

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

4:30 PM

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

Members Present:

Cauley Powell, Chair
Susan DeGidio, Vice Chair
Rose Carey
Marilyn Huston
Louise Zerba, Alternate (Voting)

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Jesse Rounds, Community Development
Director

Members Not Present:

Councilor Gladys Johnsen
Brian Lee
Molly Ellis

1) Call to Order – Roll Call

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM. She welcomed guests Connie Joyce and Jeananne Farrar.

2) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – November 9 & December 14, 2022

Ms. Zerba submitted edits in writing for the November 9, 2022 minutes. Chair Powell tabled adoption of the November 9, 2022 minutes until the February 2023 regular meeting.

A motion by Ms. Carey to approve the December 14, 2022 minutes as presented was duly seconded by Ms. Huston and the motion carried unanimously.

3) Elections – Chair/Vice Chair

Chair Powell postponed the election until the February 2023 regular meeting.

4) Section 106 Review – Winchester Street, US Cellular

Mr. Schoefmann notified the Commission about a new installation on an existing telecommunications pole. The location is on Winchester Street, near Blake Street, and in proximity of Keene State College. He said this communication was about adding an array to an

existing structure. He displayed the location on a map. He said the pole currently has a large silver box. Chair Powell said an array already exists on that pole and they are adding an additional array, which Mr. Schoefmann said was his understanding.

Ms. Farrar asked if the new installation was 4G or 5G. Community Development Director, Jesse Rounds, replied with his understanding that it would be 4G, but he said he was not positive as the City has no jurisdiction. Mr. Schoefmann was unsure why the communication listed a proposed location given that the pole is existing already.

Ms. Huston asked how this related to the Heritage Commission's (HC) work. Chair Powell noted that the HC is one of many City committees that review this work. Mr. Rounds explained that it is an unusual situation, in which the HC must review these per Section 106. However, the federal Telecommunications Act basically states that as long as the telecommunications company is meeting some very broad criteria, the City has no right to say no. He continued that the provision of telecommunications is mandated federally. So, Section 106 is the one area that the Commission might have some criteria, but because it is an addition to an existing pole, it is not affecting any resources. He said it is an issue that gets a lot of attention but one that local authorities have almost no power to address. Mr. Schoefmann said the HC's input was sought about whether the installation impacts any historical or cultural resources. Mr. Schoefmann added that the installation is in the City's right-of-way. Ms. Huston said the installation is just before Blake Street and Mr. Schoefmann agreed. Chair Powell said it looked like it was between Blake Street and Madison Street.

Ms. Houston asked if the proposal was to place an additional box atop the current one on the pole. Mr. Schoefmann replied that it seemed they were just adding to the current one. Chair Powell said that often in the past for these sorts of structures, the HC has asked for visual masking/screening, so as to not take away from whatever structure the array is mounted on. However, she said that because this is an existing pole, it could not be masked to look like brick or greenery.

Ms. Zerba asked what is on the pole currently. Mr. Schoefmann replied that there is a silver box with a pole coming out of it. Ms. Huston and Mr. Schoefmann agreed that it is near to KSC's new computer building.

Ms. Farrar said she had many comments on this issue. She said her neighbor had done a lot of research on small cell wireless facilities (SWF). She had not done research herself. Ms. Farrar continued that her neighbor said that the radio frequencies cause health problems. She stated that SWFs are being installed in residential neighborhoods, which she said is not supposed to happen. She cited the example of a SWF on the corner of Middle Street and Summer Street; big trucks have a hard time turning at that corner and must go over the curb. Ms. Farrar continued that 4G, 5G, and the impending 6G, are dangerous to those who live nearby, those passing by like students, children in general, and those with health devices, like a pacemaker. She said many nearby families are unhappy about this. She said some cities have pushed back against this, but

that Keene's Director of Public Works, Kurt Blomquist said there is nothing the City can do about it. It was annoying and upsetting to Ms. Farrar that there was no local control or voice on this issue. Chair Powell thanked Ms. Farrar for her comments. The Chair noted that most of Ms. Farrar's concerns were health related, and Chair Powell wondered whether there was a more appropriate City Committee to hear those concerns.

Mr. Schoefmann agreed with the Chair and said the Section 106 process really means the Commission can provide input on the historical or cultural impacts. Mr. Rounds agreed. Mr. Schoefmann said the City Council had already heard about these issues from the public, and he wondered whether there was a Council Standing Committee that would hear these concerns again. Chair Powell recommended asking Councilor Johnson for suggestions at a future HC meeting.

