



**Due to the COVID-2019 State of Emergency, the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee will be holding its meeting remotely using the webbased program, Zoom. Members of the public will be able to access this public meeting through a variety of options, described below. If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call 603-757-0622 during the meeting. To access the meeting online navigate to Zoom.us and enter the Webinar ID # 885 8198 1892. To listen via telephone call 877-853-5257 and enter the Webinar ID: 885 8198 1892. When the meeting is open for public comment, callers may press \*9 if interested in commenting or asking questions.**

City of Keene

*New Hampshire*

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES,  
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
Council Chambers B  
February 10, 2021  
5:30 PM**

Janis O. Manwaring, Chair  
Michael Giacomo, Vice Chair  
Randy L. Filiault  
Bettina A. Chadbourne  
Robert C. Williams

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1. Roxbury Street Flood Improvement Project - Project Update
  
  2. Relating to "Bee City USA"  
Resolution R-2021-06

**MORE TIME ITEMS:**

- A. Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam - City Manager

Non Public Session  
Adjournment



City of Keene  
*Transmittal Form*

February 8, 2021

**TO:** Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

**FROM:** Donald R. Lussier, P.E., City Engineer

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth A. Dragon, City Manager

**ITEM:** 1.

**SUBJECT:** Roxbury Street Flood Improvement Project - Project Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Accept as Informational.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Roxbury Street Flood Improvement Project is scheduled to begin this coming late spring. The primary goal of the Project is to replace the 1891/1899 brick stormwater line from Central Square to Beaver Brook. It is proposed to replace existing sections and upsize the existing main from 36-inch to 60-inch pipe starting at approximately the exit from the City hall Parking Facility/MoCo Facility to Beaver Brook. The insufficient capacity of the exiting pipe has led to repetitive up stream localized flooding in the Elm Street / Vernon Street area. The project also includes the replacement of water mains, repair of curbing and sidewalk (in select locations) and restoration of the roadway.

The City of Keene Engineering Division staff will provide an overview of the project scope and the potential impacts to the surrounding properties. It is anticipated that the project will result in some significant impacts to adjacent properties and businesses during the construction. Staff will be discussing the measures that are planned reduce the effects of detours, noise, dust, vibrations and the other construction-related concerns.



City of Keene  
Transmittal Form

January 29, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council

**FROM:** Mari Brunner, on behalf of the Conservation Commission

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth A. Dragon, City Manager & Rhett Lamb, ACM/Community Development Director

**ITEM:** 2.

**SUBJECT:** Relating to "Bee City USA"

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**COUNCIL ACTION:**

In City Council February 4, 2021.

Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Resolution R-2021-06 be referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee for their review and recommendation.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description

Resolution R-2021-06

**BACKGROUND:**

At the June 15, 2020 Conservation Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that City Council approve a resolution to become a "BEE CITY USA." The resolution is included as an attachment to this memo. Included below is an excerpt from the June 15, 2020 meeting minutes where this item was discussed and voted on by the Conservation Commission.

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

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

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

Councilor Williams asked how the three elements – education, habitat building, and policy – would be

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Bergman said that eventually it would be important to assess the effectiveness of a project like this to determine whether pollinator populations were improved by such efforts. Mr. Therriault said that would be a good opportunity to collaborate with the University of New Hampshire, which already conducts pollinator studies; Mr. Bergman said they might have ideas about optimal planting as well.

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

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

Councilor Williams asked who would be responsible for creating the annual report. Mr. Therriault assumed that he would as the Commission's Bee City point-of-contact. The Chairman considered the long-term, when Mr. Therriault's time on the Commission ends, and said that it would be a general responsibility of the Commission and whoever takes his place. Mr. Therriault said it is not actually writing a report but answering nine-computer screens of questions that generate a report, which in his experience takes about one hour of work. Councilor Williams does not only want a report submitted to Bee City but also made available so that the citizens of

Keene know about this work; he thought the whole Commission should have input on the responses before a report is final.

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

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



# CITY OF KEENE

R-2021-06

Twenty-one

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and .....

Relating to Bee City USA

A RESOLUTION .....

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS: ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

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

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

PASSED

- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

WHEREAS: supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interaction among community stewards, including commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, University researchers, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, garden suppliers and clubs; and

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

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

1. The City of Keene Conservation Commission is hereby designated as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor.
2. The Community Development Director, City of Keene is designated as the *BEE CITY USA* liaison
3. Facilitation of the City of Keene *BEE CITY USA* program is assigned to the City of Keene Conservation Commission
4. The City of Keene Conservation Commission is authorized to and should:
  - a. Celebration: Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June), pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the City of Keene's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat
  - b. Publicity & Information: Install and maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City of Keene website which includes, at a minimum, a copy of this resolution, links to the national *BEE CITY USA* website, contact information for the local government's *BEE CITY USA* liaison and contact information for the City of Keene Conservation Commission, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s)
  - c. Habitat: Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
    - i. Identification and inventory of the City of Keene real property that can be enhanced with pollinator friendly plantings

- ii. Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines and shrubs and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species
  - iii. Creation of a least toxic pesticide management plan
  - iv. Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public
  - v. Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage
- d. Policy: Encourage, through the Open Spaces & Greenway Connections Chapter of the City of Keene's Master Plan, acknowledgement and commitment to the *BEE CITY USA* designation
  - e. Plan Review: Review the Land Stewardship Plan for specific city properties, and other relevant documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures
  - f. Renewal: After completing the first full year as a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the City of Keene's *BEE CITY USA* designation following the format provided by *BEE CITY USA*, including a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities, and paying the renewal fee based on the City of Keene's population

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George S. Hansel, Mayor