

Heritage Commission

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 4:30 PM

2nd floor conference room, City Hall 3 Washington St, Keene, NH 03431

<u>AGENDA</u>

- I. Call to Order Roll Call
- II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes November 9, 2022 December 14, 2022
- **III. Elections** Chair/Vice Chair
- IV. Section 106 Review Winchester Street, US Cellular
- V. Downtown Infrastructure Project Update
- VI. 2021 CLG Italian Neighborhood Heritage Project
- VII. 2022 CLG Recovering Black History in Keene Project
- VIII. Next Meeting February 8, 2023
 - IX. Adjourn

1 2	<u>City of Keene</u> New Hampshire
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5	HERITAGE COMMISSION
6	MEETING MINUTES
7	Wednesday, December 14, 2022 6:30 PM Historical Society of Cheshire County 246 Main Street, Keene,NH
	Members Present: Cauley Powell, Chair Councilor Gladys Johnsen Rose Carey Marilyn Huston Brian Lee Molly Ellis Louise Zerba, Alternate
8	Members Not Present: Susan DeGidio, Vice Chair 1) Call to Order – Roll Call
9 10 11 12 13	Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and roll call ensued. 2) Adoption of 2023 Meeting Schedule
14 15 16 17	Chair Powell asked for a motion to be made. Mrs. Carey motioned to adopt the meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ellis. The group voted unanimously to approve the 2023 schedule.
18 19	3) Next Meeting – January 11, 2023
20 21	The next meeting is a regular meeting in the 2 nd floor conference room at City Hall.
22 23	4) Adjournment
24 25	There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:50 PM.
26 27 28	Respectfully submitted by, Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff January 5, 2023

1 2 3	<u>City of Keene</u> New Hampshire
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5	HERITAGE COMMISSION
6	MEETING MINUTES
7	Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:30 PM 2 nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall
	Members Present: Cauley Powell, Chair Susan DeGidio, Vice Chair (remote) Rose Carey Marilyn Huston Brian Lee Molly Ellis Louise Zerba, Alternate (non-voting) Staff Present: William Schoefmann, GIS Technician William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
	Members Not Present: Councilor Gladys Johnsen
8 9 10 11	1) <u>Call to Order – Roll Call</u> Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM and roll call ensued.
12 13 14	2) <u>Minutes of Previous Meeting – October 12, 2022</u>
15 16	Revision: on line 168, change the word "crow" to "crowd".
17 18 19	A motion by Ms. Huston to approve the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes as amended was duly seconded by Ms. Carey and the motion carried unanimously.
20 21	3) <u>CLG Annual Report</u>
22 23 24 25 26	Mr. Schoefmann said he needed to file the annual report with the NH Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to indicate whether any new buildings have been added to the Historic Registry; there had not been such activity. He said Planner, Evan Clements, was helping him to complete that form and there was no help Mr. Schoefmann needed from the Commission.
27 28 29 30	Mr. Schoefmann mentioned that there would be a future transition to integrate Mr. Clements more with this position. Mr. Schoefmann would carry out the end of the 2021 neighborhood grant, but for the sake of him moving some of his more significant responsibilities forward as the Mapping Technician, Mr. Clements would eventually take over as Staff Liaison. Mr. Schoefmann will miss working with the

HC Meeting Minutes November 9, 2022 **DRAFT**

Commission when the time comes. Everyone agreed that Mr. Schoefmann would be missed. Mr.
Clements is also involved with the Historic District Commission. The transition would likely be later in 2023.

4) 2022 CLG Grant Update

Mr. Schoefmann said this was another thing Mr. Clements would start moving forward. Now is the time for Staff to appear before the City Council seeking approval from them for the City Manager to sign the agreement for the grant. That update was sent to DHR. He imagined that by early December that would begin to take shape, with paperwork filed at the State. He recalled that those awards are not funded until the Governor and Council approve them in February or March, or later in some years.

Mr. Schoefmann had not been in touch with the selected consultant for an update and neither had Chair Powell. Chair Powell asked whether Mari Brunner, Senior Planner, would continue being involved with this grant, or just Mr. Clements. Mr. Schoefmann did not have the full answer yet and would find out. Chair Powell's last contact was the consultant reaching out to Ms. Brunner with a question, and hopefully Ms. Brunner followed-up. Ms. Brunner had thought it would be the spring term for work with students and so hopefully the funding would align. Mr. Schoefmann said to bear in mind that there are three years now to complete these CLG grant projects. Mr. Schoefmann thought DHR got a lot of feedback on their old, shorter timeline. Chair Powell hoped that extra time would be for the consultants and students. Mr. Schoefmann would talk to Ms. Brunner and Mr. Clements about this. Chair Powell could also make the introduction and answer any questions with Mr. Clements. This project is partnered more traditionally with the Historical Society.

5) 2021 CLG Neighborhood Heritage Project Update

Mr. Schoefmann referred to his tasks since his last meeting. Since then, he scheduled a meeting with Jim Sterling. Ms. Brunner had done some original research on him, but it was lost. However, that is Ms. Brunner's father-in-law and so it was easy to reach him again. He was very amenable to meeting with Mr. Schoefmann and providing some sound bites. Mr. Schoefmann would meet with him later this week. Mr. Schoefmann referred to the Google Drive that Ms. Powell shared. She said she is paying for AI transcriptions that are very poor.

At present, Chair Powell had film interviews with Vic Dintino and John DiBernardo. The Chair finally spoke successfully with Bob Mallet at the Italian Society, and she interviewed him the past weekend during an awards event she attended with him. At the event, they announced the project and people were very happy and excited, and many signed-up to participate. She thought the next step was to distribute those interviews amongst the Commission members. The Chair said she was struggling with the right way to get photos into the app. Her archival side wanted high-resolution beautiful files, but she recognized the point of the project is crowd sourcing and any way people can get images into the app saves them for posterity.

 Mr. Schoefmann thought it depended on people's comfort levels with the Commission taking their family documents; there was no procedure yet. There is a high-resolution scanner in Mr. Schoefmann's office that was available for the Commission's use. Chair Powell has a flatbed scanner at work too. Mr. Schoefmann said the plan would be to take the documents, if people are comfortable, in a weatherproof case for transport. They could arrange times when Mr. Schoefmann picks them up, scans them, and returns them. He added that most cameras on phones are excellent, and he could take photos of the documents. Ms. Zerba asked if they could digitize them to a higher resolution if taken with a phone. Mr. Schoefmann thought that they would be the quality of the phone's photo. Mr. Lee said it was possible to crop those photos, but they would still be a phone's photo. Chair Powell agreed that for some documents, they might stick to the glass in their frames, and so it would not be prudent to take them out for scanning.