Chair Powell asked Staff if any actions were needed from the HC at this time. Mr. Schoefmann said the Committee could indicate that they have no feedback on the location, though some health concerns were expressed by a member of the public.

Chair Powell made the following motion, which was duly seconded by Ms. Zerba: For the Section 106 review–Winchester Street–U.S. Cellular, the Keene Heritage Commission had no comment but acknowledged the voicing of health concerns. The motion carried unanimously.

5) **Downtown Infrastructure Project Update**

Chair Powell thought this topic would occupy the rest of the meeting and she apologized if all agenda items were not discussed at this meeting. The Chair's hope for this agenda item was to hear primarily from the two members of the public who were present for this topic. She noted that the Commission could then discuss collectively at a future meeting, as needed.

First, Chair Powell requested an overview of the downtown infrastructure project from the Community Development Director, Jesse Rounds. Mr. Rounds explained that the City had just released a frequently asked questions (FAQ) information sheet about the project. The City would continue releasing new FAQ flyers each week for a number of weeks. This was all leading to the two public workshops on January 30 at Heberton Hall and February 21 at the Keene High School auditorium; Mr. Rounds did not state the times of these workshops. The City Council would be present at these workshops to hear public comments.

Mr. Rounds continued explaining the project as it is conceived currently. This started as an infrastructure improvement project because the pipes and lines that run under Main Street are over 100 years old, are at risk of failing, and need to be replaced. This work would be from building front to building front on Main Street. While this would be a disruptive project, it would be more disruptive if any of that infrastructure failed catastrophically. Mr. Rounds said this is the second time the City has tried to do this. The goal is to systematically remove the offending systems and install new, up to date infrastructure. This includes utilities for water, sewer,

stormwater, fiber optic cables, electrical system upgrades, and some gas lines to be replaced. Through this project, the entire Main Street will be dug up, from building front to building front, down to dirt. Because Main Street must be disrupted for this infrastructure work, Mr. Rounds said the City Council realized it was an opportunity to address overall inefficiencies in the entire corridor, like narrow sidewalks, lack of bike access, and circulation issues. He noted problems with both drivers and walkers not paying attention at times, stating that circulation downtown could be improved. Upon the City Council's request, the Director of Public Works worked to hire consultants to produce conceptual designs.

Mr. Rounds said this is a long-term project that appeared originally in the Capital Improvement Program seven years ago. Last year, the conceptual design phase began as a first step to think about what was being torn-up downtown and what should be protected. One important thing to protect is Central Square, which is valued by everyone. The Central Square and buildings around Central Square have won two awards—American Planning Association (a private organization that recognizes good planning) and Preserve America—recognizing the Square's important contributions to the fabric of the downtown. There was no funding associated with either of those awards and the awards do not preclude any changes to Central Square. Mr. Rounds said Central Square had changed a lot since it was conceived originally, and it exists as a great public space today.

Next, Mr. Rounds described the project timeline. Last year, the City Council approved funding to start the conceptual design phase as a first step to think about what funding could be found, whether federal, state, or bond. Once a conceptual design is approved by the City Council, he said more determinations could be made that make a huge difference in protecting the things people care about. If this project moves forward as scheduled, construction will occur during the 2024, 2025, and 2026 construction seasons. Mr. Rounds said this would be a long and likely difficult process, with restricted access to businesses and the pathways people use to get where they need to go. Mr. Rounds said planning for those construction phases is still to come and will include focus on how to ensure businesses stay open and that people have access to them. He said that would be an ongoing discussion with businesses, but that discussion cannot begin until a conceptual design is chosen. Last year, Mayor Hansel and the City Council appointed an Ad Hoc Steering Committee of local stakeholders to begin a public process concurrently with the Technical Review Committee of City Staff. Over many months, the Steering Committee reviewed and discussed many design alternatives with the help of consultants from Stantec and heard public comments. In December 2022, the Steering Committee recommended their preferences to City Council. All minutes from those meetings are public on the [City website](#). Next, Mayor Hansel has proposed a Committee of the Whole of City Council for the two aforementioned workshops. Mr. Rounds said that at the workshops, there will be multiple stations where the consultants, public, City Council, and City Staff can discuss where, what, and how it would all work. The goal is for everyone to be clear about and familiar with what is proposed and not proposed.

