



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

Monday, October 21, 2024

4:30 PM

Room 22, Recreation Center

Commission Members

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Councilor Andrew Madison, Vice Chair
Art Walker
Councilor Robert Williams, Ex-Officio
Steven Bill
Kenneth Bergman
Barbara Richter

Deborah LeBlanc, Alternate
Thomas P. Haynes, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate
Lee Stanish, Alternate
Eloise Clark, Alternate

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2024
3. Report-outs:
 - a) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee
 - b) Invasive Species
 - c) Land Conservation
 - d) Pollinator Updates
4. Airport proposed wildlife control fence – project update
5. Discussion about a citywide approach/strategy for invasive species management
6. Discussion Items:
 - a) NHACC Intern opportunity
 - b) Keene Meadow Solar Station project update
 - c) NHDOT Route 101 Project
 - d) Master Plan Update
 - e) Outreach
 - f) NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference – November 2, Pembroke Academy
 - g) CCCD Annual Conservation Commission Potluck - November 19, 6-8 PM, Stonewall Farm
7. New or Other Business
8. Adjourn – Next meeting date: **Monday, November 18, 2024**

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
4
5 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Monday, September 16, 2024

4:30 PM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Councilor Andrew Madison, Vice Chair (5:24 PM)
Councilor Robert Williams
Art Walker
Ken Bergman
Steven Bill
Barbara Richter
Eloise Clark, Alternate
Thomas Haynes, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate
Lee Stanish, Alternate (Voting)
Deborah LeBlanc, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

All Present

8
9 **1) Call to Order**

10
11 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

12
13 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2024**

14
15 Revisions: Line 41, change “Lower Drummer” to “Drummer.” Change any instances of “Tom”
16 to “Mr. Haynes.”

17
18 A motion by Mr. Bergman to adopt the August 19, 2024 minutes as amended was duly seconded
19 by Mr. Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

20
21 **3) Report-Outs:**

22 **A) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee**

23
24 Mr. Haynes reported that Subcommittee members met for a working session at the Park on
25 September 13. The Subcommittee had shifted focus from the Lower Mattson Trail to the Rope

26 Tow Trail, off the Drummer Road Trailhead. Eight volunteers participated in this work creating
27 much needed water bars on this trail that Mr. Haynes said was pretty eroded. He was very
28 pleased with this turnout as they were able to accomplish a lot of work with two crews instead of
29 one, and it was a lot of fun. The Subcommittee had another volunteer work session planned for
30 Saturday, September 21, beginning at 8:30 AM at the Drummer Road Trailhead to continue
31 water bars on the Rope Tow Trail.

32

33 **B) Invasive Species**

34

35 There would be an in-depth conversation about invasive species later in the meeting.

36

37 Councilor Williams reported that there was not an invasive event scheduled in September. The
38 next event would be on Indigenous Peoples Day, October 14 at 5:00 PM at Robin Hood Park,
39 where efforts over past years had made a big impact. The final event of the year would be on
40 Veterans Day, November 11, pulling bittersweet vines along Eastern Avenue and the Cheshire
41 Rail Trail as in past years.

42

43 **C) Land Conservation**

44

45 Chair Von Plinsky thanked Ms. Richter for sharing a spreadsheet on Keene's lands that are in
46 various levels of conservation, which Ms. Brunner would forward to the whole Commission. Ms.
47 Richter explained the various data she worked with, including [NH Granit](#), which captures a lot
48 and helps to determine level of protection. Eventually, this list could be compared to the City's
49 tax maps. Chair Von Plinsky asked Commissioners to review the spreadsheet and data in
50 advance of the next meeting.

51

52 Ms. Brunner recalled the Commission discussing past efforts to monitor the City's lands in
53 conservation. For a long time, there had been a bin with clip boards, vests, folders, binders,
54 checklists, and more kept in the Community Development Department. However, no one
55 currently working in the Community Development Department had knowledge of this. So, the
56 Commission would work together to either try to find them or create a new ones.