Ms. Zerba asked if the families would need to sign a waiver on the documents and photos, especially if the public would be seeing them. Mr. Schoefmann thought the City Attorney would likely say a waiver would be prudent. Ms. Huston agreed and suggested putting the documents in an envelope and to document on the envelope what is inside for an inventory, and set a date of when they would be returned. Chair Powell agreed it would be good to have clear communication. Chair Powell thought about rights and permissions and believed that the act of someone adding their personal photos to the app would be them giving their consent for use in the project. She said it begged the question of how to confirm consent if the Commission or Mr. Schoefmann were the ones uploading the images. She said it was possible that the right action would be to digitize and upload the documents with the participants.

Mr. Schoefmann noted that he posted a Facebook update with a link to Mr. Lee's work on the Wix site; Mr. Schoefmann would monitor the site for new submissions. Mr. Schoefmann thought that it was mostly a capture tool, and the details were getting those documents and transitioning them into digital to be in the story map. Chair Powell said she was struck that the Dintino's had the actual tickets from the White Star Line that they used to come from Italy, which is remarkable because they are in very good condition. Such items are ones that would be good to take photos of because the Commission does not want to be in custody of such important items.

Chair Powell said that everyone she spoke with at the Italian Society event was excited and felt they had a lot of stories to share. They did audio recordings at the event with Rita Ligman (nee Calderelli), Mae Calderelli, and John [Mr. Calderelli], who is particularly enthusiastic and might be the oldest living member of the Italian Community at 95 years old. She said that Tim Carboni would also really like to be involved. The Grossi's, the Calderelli's, and Ann Eastman all want to participate. Chair Powell wanted to get some filmed content with women because it was clear that the male and female cultural experiences are very different. Ms. Ligman [Rita] and her daughters would like to participate and go through old photos.

The Chair's fear at this point was how little time left there was to do all of this before the presentation at 7:00 PM on December 14, which is during the Historic Society's immigration event. Mr. Schoefmann suggested only providing an update at the presentation instead of a formal synopsis of the whole project; something to convince more people to participate. Chair Powell thought a lot of people learned of the

project from the Historical Society's newsletter. People had reached out since asking for more details, such as whether the conversations would be recorded or how they would see it. People did not seem to want to miss what this Commission has to say about the community.

- Ms. Carey and Ms. Ellis had found an abundance of research for the presentation, which they summarized (much of this was printed from the Historical Society's online archive):
 - An article by Deven Morris on the history of the Italian Neighborhood as a high school project that really summarizes the history.
 - Found "then" photos and Ms. Carey would borrow Mr. Lee's camera to take "now" photos for the presentation. They could be displayed in the lobby.
 - Made notes of interview topics, like the flooding issue.
 - Found school photos from the Cleveland School and Pearl Street School from the Teens and 20s. The goal is to interview some descendants of those school children.
 - Found a lot of farm photos from 363 Winchester Street.
 - Looked-up local businesses, like Pete's Restaurant, where McDonalds is now. There is a nice photo of it and more research on it would be helpful. Ms. Zerba knows Pete's daughter.
 - The neighborhood that has baseball names is interesting. Alan Rumrill at the Historic Society provided a pamphlet on baseball in Keene. He had many anecdotes on that. Mr. Rumrill did a series of photos on baseball in that area at the Historical Society. There was a field on Island Street near to the Italian Club. Mr. Schoefmann said that still exists as the Wood Street Field. Many people were employed in the mills and factories in that area.
 - Mr. DiBernardo reminisced about fishing at the Mill Pond and up the Ashuelot River.
 - A nice photo from the Dintino's wedding on their anniversary in the Sentinel.
 - Took photos of the old street directories. They wrote down all street names in the Italian neighborhood for 1916 and 1931 to compare to see if families had lived there for that duration. There could be a sign at the presentation showing the families who did live there for those 24 years and see if any participants know those people. In the interviews the Chair had done so far, she did not have such research to base her questions on and this would help develop more targeted questions for future interviews that help stimulate people's memories.

Chair Powell questioned the extent to which the information should be uploaded though the app for the grant. Mr. Schoefmann said the ultimate product is the story map and what the Commission does with it. He thought it was important to include some of the outreach the Commission does with people but ultimately it is about outreach to see what is out there that the Commission is unaware of in terms of the initial app.

Ms. Carey asked if it were possible to invite interested people to a Commission meeting and have them bring their documents; they could digitize then and do interviews. She thought this would allow the project to be completed in a timelier manner. Mr. Schoefmann said there was no issue reserving space at City Hall as long as there are no conflicts; other suggestions were the large room at the old courthouse and the Library. A benefit of the Library is that the Maker's Space is there, and they would likely be happy to help. Mr. Schoefmann would email the Library about this option and check their available dates. Chair Powell said her partner is a cinematographer and so they had been filming interviews with

his professional equipment and she would have to see their availability for such a meeting. She added that the Commission's meeting room was not the most desirable space for an interview. Chair Powell said that it would be important to not have a quorum at this gathering. Another option is to interview via Zoom and record the meeting, which saves as a film file.

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The Commission continued discussing topics to consider. One was the historic flooding of the Italian neighborhood. Ms. Carey said that the gas tanks at the end of Emerald Street were flooded at one point. Mr. Rumrill had some stories about that. Ms. Zerba suggested wine making by the DiTullio's, which the Chair heard was a large community endeavor. The Italian Society still imports grape juice to make wine and they still have old wine presses. Ms. Ellis said that the DiTullio's were on her list and that Mr. DiTullio was endowed the MDS Citizen of Honor Award, which was the ceremony the Chair attended. Mr. Schoefmann thought part of the challenge would be to create topics to funnel this information into the story map, which the Chair said is designed for physical space but is moving through time. The Commission continued reviewing an example of a story map and its features. Video can be embedded in

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story maps. Chair Powell thought the story map concept looked fantastic. The consultant would help

create the story map.