Mr. Rounds explained that there are major changes being proposed for Main Street south of Central Square. No changes are proposed to the buildings along Main Street or to the overall working of the street. He explained that as proposed, Main Street would maintain two lanes of traffic in both directions, with angled nose-in parking on both sides, in addition to wider sidewalks and new bike lanes. Mr. Rounds was clear that none of these conceptual designs are final. Mr. Rounds continued explaining that some Main Street trees are unhealthy and will be removed. Other trees need to be removed because they are growing over pipes that need to be replaced. Still, the project goal is to keep as many trees as possible south of Central Square.

Next, Mr. Rounds described the changes proposed to the lighted intersection and Central Square. The Steering Committee recommended a mini roundabout at the south end of the Square instead of the traffic lights. Ms. Farrar asked how that would be done. Mr. Rounds showed images of the existing conditions and proposed mini roundabout. He said there would be two lanes into and out of this traffic circle, similar to roundabout at Winchester/Marlboro Streets. Vehicles coming north or south on Washington and Court Streets would use the circle. Mr. Rounds explained an added proposal for Central Square to close the current northern end of the roadway for added activity space. The space would still be accessible to emergency vehicles. This expansion of Central Square would mean that any of the special events on Central Square would no longer require road closure.

Ms. Farrar asked where people would park. Mr. Rounds replied that the current proposed conceptual design would result in a net loss of 15 parking spaces across the entire project area, which Mr. Schoefmann said is from Emerald Street to the top of Central Square; Chair Powell said from Ted's Shoe & Sport to the United Church of Christ on Central Square. Mr. Rounds did note that City Staff committed to trying to find locations to replace those 15 lost parking spaces. Mr. Rounds added that in the Sentinel article that went out the morning of this meeting, Mayor Hansel stated his commitment to finding more opportunities for parking on Main, Court, and Washington Streets. Mr. Schoefmann shared his understanding that the ultimate goal is a net gain in parking.

Mr. Rounds concluded his presentation noting that currently, the only impact to Central Square would be to some electrical lines along with some sprinkler system changes. Mr. Schoefmann added that no trenching was proposed for Central Square. For example, some infrastructure under Central Square would be abandoned to keep from disturbing the important area. Ms. Farrar asked if the plan was to install fiber-optic cables, which she called safer and better than small cell wireless facilities. Mr. Schoefmann said yes, that is the plan. Mr. Schoefmann said he would email the information about both upcoming public workshops to the Commissioners.

Vice Chair DeGidio asked Mr. Rounds about the image of the proposed changes to Central Square. She referred to tan lines on the image and asked if that was the proposed expanded sidewalk area. Mr. Rounds said yes, that is the current conceptual plan. The Vice Chair also asked about the green lines on the image, which Mr. Rounds said was the current center median greenspace that would be extended to the intersection of Roxbury and West Streets.

Ms. Joyce said she heard originally that this work would begin in 2023. Mr. Rounds said there are no plans to do any construction this year. Mr. Schoefmann thought it was intended to begin during construction season of fiscal year 2024 but he would follow-up to get clarification for the Commission. Ms. Farrar cited the newspaper, which said the project would occur in three phases over three years. Mr. Rounds and Mr. Schoefmann agreed. Ms. Farrar said that is a lot of disruption. Mr. Schoefmann noted that the goal is three phases but that there could be lessons learned from the Roxbury Street project. Ms. Farrar continued, suggesting that space on Gilbo Avenue could be used by Main Street businesses while the street is disrupted. Chair Powell thought the topic of helping businesses might be best suited for one of the upcoming public workshops. Today, the Chair wanted to focus on proposed changes that impact historical and cultural aspects of Main Street and Central Square.