57

58 **D) Pollinator Updates**

59

60 Mr. Therriault was not present to share updates.

61

62 **4) Discussion About a Citywide Approach/Strategy for Invasive Species Management**

63

64 Chair Von Plinsky led the Commission in a discussion about a broader citywide strategy for
65 invasive species management. He was prompted to have this discussion after a Master Plan
66 Steering Committee meeting, during which there was a brief conversation about invasives. This
67 led him to realize that there might be a broader impression that the City has more resources
68 dedicated to invasive species monitoring than it actually does. So, he wanted the Commission to

69 discuss his idea to write a letter to the City Council—as in the past—recommending that the City
70 take more concerted action against invasive species. He said the City needs more staff training
71 and clear guidelines, as well as clear guidance for volunteers who could pull invasives when on
72 City property. Chair Von Plinsky hoped the Commission could arrive at consensus by the
73 October meeting for him to write a letter to the City Council on behalf of the Commission.

74 Mr. Bergman asked if the focus was City-owned public lands. Chair Von Plinsky replied that
75 yes, he thought the Commission and volunteers could have the greatest impact on City-owned
76 lands or land in the right-of-way. Still, the Commission had a lot of conversations about
77 educating private property owners as well, so there could be an element of that too because
78 invasives spread from private properties into the right-of-way. Chair Von Plinsky said that
79 Councilor Williams was doing a great job, but could not solve this problem alone, so the Chair
80 thought the Council needed greater information on this issue to help them make a greater
81 decision.

82 Ms. Brunner reported that to understand what everyone does with respect to invasive plant
83 species, she recently met with the new Director of Parks & Recreation, Carrah Fisk-Hennessey;
84 the new Director of Public Works, Don Lussier; the Deputy City Manager, Andy Bohannon; and
85 Parks & Recreation Superintendent, Frank “Pepper” Anderson. Ms. Brunner said that all
86 reported that they and their teams were stretched very thin at this time, with staff barely able to
87 keep up with their regular work. So, adding any focus on invasives would be tough at this time,
88 despite them indicating that they liked the idea. She said they discussed two options: a volunteer-
89 run program and a staff-run program, the latter of which was unlikely at this time. City staff were
90 more interested in seeing the volunteer-run option move forward. This option would be focused
91 on high-priority, mapped areas, similar to what Councilor Williams had been doing. It could be
92 led by a community group or a neighborhood, or a group could adopt a particular park, for
93 example. There could be some level of oversight and training. Ms. Brunner added that the
94 Commission could use the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for planning or consultant
95 services to set-up a program like this.

96 Ms. Stanish asked how the Commission would set priorities for the work and how to track the
97 occurrence of invasive species. How can the Commission keep track of where it is investing its
98 limited resources? Chair Von Plinsky spoke about Bob Milliken who would be invited to speak
99 to the Commission—possibly in October—about his experiences creating a structured volunteer
100 program. Mr. Milliken is a master gardener and reported the wild parsnip on Court Street; he is
101 very talented with plants and specifically with invasive control measures.

102 Mr. Bill asked if anyone on City staff was trained in invasive species control. Councilor
103 Williams said that he completed a two-day course from the University of NH Extension, which is
104 conducted regularly all over the State. Councilor Williams thought it would be possible to invite
105 the UNH Extension to Keene to lead the training for both City staff and volunteers. Ms. Brunner
106 said she did inquire, and the City hires someone to apply pesticides on a short section of Beaver
107 Brook—between Water Street and Marlboro Street—as required by the Army Corps of
108 Engineers. Councilor Williams was interested in exploring whether funding could be arranged to

109 have a City staff member trained to apply herbicide. While he said he is not a huge fan of
110 herbicide, he said there are cases when it is needed, but it cannot be applied by volunteers.

111 Ms. LeBlanc asked if an intern (like the Commission would discuss later in the meeting) could
112 map all of the invasive species in the City. Mr. Haynes said that would trigger the Commission's
113 educational outreach focus that was somewhat on the backburner at this time. He said there could
114 be an opportunity for an intern to identify City-owned land with invasives ward-by-ward. Doing
115 so by ward (e.g., including educational workshops) could also help to educate the general public
116 about what they can do on their own properties in each ward. Mr. Haynes said this could be an
117 opportunity for Commission outreach if the City cannot take more action on invasives.