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Mr. Schoefmann will share potential dates to invite people in to share documents and stories. He advised updating the expectation of what the presentation at the Historical Society would be. It would be more of a project update and invitation to participate. All agreed that was the smart thing to do. People can come and hear about the project and share their opinions. By the end of summer, there should be collection and narrative pieces inputted into the final project. He asked everyone to keep a log of the hours they are spending on this because it is a part of the soft match of the grant. Ms. Carey would be in touch with Mr. Schoefmann about some large posters for the event. The Community Development Department no longer has a camera to loan.

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The Commission decided on the following main topics for the story map:

- Families and Culture
 - o Could use proverbs
 - o The families that were present for many years
 - o Family group photos and houses
 - o Immigration
 - Specific stories about how and when
- Education and Faith
 - o All children went off to St. Joe's. Discussion ensued people who were associated with education at the time.
 - The Dintino's have some photos of students at St. Joes.
 - Until children went to school, they did not become American because they were being raised so culturally Italian.
 - o Faith and Religion
 - Many families went to St. Bernard's.
- Agriculture, Industry, and Food
 - Includes food

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- 202 o Working at the mills
 - o Pete's Restaurant
 - Pam Raymond is his daughter. Ms. Zerba would try to find her contact and send her the link about the website.
 - o Farming and gardens
 - There was an issue of growing tomatoes and who had the best in town.
 - As Butler Court was bought out and the college moved the Cardarelli garden abutted a
 dorm at the college. They gave produce to the students so they would not mess with the
 gardens.
 - Recreation and Nature
 - o Baseball
 - Fishing
 - Flooding
 - A house in the area is marked with how high the flood waters got and Ms. Carey would try to find it.

Families Then and Now would be a throughline of all four topics. There had not been much research yet on education and faith.

Chair Powell asked, and Ms. Ellis said she was willing to be an interviewer now that there were targeted questions. She suggested showing photos to people during the interviews to elicit responses; everyone agreed that was a great idea. Ms. Carey and Ms. Ellis would send Mr. Schoefmann the photos and he would make a poster of them for the event.

Discussion ensued about the digital access to photos. Mr. Schoefmann suggested determining the best way to share media because the typical google drive is running out of space. He will likely try to start another one. Chair Powell thought it was worthy to use a part of the Commission's budget to buy a dedicated shared drive. Mr. Schoefmann is also talking to the GIS project consultant and would ask about that. Discussion ensued about sharing and buying a shared drive. Mr. Schoefmann would investigate.

Ms. Carey asked where Ann Eastman lives, and discussion ensued. Tim Grossi said he would be a good contributor. Vice Chair DeGidio said her husband was half Italian and this was very reminiscent of those stories. Chair Powell heard that all these families were traveling back and forth between Keene, Quincey, and Ludlow.

There was excitement amongst the Commission about these prospects. Chair Powell noted that Ms. Zerba might have exciting stories to share as well, and discussion ensued. Discussion ensued about a former small grocery store in City Hall run by Ms. Huston's family in City Hall.

- 6) <u>More Time Heritage Website Updates</u>
- 243 7) <u>Next Meeting December 14, 2022</u>

	HC Meeting Minutes November 9, 2022
245	The next meeting is the presentation at 7:00 PM at the Historical Society.
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247	8) Adjournment
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249	There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:35 PM.
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251	Respectfully submitted by,
252	Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker
253	November 16, 2022
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255	Reviewed and edited by,
256	Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff
257	January 5, 2023
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3311 109th Street • Urbandale, Iowa 50322 Tel: 515.331.2103 • Fax: 515.331.1728 gss@gssmidwest.com • www.gssmidwest.com

December 28, 2022

Project #: W22247-004

Ms. Tara Kessler City of Keene Planning Department 3 Washington Street Keene, New Hampshire 03431 603-352-5440 tkessler@ci.keene.nh.us

RE: NOTICE OF INITIATION OF THE SECTION 106 PROCESS-PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
U.S. CELLULAR, KEENE CRAN 004 #425425-KEENE, CHESHIRE COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC's Nationwide Programmatic Agreement. Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC's Nationwide Programmatic Agreement. U.S. Cellular intends to construct a communications facility at an address TBD Winchester Street, Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire (Latitude: N 42 55 40.87 and Longitude: W 72 16 52.89). The facility will include an underground power route for a previously reviewed stealth metal utility pole telecommunications tower with an approximate overall height of 38 ft. and associated equipment. U.S. Cellular is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

U.S. Cellular must comply with all Federal, State and local regulations governing the proposed facility. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires U.S. Cellular to evaluate this project for any effect it may have on Historic Properties. As part of this evaluation, U.S. Cellular is required to publish Public Notice in an effort to gather comments on the potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- Notify your office that Public Notice seeking comments on the potential effects of the proposed construction on Historic Properties is scheduled to be published in the Keene Sentinel on December 30, 2022.
- Invite comments on the potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties, from your office and any other relevant individuals or groups that you may be aware of.

