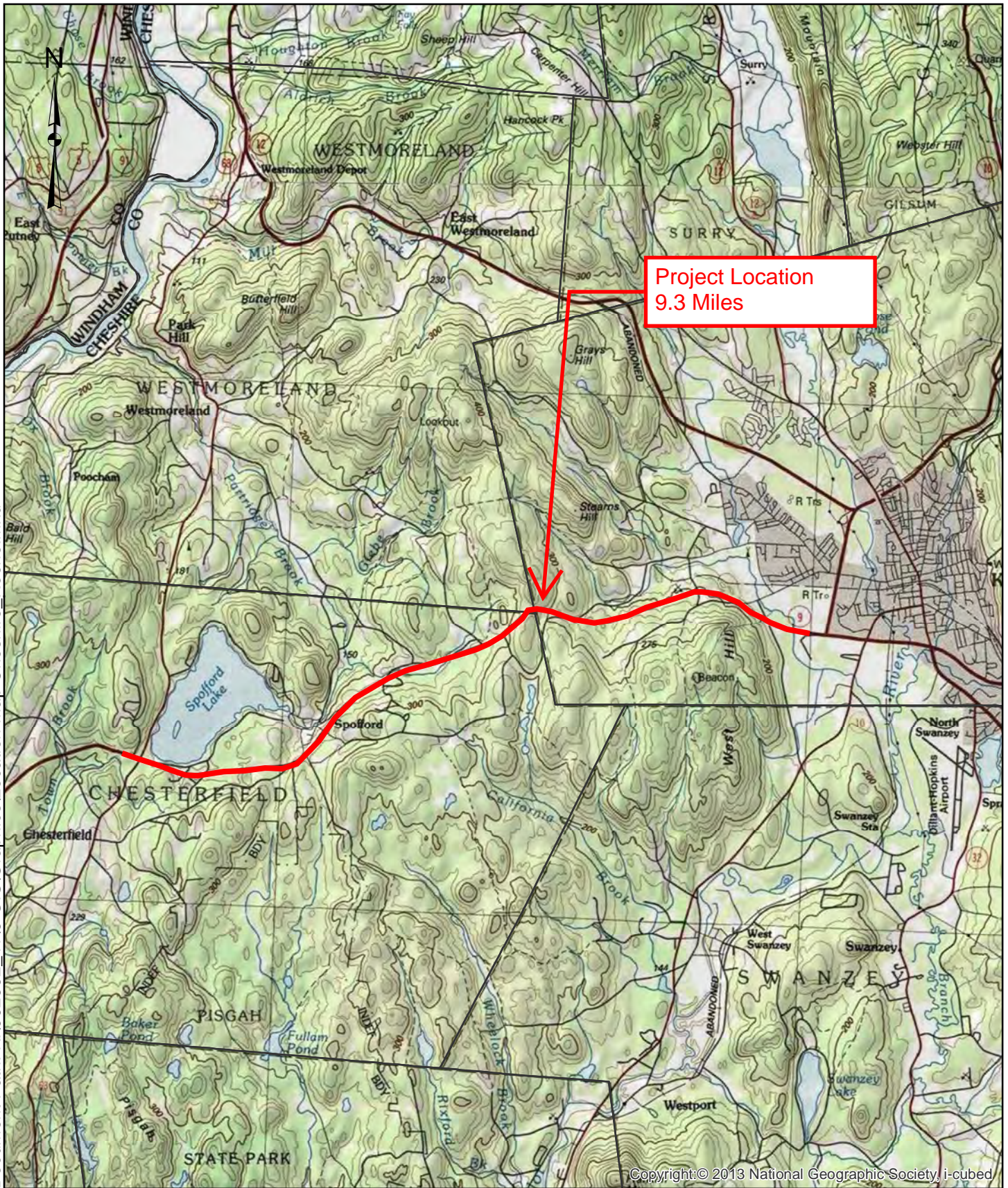
Sincerely,



Kimberly R. Peace, Senior Environmental Coordinator
Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc.
Email kpeace@hoyletanner.com
Phone 603.460.5205

Encl.

Document Path: K:\092592_11\3-GIS\Graphics\Location Map Cheshire_Keene.mxd



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			150 Dow Street Manchester, NH 03101-1227 Tel 603-669-5555 Fax 603-669-4168 Web Page www.hoyletanner.com	PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE REPAIRS NH ROUTE 9 CHESTERFIELD-KEENE NHDOT PROJECT NO. #42704	EXHIBIT A2
DR. BY dcoon	DATE 5/7/2021	SCALE 1 inch = 8,333 feet	PROJECT LOCATION MAP		