118 Ms. Richter said she understood that this is a huge issue the City cannot tackle alone. She said
119 certain City staff—especially Public Works and Parks & Recreation—would continue
120 encountering invasives in their day-to-day work, so the more educated they are the better (e.g.,
121 best time to remove them). She did not think it would be a huge lift for a City staff member to
122 attend a two-day training on herbicide application, which would be a significant asset to the City;
123 training on basic control measures would be useful as well. The Commission also agreed that
124 more educational programs for the public and volunteers would be helpful, so more people are
125 aware of these species on their properties and City properties.

126 Ms. Stanish recalled questioning whether the Commission had any resources available to educate
127 homeowners about Japanese knotweed on their properties. To contribute, she drafted a pamphlet
128 using several NH resources as examples, but she tried to tailor them more to Keene. She thought
129 the Commission could try to create a template for future pamphlets to make it easier to share
130 resources at the Library and City Hall, for example. Chair Von Plinsky agreed that there is a
131 need to get the word out as much as possible. He noted that the community was becoming more
132 attuned to invasives, citing comments about it at a Master Plan Steering Committee meeting, in
133 addition to comments that once you know what knotweed looks like, you cannot unsee it. Chair
134 Von Plinsky hoped the City would develop clearer and simpler guidelines for citizens to address
135 these invasives; he compared it to efforts like Green Up Keene, so volunteers can be trained to
136 identify and remove invasives, adopt areas of the City, and address the invasives there long-term.
137 He wants it to be a simple, low resource model. Mr. Bergman recalled that in recent years—
138 thanks to Mr. Theriault's insistence—any time the Commission had reviewed requests for
139 waivers in places being reseeded, it had insisted upon use of native pollinator friendly plants.
140 Due to the soil disturbance, Mr. Bergman said the Commission could also recommend that
141 contractors in these instances follow-up with three seasons of pulling invasives as Ms. Brunner
142 mentioned earlier along Beaver Brook; however, Ms. Brunner then confirmed that was only
143 three rounds of pulling over approximately six months.

144 Mr. Bergman thought a letter to the City Council would be valuable whether it achieves the goal.
145 Ideally, he hoped it would at least raise awareness among the City Council and City departments
146 that there is concern about this and that this impacts quality of life in the City. Chair Von Plinsky
147 thought there was potential for at least a few rows of people at a City Council meeting willing to
148 advocate for this issue. The Chair said he understood the City staff's perspectives. Yet, as
149 spenders of the taxpayers' money, Chair Von Plinsky thought the Commission could advocate

150 that it is the Council's job to help solve this problem. He thought the letter would have greater
151 impact if it included specific recommendations to start the discussion. Ms. Clark suggested that
152 the letter should include practical incentives for the City Council, like infrastructure that Ms.
153 Richter mentioned; the City Council had been very concerned about infrastructure.

154 The Commission agreed that Chair Von Plinsky should write the letter to the City Council
155 encouraging citizen awareness and education, in addition to clear guidelines for what citizens can
156 and cannot do with invasives in the City right-of-way. He would also advocate for a budget
157 increase or staff position, but the Commission would review it and decide whether to strike it at
158 the October meeting.

159 **5) Discussion Items:**

160 **A) NHACC Intern Opportunity**

161

162 Ms. Brunner emailed details to the Commission about this opportunity in spring 2025. Ms.
163 Richter explained that the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) received a
164 grant to encourage Conservation Commissions to work more closely with graduate students on
165 local projects they had not been able to complete with volunteer time. She said this would
166 involve the NHACC matching towns with students in their areas who are focused on natural
167 resource conservation or GIS mapping; there is a lot of flexibility. The NHACC would pay the
168 intern's stipend based on 15–20 hours/week for three months (\$3,600). If selected, Keene would
169 be in a sort of cohort with 3-4 other towns that are working with an intern, and each town would
170 be asked to provide feedback on the program. Ms. Richter said there was a lot of interest, so she
171 suggested that the Commission should be as defined and clear as possible in describing the
172 project to increase its likelihood of being selected; a clear task list would better help the intern as
173 well.