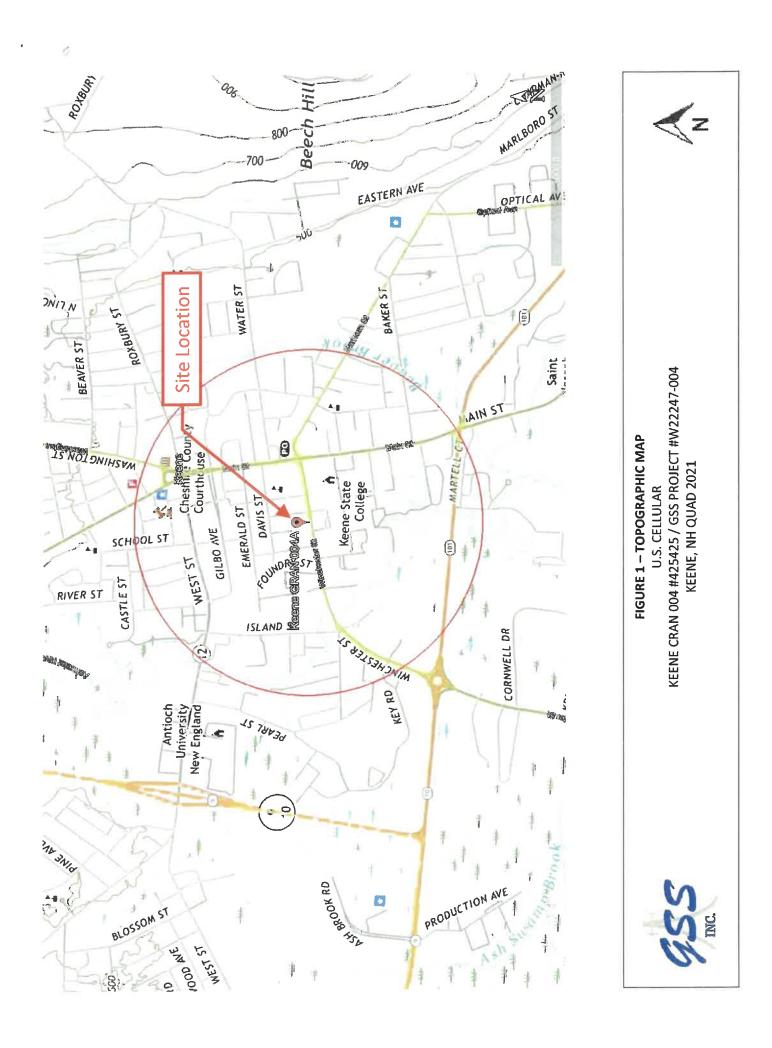
Attached to this letter are the following: a topographic map, street map, aerial photograph, site photographs (when available), drawings (when available), and a copy of the wording placed in the Public Notice.

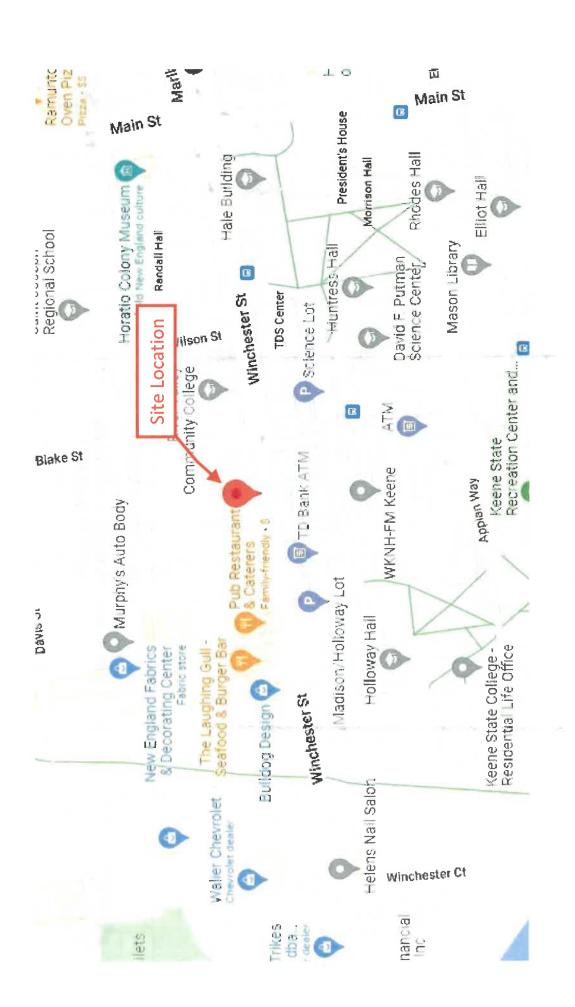
We respectfully request that parties interested in submitting comments regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Cultural or Historic Properties, or questions regarding the project, may do so by sending them to GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322 or by calling (515) 331-2103 within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely, GSS, INC.

Christopher Lenihan Project Manager Enclosure

Christopher Lenihan







KEENE, NH





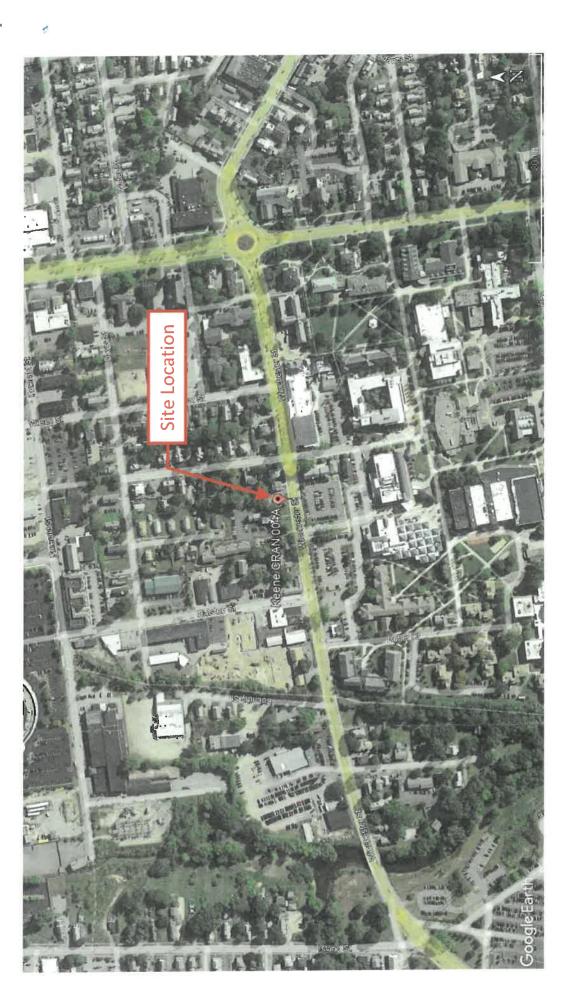




FIGURE 3 – AERIAL IMAGE
U.S. CELLULAR
KEENE CRAN 004 #425425 / GSS PROJECT #W22247-004
KEENE, NH







FAA 1A SURVEY CERTIFICATION

Applicant:		US Cellular 8410 West Bryn Mawr Avenue Chicago, IL 60631
Site Name:		KEENE CRAN 004
Site Address:		WINCHESTER STREET KEENE, NH 03431 CHESHIRE COUNTY
Horizontal Datum:		☐ Ground Survey
Vertical Datum:		☐ Ground Survey NGVD 1929 (AMSL)
Structure Type:	□ New Tower	☐ Existing Tower (Monopole)
	☐ Water Tank	☐ Smoke Stack
	□ Proposed Ut □	tility Pole Existing Utility Pole
Latitude:		42°55'40.87" N (NAD 83) / 42.9280199336° N
Longitude:		72°16'52.89" W (NAD 83) / 72.281358093° W
Ground Elevation:		0'-0" AGL (477'-4" AMSL) (NAVD 88)
Top of Existing/Propo	sed Structure:	35'-4" AGL (512'-8" AMSL)
Highest Appurtenance	e:	37'-5" AGL (514'-9" AMSL)
Certification:	horizontally a vertically. The 1983 (NAD 8 nearest hund	the latitude and longitude are accurate to within +/- 20 feet and that the site elevation is accurate to within +/- 3 feet horizontal datum is in terms of the North American Datum of 3) and are expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds, to the redth of a second. The vertical datum is in terms of the North rtical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) and is referenced to the nearest
Company:	Tilson 16 Middle Str	eet 4th Floor, Portland, ME 04101