Ms. Farrar questioned whether anyone from the Heritage Commission (HC) or Historic District Commission (HDC) was a part of the Steering Committee process. She continued explaining that the Preserve America award was a result of Keene being chosen as one of 12 distinctive destinations in the country; she said the CLG funding comes from that. She said that if a City does not have a HC or HDC, they are not eligible for funding. Chair Powell said those were good questions and asked what the HC can do or might be asked to contribute in the future. Mr. Rounds said that review is limited by the scopes of both the HC's and HDC's authority, which is why there had been minimal outreach to both groups to date. Currently, the conceptual design does not impact things that the HDC oversees, which are private properties and buildings; the HDC does not have oversight of the right-of-way so they can comment on the project but they have no review authority. Mr. Rounds said the situation is similar for the HC, noting that this Commission cannot vote on the conceptual design. He thought it was still important that the HC provide comments if there are things the Commissioners believe are important and need to be protected. He cited examples like needing to respect the heritage and quality of resources on Central Square to still have access to CLG grants. Those are the type of things that would be valuable to put in writing to the City Council. Ms. Farrar said she understood that the HC is an advisory group to other parts of the City government. Mr. Rounds agreed. Ms. Farrar continued stating her understanding that the HDC is more of a regulatory body that is bounded by legal rights from the State of NH. Thus, she said that if things are proposed that violate those regulations for the Historic District, there would be controversy. Mr. Rounds said that was absolutely correct. Mr. Schoefmann said that perhaps for the February meeting, everyone could consider the essential features to preserve, like the fountain or bandstand, to maintain the character of Main Street.

Ms. Joyce is a part of the group called Save the Square and she has spent a lot of time standing on Central Square. She explained that this was a more than \$5.5 million design that was approved by the City Council. She encouraged everyone to read the newspaper the evening of this meeting, which would indicate potential controversy over whether they [City staff and City Council] followed protocol. She stated that it did not seem as though [City Staff and the City Council] did. Ms. Joyce attended and spoke at the December 13 Steering Committee meeting.

She said she came to this HC meeting because she had often wondered whether anyone from the HC or Historical Society was contacted during this conceptual design process or whether they [City Staff] just did what they want, as usual. Ms. Joyce stated that she was appalled at the amount of money spent. She continued indicating that similar projects in Nashua and Laconia had not improved the cities and that some businesses did not survive multiple years of construction. She feared the same thing would happen in Keene. Ms. Joyce wants to see the infrastructure changes happen and for Main Street to be rebuilt as it is today, which is how it has been since she came here more than 50 years ago. For example, she told a stranger in Maine where she lived and they complimented Keene's beauty. Ms. Joyce was worried about this transition having a negative impact on what we have and how we function as a community. She said that Ms. Farrar was correct that the HC should have been included in this process.

Ms. Joyce asked when the HC first became aware of this project. Chair Powell replied that she learned about the project originally from the awareness mailers that were sent out to homes in the City. Ms. Joyce said that mailer had no valuable information on it and she asked who paid for it. Mr. Rounds said the City paid for it. Ms. Joyce continued saying that there was no date for the public meeting on the mailer. Mr. Rounds said the mailer was sent before that meeting date was set in an effort to get public comments on the online public survey. Ms. Joyce noted that not everyone has access to the internet or uses complicated websites that way, particularly older members of the community. Mr. Rounds and Mr. Schoefmann agreed. Mr. Schoefmann said that at the December HC meeting, the Commission discussed having this as an agenda item for this meeting, and Ms. Farrar had contacted Mr. Schoefmann with some concerns. Chair Powell agreed that the project came to the HC's attention in December 2022, when the Commission was finishing another big project. Ms. Joyce said this has been in the works since 2017. Mr. Schoefmann said it had only been in the works to the extent that it had been budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program since 2017. With the conceptual design preceding the engineering design, Mr. Schoefmann stated the process was on track to be bringing these concepts to the public for input at this moment. Now that the Steering Committee (made up of City Councilors, Main Street merchants, and other stakeholders) had made a recommendation, the City Council needed to review the concepts, hear public comments, and make a decision. Ms. Joyce cited the controversy and whether "that preliminary group that was supposed to be aware and be informed of this project were skipped over." Mr. Schoefmann did not think they were skipped over. He said with the conceptual work fulfilled by the Steering Committee that now it is the time to publicize the possibilities for Main Street. This is why the January 30 and February 21 public workshops were scheduled.

Chair Powell asked the guests what they thought were the important historical and heritage-based elements they want to see protected, which the HC would include in their letter to City Council. Ms. Joyce shared the Sentinel article that alerted her to the project that said, "Now is your time to speak, use your voices." Ms. Joyce did just that at the December 13 meeting and hoped her comments would be included in the Letters to the Editor of The Sentinel. She mentioned other Letters to the Editor from Nancy Sporberg and Steven Seracheck on why this proposal should not go forward. Ms. Joyce said she and others want to know what hurry is. She

said this is not a good time to disrupt the community in this manner, noting that the community is still dealing with Covid-19. She continued that she did not see anything downtown that was failing and she was not convinced there was a problem that needed to be addressed now.