174 Chair Von Plinsky noted that the deadline was October 11, before the next Commission meeting.

175 Mr. Haynes asked if the Commission could consider education and community outreach as
176 categories. Ms. Richter said yes. Mr. Haynes asked if the Commission would need to partner
177 with a local faculty member. Ms. Richter said she could help with some of that, as she had been
178 working with Antioch University New England, Plymouth State University, and University of
179 NH. Some of this collaboration could be done remotely. Ms. Stanish asked if the intern could be
180 an undergraduate. Ms. Richter said yes, and they could also be a recent graduate.

181 Mr. Bergman asked if the intern could specifically work on an inventory of the City's
182 conservation easements. Ms. Richter said that could be a project.

183 Ms. Clark said that given the Commission's focus on invasive species, it would be eye opening
184 to have someone survey the City and create GIS locations for the various invasive species visible
185 from roadways in the City as a baseline inventory. Chair Von Plinsky thought that would be
186 clearcut enough and Ms. Richter agreed given this path toward planning for a volunteer program.
187 This could be the next step.

188 Mr. Bergman wondered if it would be better to strategize for this intern to focus on one particular
189 invasive—like knotweed—throughout the City or in a certain part of the City as a targeted
190 mapping project.

191 Ms. Stanish asked when this internship would occur. Ms. Richter said in the spring of 2025, but
192 it could extend into the summer too. Ms. Stanish noted that the time of year would make a
193 difference if focusing on a specific invasive. Ms. Richter noted that a subcommittee or volunteer
194 group—not necessarily the whole Conservation Commission—would lead the intern and could
195 help the intern make these decisions. However, she agreed that asking an intern to investigate
196 every invasive species in Keene would be a big chore, so picking one species or a specific part of
197 the City might be a good idea for the application. Chair Von Plinsky and Ms. Richter agreed that
198 the grant application does not have to be perfect because the faculty advisor and intern would
199 also have input, so the project would evolve.

200 Ms. LeBlanc asked if the intern could map the most aggressive invasive. To that point, Ms.
201 Richter thought the application should emphasize that the Commission wants this to be an
202 investigation that leads to a plan with a priority list of species or areas, and a framework for
203 addressing them. The Commission agreed that the goal is to identify priority species and priority
204 areas, on City land first. Councilor Williams said he had ideas to share.

205 Mr. Bergman asked about the application. Ms. Richter said the internship application was a short
206 online form. Mr. Bill asked if it would be an ongoing program, as there would be more
207 opportunities in the fall. Ms. Richter was unsure; this was a pilot program.

208 Mr. Haynes noted that the City was leading projects focused on the City wards. He said that
209 those could be good target areas/boundaries for this effort too. Ms. Richter agreed that there
210 could be various ways to coordinate this effort, and boundaries did not have to be defined for the
211 grant application.

212 Mr. Haynes asked if the Commission could submit for more than one project. Ms. Richter said
213 yes, but she advised picking the strongest project.

214 Chair Von Plinsky and Councilor Williams agreed to work together to help draft the internship
215 application. The Commission agreed to focus on some sort of an invasive species inventory, as
216 emphasis on education and workshops in the community could be a part of this.

217 **B) Airport Proposed Wildlife Control Fence**

218
219 No updates.

221 **C) Keene Meadow Solar Station Project Update**

222
223 No updates.

225 **D) NHDOT Route 101 Project**

226

227 Chair Von Plinsky reported some updates on the Swanzey Factory Road & Rt. 101 project, as the
228 website indicated movement into the design phase. It seemed to be moving forward with design
229 alternative #2, which is closer to Marlborough and further from the bridge. The timeline for the
230 project was still unclear. Mr. Bergman asked if that was the alternative further from the Stone
231 Arch Bridge and Chair Von Plinsky said yes. The Chair said it was pretty clear that no parties
232 were in favor of options closer to the bridge. Mr. Bergman thought that this was synchronized
233 with the final placement of a bridge the City paid \$1 for but Chair Von Plinsky said he could not
234 speak to that.