PE Signature:



KEENE CRAN 004 PROPOSED RADIO EQUIPMENT CABINET AND ANTENNA

LOCATION CODE: 425425

WINCHESTER STREET KEENE, NH 03431 LAT: 42°55'40.87" (N) / 42.928020° (N) LONG: 72°16'52.89" (W) / 72.281358° (W)





SHEE! INDEX	DESCRIPTION	TILE SHEET	CENERAL NOTES	NEARBY POLE ELEVATIONS	PROPOSED LOCATION PLAN	POLE ELEVATION	POLE GROUNDING AND WRING	EQUIPMENT DETAILS	USCC PLUMBING DIAGRAM	ANTENNA SPEC SHEET
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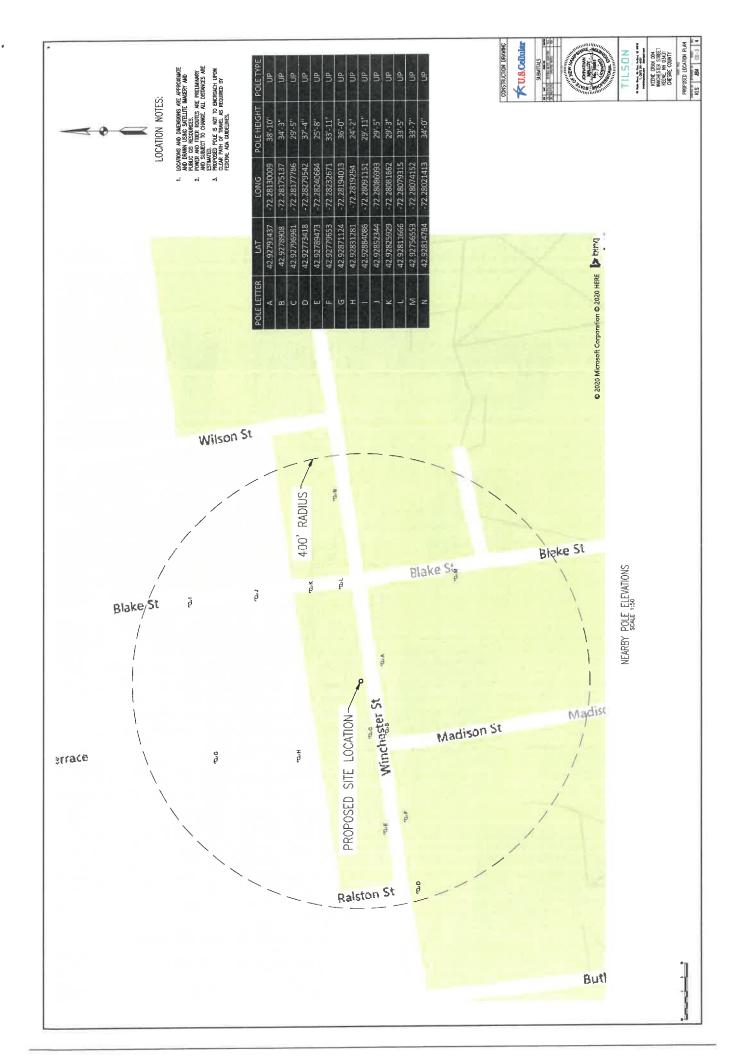
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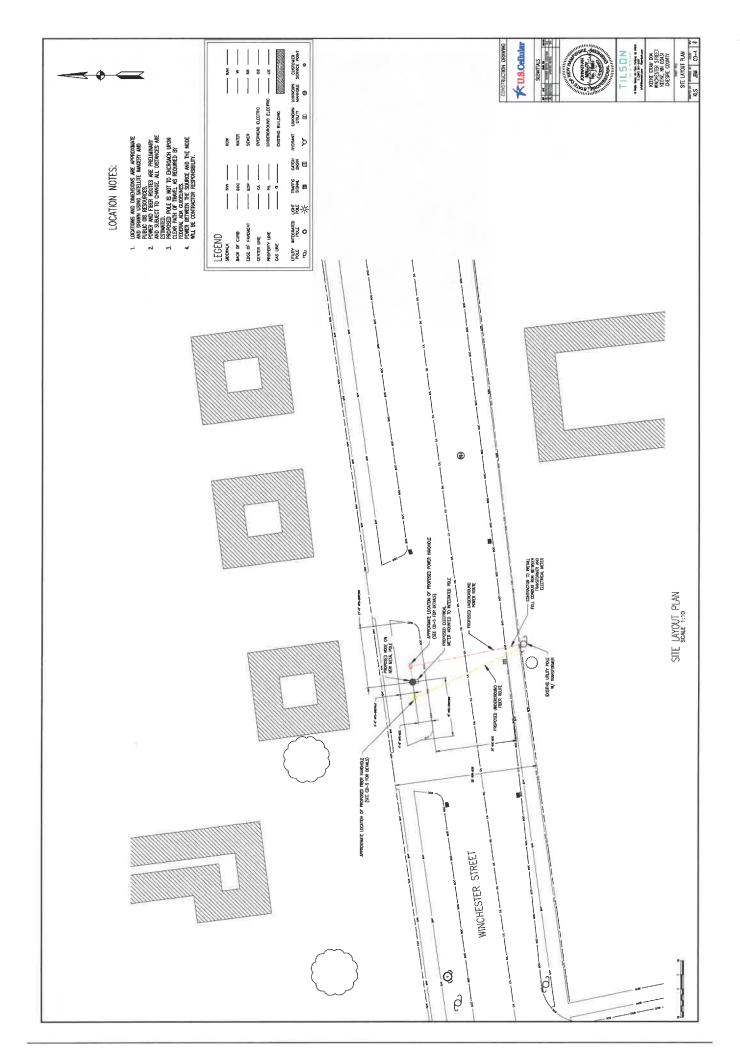
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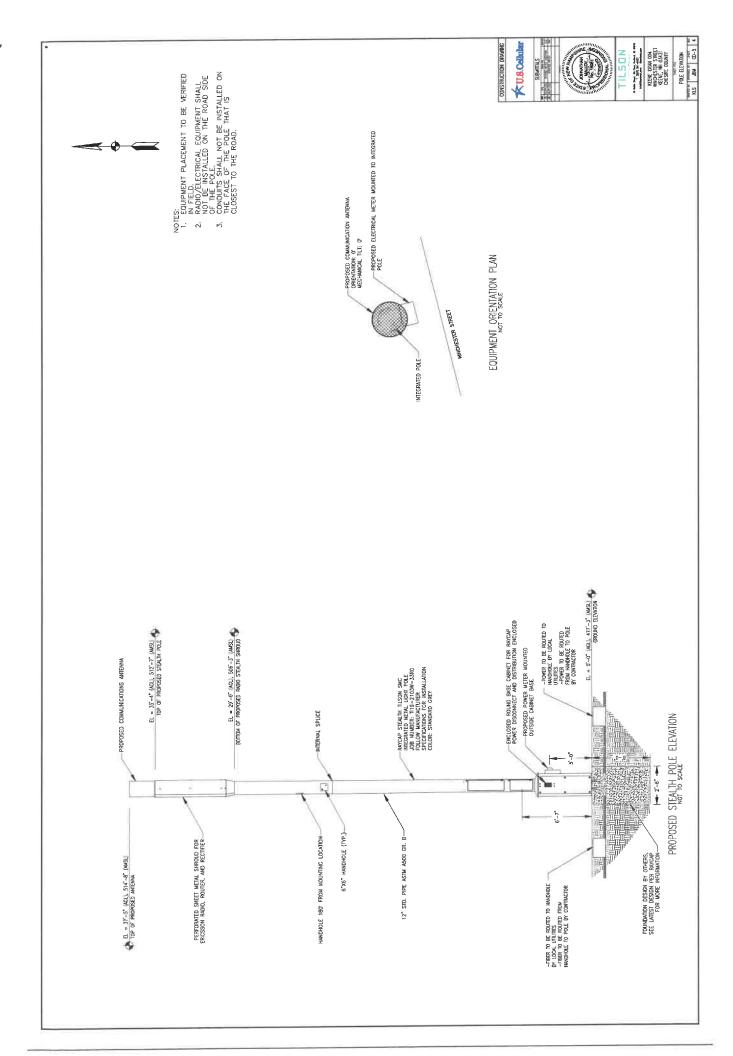