Ms. Farrar said the City is in a valley and sits on water that would be found when they dig down to the infrastructure. Chair Powell agreed that the valley and surrounding hills are an interesting part of Keene's history, heritage, and how the City manages flooding. The Chair cited the hurricane and great floods from the 1920s and 1930s, noting that the dam in Surry, NH, was constructed to combat flooding. Chair Powell was interested in the history and honoring the past, as well as understanding what the City is doing now that would be the legacy for the future.

Ms. Carey said this proposal would disrupt the sense of place that generations of people have found in Keene. She had a major concern about how people feel in this place. She added that the proposed changes for larger gatherings downtown was disturbing for some people.

Ms. Zerba said she had several thoughts. Although the buildings would not be touched, she cited concerns for aesthetic appearance as people go up Main Street. She prefers the image of Central Square as it exists currently. Ms. Zerba wondered whether there would be an extensive traffic study. Mr. Rounds replied that a traffic study had occurred already, which was included on the project's website. Ms. Joyce also questioned whether there had been a bicycle study. Mr. Schoefmann stated that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee conducted numerous counts throughout the corridor over the years, including pedestrian and cyclist counts specifically on Main Street. The data exists. Mr. Schoefmann displayed a diagram with some of the traffic data.

Chair Powell thought the Commission would have time at the next meeting to develop a letter before the City Council decision. She hoped everyone would bring comments to the next meetings.

Ms. Huston referred to the diagram and where separation would be lost between Central Square and the buildings at the top of the Square. She said there is an increased homeless population in the area. She thinks that not having that divide between Central Square and the buildings would leave the area wide open for the homeless to squat there. Ms. Huston said this would take away from the whole beauty of downtown. She said sometimes it is not very nice, like when there are many homeless at Railroad Square. She thought the whole of Central Square and the adjacent buildings would be vulnerable. Ms. Huston concluded that the small piece of roadway between the buildings and Central Square saves the Square from overflow of inappropriate actions.

Vice Chair DeGidio said one of her concerns was for the trees. She understood that some were diseased but she was otherwise in favor of saving the large, beautiful trees that downtown has already. Chair Powell agreed that the trees are a part of the heritage and history of the City.

Chair Powell said she would hold off on sharing her thoughts but she hoped her interest in maintaining and protecting the heritage and history of the town was clear. She recognized that Central Square was a big part of that. Chair Powell thanked Mr. Rounds for his contribution.

6) 2021 CLG – Italian Neighborhood Heritage Project

Chair Powell noted that 76 people attended the presentation at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, which she called a phenomenal turnout. She hoped the Commissioners were proud of the work they put into making the presentation a reality. She thanked Ms. Carey for creating the posters that people raved about. Mr. Schoefmann said he created an automated Google slideshow with the videos. He said that when Mr. Lee loaded that slideshow onto the HC's Wix site, the videos were missing. Since then, Mr. Schoefmann published it in a different way that now allows going through it more like a video, and he will work with Mr. Lee to get it onto the Wix site. Mr. Schoefmann also shared it with the Historical Society, which will keep it on file, has sent it out to anybody that had interest, and posted it on their website.

Ms. Huston said the presentation was fantastic. Ms. Zerba added praise for Chair Powell's and Mr. Schoefmann's contributions. Chair Powell said the whole point was to get the community involved and to have public engagement with the history. The Chair was so grateful that it was a success, which she thought was in large part due to the community it was focused on and their involvement. It gave her hope for future neighborhoods and communities. Mr. Schoefmann agreed that now the HC has a great template for moving forward with other neighborhoods.