235

236 **E) Master Plan Update**

237

238 Chair Von Plinsky invited Commissioners to a Future Summit on October 5 from 9:00 AM–
239 12:00 PM at Heberton Hall. This would conclude the first stage of the Master Plan process. All
240 Master Plan Steering Committee meetings are open to the public, and the next would be October
241 1 at 6:00 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Ms. Brunner said the Steering Committee was
242 working on defining the strategic pillars of the Master Plan to be used at the Future Summit. Ms.
243 Brunner explained that a task force would be formed for each strategic pillar. One strategic pillar
244 would be focused on environmental stewardship and climate action (not exact wording), which
245 might be of interest to Commissioners. Chair Von Plinsky would be tabling about this at the
246 Clean Energy Fair at the Dillant Hopkins Airport on September 28, which is another opportunity
247 to provide input about the Master Plan process.

248

249 Vice Chair Madison arrived.

250

251 Chair Von Plinsky urged Commissioners to mention conservation and environmentally sensible
252 planning any time they bump into a City Councilor; every little bit helps.

253

254 **F) Outreach**

255

256 Mr. Haynes noted that the Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee had been
257 focused on trails for some time but would be shifting some focus to outreach opportunities in
258 addition to its Goose Pond Through the Seasons events. He had many ideas he was considering.

259 Ms. Brunner noted that the Antioch University New England Community Service Initiative
260 (CSI) would be reopening again soon. While the Commission's applications had not been chosen
261 in past years, she wondered if a shift toward outreach might be more appealing to a graduate
262 student intern. Ms. Brunner would look into the deadlines and communicate with Mr. Haynes.

263 **6) New or Other Business**

264

265 Chair Von Plinsky recalled the Commission discussing its responsibility to monitor conservation
266 easements in the City of Keene annually. He thought there were five. He was hoping to distribute
267 them over several months between Commissioners who were not already overly committed to
268 Commission activities. Ms. Richter and Mr. Bergman offered to help. Mr. Haynes thought that

269 most easements were fairly small. Chair Von Plinsky said that if the monitoring checklists were
270 actually lost (as discussed earlier in the meeting), the Commission and staff would work to
271 recreate them, and Mr. Bergman offered to help.

272 The Commission wished Ms. Stanish well and thanked her for her participation, as this would be
273 her last meeting.

274 December 2024 would be the end of Chair Von Plinsky's and Mr. Bergman's memberships.
275 Chair Von Plinsky would send recommendations for new membership to Mayor Kahn who
276 makes official appointments; others could make recommendations too. The Commission has
277 seven members and five alternates. Regular members can request to transition to alternates when
278 their terms end. Chair Von Plinsky said he would recommend advancing Mr. Therriault and Ms.
279 LeBlanc from alternates to regular members. Anyone interested in being Chair or Vice Chair are
280 welcome attend the monthly meetings with Ms. Brunner before Commission meetings to get a
281 sense of that commitment (can attend remotely as well).

282 Mr. Bill asked if the law passed allowing municipalities to require elections of conservation
283 commissioners. Ms. Richter said it did pass and that choice is up to municipalities, it is not
284 required.

285 Mr. Bergman asked for an update on the City's offer on the Hull Forest Products property on the
286 Washington Street Extension. Ms. Brunner had no comment or update.