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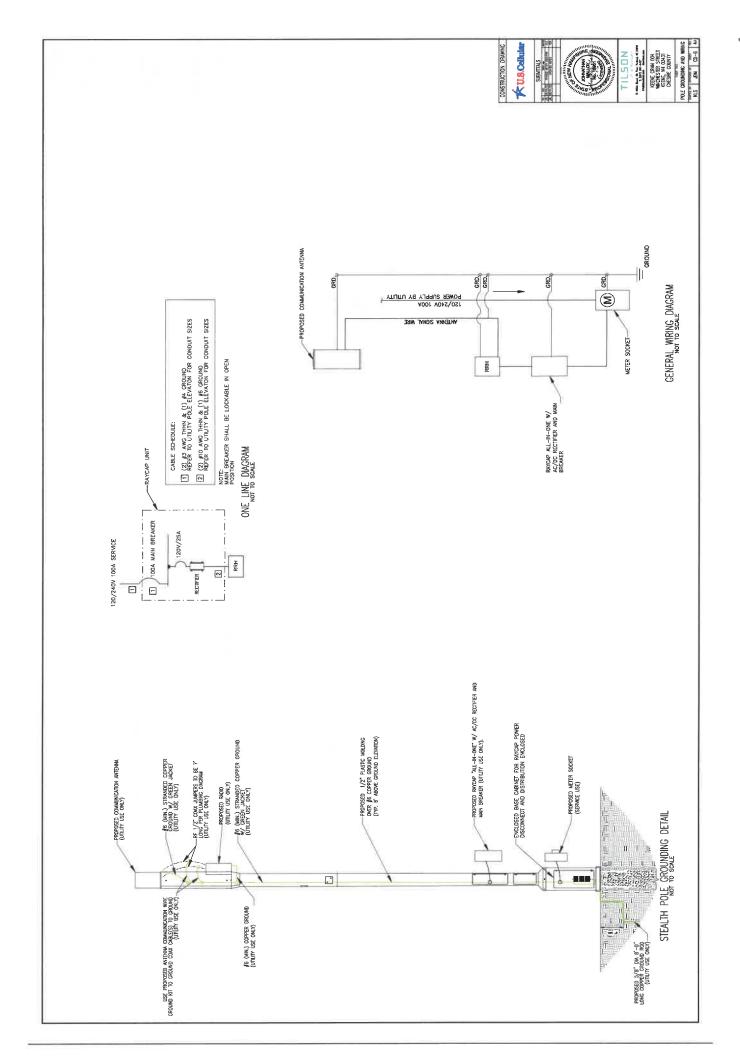
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KLS JBW CD-2 CEMERAL NOTES











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ORIENTATION: 0'
MECHANICAL TILT: 0'
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RAYCAP AC/DC DISCONNECT W/ POWER SUPPLY P/N: RUSAC_1ANZ_P-240-1

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PLASTICS	LATEX	RUST-0-LEUM	PAINTER'S TOUCH ULTRA COVER	SEE DRAWINGS
UNCOATED METALS	ACRYLIC ENAMEL	RUST-0-LEUM	3800 SYSTEM DITM	SEE DRAWINGS
FIBERCIASS	ACRYLIC ENAMEL	RUST-0-LEUM	3800 SYSTEM DTM	SEE DRAWINGS

SEE PAINTING NOTES ON SHEET CD-2 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