Chair Powell noted that the work was not complete and that there were still some upcoming interviews. The second half of this grant-funded project also remains, which is the story map. Still, there were no action items at this time. Mr. Schoefmann wondered if they should preliminarily set a limit on how many more interviews to do. He noted that the interviews completed to date were filmed very professionally by Chair Powell's partner, who is a videographer. Mr. Schoefmann said this gives the project more credibility. Chair Powell recalled that Ms. Huston spoke with Anne Eastman, who told a story about a woman in a boat, which another interviewee talked about. Additionally, Mr. Calderelli spoke about seeing the moment out of a window as a woman giving birth during a flood was being towed in a rowboat to the hospital. Chair Powell said it is one thing to have the pictures, but that verbal confirmation makes the HC's work exciting. Ms. Huston asked if Ms. Eastman agreed to participate. Chair Powell said she thought we [the Commission] wanted to keep making that effort. Ms. Huston said that her son was at the event and said he would try. Ms. Huston also suggested that Ms. Joyce could. Mr. Schoefmann said a focus area would be on getting some of the women's voices and stories. Chair Powell cited concern that the Commission had not received more female perspectives. Thus, she was reluctant to end this data collection but recognized the need to wrap-up the project. Chair Powell encouraged everyone to spread the word. Ms. Zerba mentioned Anne Derry as a possibility. Ms. Huston mentioned a couple who attended the presentation, but she could not remember their names; she said the husband is a lector at church. Ms. Huston said she would talk to Ms. Zerba about it after the meeting. Mr. Schoefmann added that someone

should communicate with the Historical Society as some people had contacted them with interest. Ms. Zerba suggested that Ms. Farrar could be a speaker.

For February, Chair Powell thought the focus could be on finishing the collecting phase. She hoped that Mr. Schoefmann would come to the February meeting with information on what the Commission needs to provide to the consultant. Mr. Schoefmann had shared some of the video clips with the consultant, who was impressed. Mr. Schoefmann would contact the consultant and provide more information in February.

7) **2022 CLG – Recovering Black History in Keene Project**

This grant begins this year. Mr. Schoefmann said he had been in touch with the Division of Historical Resources (DHR). He said the grant approval and acceptance motion would appear before Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee on January 12. City Planner, Evan Clements, would be handling that process. Mr. Schoefmann said that ideally, it would be approved by City Council at their January 19 meeting. Then the City Manager would sign-off, and it would go back to the State in time for the Governor and Council to approve the budgeting necessary for the grants being awarded. He continued that Mari Brunner, Senior Planner, reached out to Cabria Baumgartner, the proposed consultant for this and everything seemed in order. Mr. Schoefmann said he also touched base with the State about whether there needed to be a bid process. He had also communicated with the City's Purchasing Department and everything was in order to go "single source" based on the specificity and amount of the grant. Chair Powell said that was perfect and thanked Mr. Schoefmann for following-up on all of that. Mr. Schoefmann said everything should be good to go. City Staff was just waiting for return communication from Ms. Baumgartner about potential dates for a Zoom meeting; Mr. Schoefmann would share those details with Chair Powell so she can be involved.

Chair Powell thought the next step would be to invite Jenna Carroll from the Cheshire County Historical Society to meet with the Commission to discuss where the project stands right now and how the Commission would help. The Chair was aiming to invite Ms. Carroll to the March meeting.

Chair Powell was also curious about the new CLG granting cycle. Did the Commission need to be applying for next year right now? Mr. Schoefmann thought the information was released in the summer for an application due at the end of summer. Chair Powell remembered working on it in March and April 2022. She knew the Commission would want to apply again to sustain these ongoing cycles of projects. The Chair asked everyone to think about what types of projects they are interested in pursuing starting in 2025.

8) **Next Meeting – February 8, 2023**

Because not everyone was present today, Chair Powell thought it would be necessary to recap the infrastructure project discussion at the beginning of the February meeting, when the project will be the primary focus.

Ms. Carey asked whether the Commission would be meeting monthly. Chair Powell said they would plan to meet every month and cancel meetings if not needed.

Ms. Farrar shared parting words. She said in 1980, things were in very bad shape on Main Street and that was part of the reason commissions like this one were appointed to protect and preserve our Main Street. She said it was like trying to reinvent the wheel, when Keene already has the most beautiful Main Street in New England, with multiple awards. She noted the thousands of volunteer hours spent protecting these resources. She said it was sad that it would all be torn-up. She grew up in this City and agreed that sense of place is important. Some things cannot be replaced to accommodate things like bicycles. Ms. Farrar said the ratio of bicycles to vehicles was not in sync. She said there are plenty of opportunities for cyclists, citing all the money spent on the trails program. She said to leave the Main Street for our people. Chair Powell thanked both guests for sharing.

9) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Katriona Kibler, Minute Taker
January 19, 2023

Reviewed and edited by,
Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff
February 2, 2023