287 Mr. Bergman recalled the Commission discussing Ladies' Wildwood Park last year because of
288 red pines dying due to both age and disease, as well as lots of knotweed in the park. He said the
289 knotweed is extensive and would be potentially easily removed with equipment. He wondered if
290 removing the two species could be synchronized. He thought the forestry plan might be longer
291 term, but stated that the park has the most conspicuous, huge patch of knotweed in west Keene.
292 Mr. Bergman reiterated that Ladies' Wildwood Park needs a forestry plan. He said this is a
293 project the Commission should be working on, citing the dangers of disease hitting this
294 monoculture of red pines, or a storm. Councilor Williams thought he recalled that last year, the
295 Conservation Commission wrote a letter to the City Council about a forestry management plan,
296 which resulted in something proposed in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and he
297 thought it included something for Ladies' Wildwood Park, including the red pines; the CIP is a
298 long-term plan, so those projects do not happen immediately. Mr. Bergman asked who would
299 manage that project. Ms. Brunner said Parks & Recreation. Ms. Brunner recalled that in 2023,
300 the Commission submitted a proposal to Antioch University for Ladies' Wildwood Park that was
301 not accepted, which they could resubmit or try for the NHACC internship; she would forward it
302 to the Commission again. Mr. Bergman did not want to compete for the NHACC internship if
303 they would be more competitive for invasives.

304 Ms. Clark recalled that many years ago, Mr. Bohannon was working with Matt Kelly, the former
305 Cheshire County Forester, on the red pines at Ladies' Wildwood Park. At one point, Ms. Clark
306 shared a firm she had worked with that was good with herbicides, and Mr. Bohannon indicated
307 that there was a lot of pushback from the City against pesticide use. Discussion briefly ensued
308 about the methods Mr. Milliken would hopefully share when he would visit the Commission,

309 including stump treatment of buckthorn. Even if the use of an herbicide was approved, the City
310 would need someone licensed to apply it.

311 Discussion also ensued about how far out the Ladies' Wildwood Park project might be in the
312 CIP, but Ms. Brunner was unsure. The CIP is updated every two years by the Planning Board
313 and the City Council, and those interested should attend those hearings. It was just updated and
314 approved this year. It is organized by department, and this project would fall under Parks &
315 Recreation. Mr. Bergman asked who would advocate to ensure a project like this would come to
316 fruition—the public, Parks & Recreation, or City Council? Ms. Brunner replied that there are
317 multiple levels of review by the City Manager; Planning Board; Finance, Organization, &
318 Personnel Committee; and ultimately the City Council.

319 Mr. Bill asked about the letter the Commission received about the Bretwood Golf Course, noting
320 that it seemed the project should have been completed and it was hard to tell what was going on.
321 He asked if anyone had more context because he felt like the Commission had been left out of
322 the loop. Chair Von Plinsky replied that he did not remember exactly. Ms. Brunner thought the
323 Commission received a letter from the NH Department of Environmental Services after someone
324 reported a violation to them, and after that, she thought everything was via email; she did not
325 recall someone presenting before the Commission. Ms. Clark said the Ashuelot River Local
326 Advisory Committee (ARLAC) was informed about it. She said the property owner tried to put
327 in a dam on the Ashuelot River to retain water so they could pump it out, but they were chastised
328 for it.

329 Mr. Bill said he had the opportunity to visit the present-day George Street Bridge and he had a
330 whole different perspective being able to see the vertical walls basically right at the edge of the
331 bridge. He said it was kind of a mess. In the future, he hopes the Commission will have the
332 opportunity to look at these things in advance.

333 7) **Adjourn – Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 21, 2024**

334

335 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 5:48 PM.

336

337 Respectfully submitted by,
338 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker
339 September 23, 2024

340

341 Reviewed and edited by,
342 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Mayor Kahn and City Councilors,

Keene's Conservation Commission would like to bring a matter of great, long-term importance to your attention.

As the climate warms and pressures on native vegetation increases, we are seeing a drastic increase in the abundance of invasive species. These species, such as Norway Maples, Japanese Knotweed, and Glossy Buckthorn, to name just a few, are outcompeting native species and are increasingly dominating local ecosystems. Invasive species generally have few or no local ecological checks in the region they are dominating and given enough time will eventually push native vegetation, such as [would love some example please] to local and even, in some cases, total extinction.