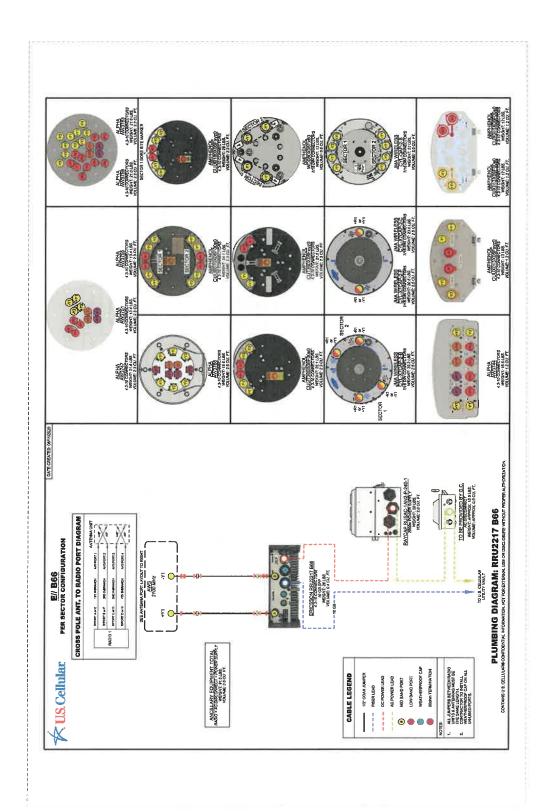














AW3768

Common Name - 10 Port Small Cell Omni - 360°

1695-2690/3400-3800/5150-5925MHz 6/2/2 Fixed 8/5/5

360°

PRODUCT INFORMATION

This product was designed to offer Mid-band as well as 3.5GHz and 5.5GHz functionality in a 2 foot Mini Marro Housing for multi-operator applications. This design is intended to offer six ports on Mid Band, two ports on CBRS and two ports on LAA.

APPLICATION

coverage whilst in an ultra-compact radone design. This very special antenna provides 25 of to 55 ports with LAA for ultimate data throughout. The antenna is designed to be installed in an urban environment where low visual impact is required. There are a number of mounting options available making deployments on lamp posts, utility potes, walls and other vertical structures possible. Alpha Wireless multi-band small cell provides omni-directional



FEATURES

BS EN ISO 9001:2015

Certification

High port count enabling multiple operators
 Compact design - Low visual impact,
 Manufactured in Ireland.

STANDARD & CERTIFICATIONS

The parameters in this specification follow the definitions and recommendations per NGMN P-Basta, Releaso 9.6.

Page 1/5

Pulalish Date: 08.04.2020

alphawireless.com

(TS-6 Cel) 2.1 Pavision no: 01

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SUBMITALS A VOCA

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ★ U.S.Cellular

ANTENNA SPEC SHEET

K.S. "BM (C)—9 4

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC's Nationwide Programmatic Agreement. U.S. Cellular intends to construct a communications facility at an address TBD Winchester Street, Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire (Latitude: N 42 55 40.87 and Longitude: W 72 16 52.89). The facility will include an underground power route for a previously reviewed metal utility pole telecommunications tower with an overall height of 38 ft. and associated equipment. U.S. Cellular is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We respectfully request that parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103 within 30 days of the posting of this notice. (GSS #W22247 Keene CRAN 004A power route)

The above text will publish in the Keene Sentinel on December 30, 2022.

At this time, we have not received the affidavit.



Downtown Infrastructure Improvement and Reconstruction Project INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

January 5, 2023

The City of Keene is in the design phase of the Downtown Infrastructure Improvement and Reconstruction Project. The ad hoc Downtown Infrastructure Project Steering Committee has conducted an initial review and public input process and recommended a preliminary design concept to the City Council. The information included in this document provides an overview of project information to address common questions, and the public is encouraged to visit the project website to review analyses, findings, concepts, background information and input opportunities. The preliminary design will undergo further review by the City Council, and there will be additional opportunities for public participation.

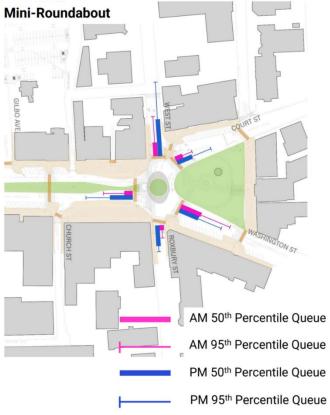
- Why is this project happening now? The age and condition of current downtown underground infrastructure risks costly and disruptive failure. Further delay of infrastructure repair and replacement risks the ability to meet the continued needs of downtown businesses, residents and visitors. Discussions for the Downtown Infrastructure Improvement and Reconstruction Project began in 2017 and were put on hold and delayed several years due to COVID.
- 75% of the total project cost is going to underground utilities. This will include disrupting the roadway and sidewalks spanning Main Street from building face to building face. There is a cost to rebuild the streets and sidewalks that will be borne regardless of whether it is returned to its current state or involves improvements such as sidewalk expansion, bike lanes, green space, etc., and the cost difference between all of the options at this preliminary stage is anticipated to be minimal.
- Our beautiful, unique and historic Central Square keeps its gazebo, statue, water fountain, cannon and green space in the current design concept. The design expands Central Square from 17,450 square feet to 31,400 square feet by adding sidewalk and community space between the UCC church and the gazebo.



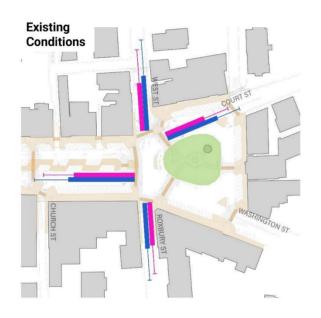




- **Central Square Parking** the parking spaces removed on the north side of Central Square between Washington Street and Court Street would be replaced by parking spaces added to each side of the Central Square expansion area.
- Project duration is not impacted by which design options are eventually approved by the City Council. The project will take three years to complete. Pending the timing of final design approval, phase one construction (Central Square) would begin in spring, 2024, phase two construction (Main Street from and including Gilbo Avenue and Railroad Street up to Roxbury Street) would begin in spring, 2025, and phase three construction (Main Street from Gilbo Avenue and Railroad Street down to Water Street) would begin in spring, 2026.
- Traffic pattern multiple options were studied to identify possible improvements to the queueing of traffic in downtown. Traffic was observed to identify current patterns and wait times at Central Square intersections which informed multiple design options including no changes, traffic lights, one way traffic, or a mini roundabout. The mini roundabout design provides significant improvement to the flow of pedestrian and vehicle traffic and reduces wait times from all streets Main Street, Roxbury Street, Washington Street, Court Street and West Street.



5-Leg	Roundab	out - 2 La	nes NB		
	2022 AM			2022 PM	
Level of Service (LOS)	Control Delay (s)	95th%-ile Queue (ft)^	Level of Service (LOS)	Control Delay (s)	95th ^{%-ile} Queue (ft)^
В	14.6	96	С	24.7	193
В	10.2	34	В	14.5	52
Α	9.1	63	В	11.9	116
С	18.0	123	С	18.0	108
Α	9.4	39	С	15.3	79
	Level of Service (LOS) B B	2022 AM	2022 AM	Level of Service (LOS) Control Delay (s) 95th%-lie Queue (LOS) Level of Service (LOS) B 14.6 96 C B 10.2 34 B A 9.1 63 B C 18.0 123 C	2022 AM 2022 PM



		Exis	ting					
	2022 AM							
Central Square Signal (Main Street at West Street and Roxbury Street)	Level of Service (LOS)	Control Delay (s)	95th*-ile Queue (ft)^	Level of Service (LOS)	Control Delay (s)	95th*-ile Queue (ft)^		
West St (EB)	D	36.7	198	D	35.9	223		
Roxbury St (WB)	С	24.5	190	С	24.9	175		
Main St (NB)	С	34.1	241	D	35.6	250		
Court St (SB)	С	21.0	165	С	24.4	191		

(50th percentile is the average queue time/distance, 95th percentile is worst-case: likely to happen no more than 5% of the time)



- The current design concept takes into consideration the placement of accessible parking spaces and accessible pedestrian facilities throughout the Downtown Main Street corridor. Multi-modal facilities, including protected bicycle facilities, public transit facilities, and open spaces will be accessible to all. Opportunities to address barriers along the existing sidewalks and public spaces within the public realm will be fully considered during the final design phase of the project. City Parking staff have participated in the design process and will continue to do so.
- All design options have carefully accommodated the needs of emergency service vehicles to allow quick navigation, including the mini roundabout, and City emergency services staff have participated in the technical review process.
- **Downtown Events** the design concept includes an expansion of Central Square, improved traffic pattern, and Gilbo-to-Railroad crosswalk enhancement that lend very well to the coordination of safe community events (such as festivals) that minimize traffic diversions and provide additional gathering space.
- The final design approval will be made by the City Council. There will be additional opportunities for the City Council and the public to learn more about the project scope and design prior to final approval.
- Project funding will include a variety of sources beyond general taxation including grants, water and sewer fees, and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts.
- Downtown businesses, property owners and abutters have all been informed about the project via written communications. The consultant for the project, Stantec, and City staff have met with most of the downtown property owners and visited the properties. In addition, over 12,000 mailers were sent to inform community members of the project and opportunities to provide input. Multiple in-person public workshops have also taken place at Railroad Square, in City Hall, and in the Colonial Showroom, and online opportunities have been and continue to be available to view the project information in detail and provide input (follow link from KeeneNH.gov). Email addresses for approximately 165 businesses are also included in announcements for public input opportunities. The public process to date also included meetings of the ad hoc Downtown Infrastructure Project Steering Committee with members representing the City Council, downtown businesses and residents, Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee, Keene Downtown Group and Keene State College. The committee reviewed the project scope and design of utility replacements as well as improvements to the downtown area and heard from numerous members of the public in attendance at their meetings. View the most recent Steering Committee presentation on the project website this is a very informative presentation with drawings, data, and key takeaways.
- As design alternatives are considered there will be additional opportunities for public input. Participation in City public meetings, forums, surveys and all public input opportunities is important and encouraged.

On Monday, January 30th, starting with an open house at 5:00 PM, City Staff and representatives of Stantec will be present to answer questions one-on-one with members of the public. At 6:00 PM there will be a brief presentation and further opportunities for the public to learn more and ask questions. Comment cards will be available for the public's use.

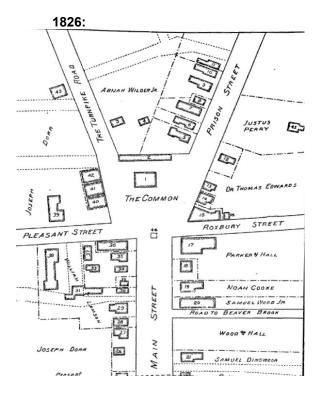
A second public informational meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 21st, at 6:00 PM at the Keene High School auditorium. The evening will include a presentation on the scope of the various options in the project and a roll-up of the public comments received at the first meeting. The public will also be provided an opportunity to provide further comments at this meeting.

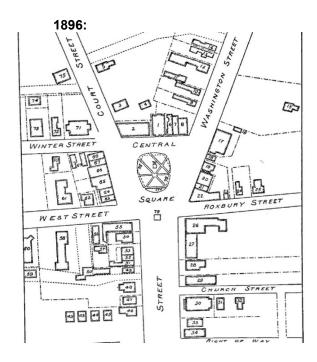
The best way to get detailed project information and learn about upcoming public meetings and events is the project website (<u>KeeneNH.gov</u>, click the "Downtown Infrastructure Improvement & Reconstruction" photo link). Notices are also posted to the City Facebook page (<u>@CityKeene</u>) and City Instagram feed (<u>@city of keene</u>). Phone calls may be directed to Keene Public Works, (603) 352-6550.

• **Keene's beautiful, historic downtown has evolved** over the years... decades... century... to meet the needs of the community. In each evolution, the priority continues to be just that - to meet the needs of the



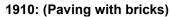
community - needs for reliable services and appreciation for Keene's history. The current downtown project is no exception.









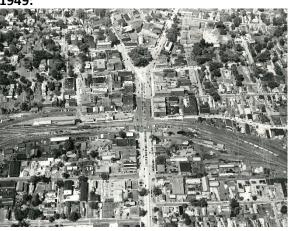




1913:



1949:



Mid 1900's:



1977: (Main Street Reconstruction)