That's the bad news. The good news is that if we, as a city, commit to working together toward a solution then we can save much of the native vegetation (and the wildlife that depends on it) that makes Keene the wonderful place we all know and love. The Conservation Commission would like to urge the City Council to act with urgency to combat this growing problem. Below we have included a number of suggestions and as always we stand ready to assist the city in any way possible.

Suggestions:

1. The city should have a single point of contact (POC) for invasive species control, an Invasive Species Warden if you will. Having a POC will alleviate much of the frustration that we are seeing with regard to dealing with invasive species on public property. We understand that this is a potentially big job and may require additional resources to implement; however, we feel that a consistent and available POC is worth it.
2. The city should educate and enlist the public. Keene has a vast number of gardeners and horticulturists (and would-be gardeners and horticulturists) who will be a great asset in the fight against invasive species. The problem they run into is that frequently they are unsure about if/when/where they are allowed to help. If we can create a single, simple set of guidelines and then, for lack of a better word, deputize people to act we can greatly reduce the resources necessary to address the problem.

3. Any contract involving city land should call for the use of native species and the requirement that any invasive species that contractors/employees come in contact with should be removed.

We appreciate that dealing with invasive species is a big undertaking but we believe that it is not only worth doing now it will also only get more expensive to deal with later. Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact us with any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have.

Sparky Von Plinsky
Chair, Keene Conservation Commission



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Johnson
Surry
President

Larry Spencer
Holderness
Vice President

Michelle Lowe
Belmont
Treasurer

Kristen Murphy
Dover
Secretary

Jennifer Beck
Wilton

Eileen Chabot
Derry

Michael Cohen
Amherst

Jay Diener
Hampton

Linda Hansen
Easton

Lisa Morin
Laconia

Paul Wainwright
Atkinson

Steve Wingate,
Tuftonboro

STAFF

Barbara Richter
Executive Director

Linda Griebisch
Administrator

October 1, 2024

Dear Keene Conservation Commission,

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) works to ensure that all conservation commissions remain strong and relevant within their communities, making NH a healthy, desirable place to live and work. We understand how important our local conservation commissions are in protecting natural resources. We need your conservation commission to renew your NHACC membership so we can continue to provide technical assistance and strong leadership.

Your annual dues provide so much more than simply access to expert advice. **Your support of NHACC helps build a stronger NH conservation community.** We work diligently to make sure your voice is heard in the state legislature and on state-wide commissions; providing strength in unity. Please renew your NHACC membership for 2025 to help us provide education and advocacy to our members.

Last year your dues helped NHACC host field training programs on wetlands ecology and conservation easement monitoring for our members. With your support we tracked state legislation, providing testimony on bills impacting natural resources and legislative updates to our members. We presented another online Lunch & Learn series making our programs more accessible to our members. We collaborated on Wildlife Webinars with the *Taking Action for Wildlife* team; NHACC, UNH Extension, and NH Fish & Game.

Remember, the benefits of membership include:

- Discounted rate at our **Annual Conference to be held on November 2nd**;
- Access to the NHACC Members Resource Library on our website;
- Educational opportunities focused on what matters to our members: wetland permit review, land management, and wildlife habitat protection;
- Networking opportunities including roundtables, hikes, and potluck gatherings;
- Up-to-date publications from our E-newsletter and Legislative Updates.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of a connected conservation community: renew your membership for 2025. Feel free to contact me at Barbara@NHACC.org or call 224-7867 if you have any questions or need assistance. We look forward to working with you again this year.

Sincerely,

Barbara Richter, Executive Director

INVOICE

New Hampshire Association of
Conservation Commis
54 Portsmouth St
Concord, NH 03301

admin@nhacc.org
+1 (603) 224-7867
www.nhacc.org



Bill to

Keene Conservation Commission
3 Washington St
Keene, NH 03431-3124

Invoice details

Invoice no.: 2854
Invoice date: 09/24/2024
Due date: 01/31/2025

#	Date	Product or service	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
1.		2025 Membership Dues		1	\$950.00	\$950.00

Total

\$950.00

Note to customer

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you in the coming year.