



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers, Keene City Hall
April 29, 2026
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Brittany Williams - Concerns Relating to Cars Congesting Royal Avenue During School Pick-up
2. CONTINUED DISCUSSION - Concerns With Parking on Marlboro Street and Enforcement Measures
3. Communications - Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the Proposed Parking Lot at the Skate Park
Robert and Sandra Hamm
Barbara and Frank Richter
Vicky Morton
Tom Duston
4. Councilor Williams - Request for Consideration of an Ordinance Amendment to Allow Leashed Dogs in Woodland Cemetery
5. 2026 Construction Season Update - City Engineer
6. Downtown Infrastructure Project Update - Public Works Director

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

march 19, 2026

Brittany Williams
43 Royal Ave Keene NH
03431

Good day Mr. Kahn,

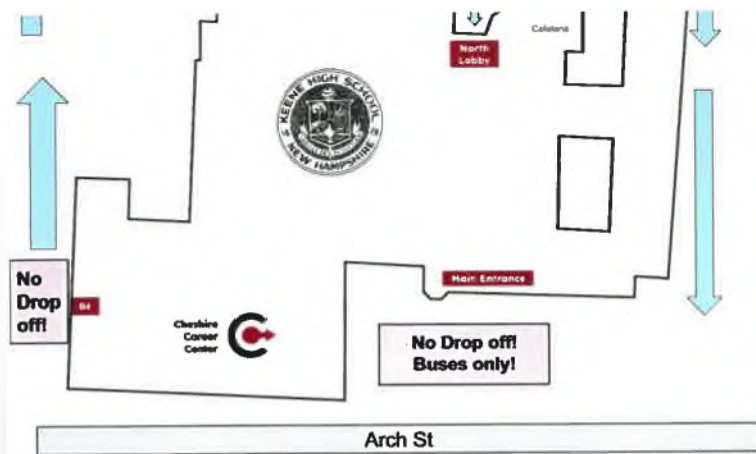
my name is Brittany. I own a home on Royal Avenue. Everyday when the high school gets out of school, a large number of parents park along our road blocking the roadway. There have been numerous times where I have been blocked from getting to my house. One instance I honked at the car to please move, a car behind me who was also trying to get down the road got out of her car to tell her to move. I then had to get out and ask because she still stayed there. When I was asking her to move and letting her know she was blocking the road her response to me was "I know, I know." There is a school bus that can't get down the road because of the cars. I have elderly neighbors that if something were to happen, emergency vehicles would not be able to get to them. I have talked to neighbors who have to go down the next street and around to just get home. I have contacted the Keene pd, Keene high, and my ward councilman multiple times. Keene high sent out an email reminding parents that Royal Ave is not where pickup is. Keene pd said they would send patrol, to which I have never seen a patrol car. This may seem like a small issue, but ~~as soon~~ it can become a huge incident very quickly. Please help myself and my neighbors with this. I appreciate your time.

Thank-you



Brittany Williams





In the morning, all buses will drop off students at the front of the building (main entrance). This means no parent drop-offs can happen at the front of the building.

Parent Pick-Up(after School)

Parent pick up is in front of the school only. Parent pick up must occur **AFTER** the buses leave at **3:50**. Otherwise we ask that you arrange to pick up your student at a different location in the afternoon. Please do not park on Royal Ave. as our neighbors are struggling with blocked driveways and backed up traffic due to parent pick-ups.

← Reply → Forward 😊



This is the text of the handwritten letter typed out into Word

March 19, 2026

Brittany Williams
43 Royal Ave
Keene, NH 03431

Good day Mr. Kahn,

My name is Brittany. I own a home on Royal Avenue. Everyday when the high school gets out of school, a large number of parents park along our road blocking the roadway. There have been numerous times where I have been blocked from getting to my house. One instance I honked at the car to please move, a car behind me who was also trying to get down the road got out of her to car to tell her to move. I then had to get out and ask because she still stayed there. When I was asking her to move and letting her know she was blocking the road her response to me was "I know, I know". There is a school bus that can't get down the road because of the cars. I have elderly neighbors that if something were to happen, emergency vehicles would not be able to get to them. I have talked directly to neighbors who have to go down the next street and around to just get home. I have contacted the Keene PD, Keene High, and my ward councilmen multiple times. Keene High sent out an email reminding parents that Royal Ave is not where pickup is. Keene PD said they would send patrol, to which I have never seen a patrol car. This may seem like a small issue, but it can become a huge incident very quickly. Please help myself and my neighbors with this.

I appreciate your time.

Thank you,

See signature in the handwritten document

Brittany Williams

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TO: Honorable Mayor Kahn and City Council Members
FROM: Robert C. and Sandra Hamm, 89 Valley Street, Keene, NH
DATE: April 11, 2026
SUBJECT: Questions and concerns about the skatepark parking lot

Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the Proposed Parking Lot Near Beaver Brook

We appreciate the City's openness to receiving feedback regarding the proposed parking lot on Water Street by Beaver Brook. Redevelopment efforts between Beaver Brook and Carpenter Street for public use have positively impacted both the neighborhood and the City. Families from throughout Keene regularly visit Russell Park and the skate park, and local residents value seeing these community facilities being actively used.

However, we have to express concerns about the parking lot proposed near Beaver Brook. Barbara Richter's letter to this Council on this subject, cites the Surface Water Protection Ordinance as an important guideline which appears to be ignored by city planners:

ARTICLE 11. SURFACE WATER PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT
Surface Water Buffer. The Surface Water Protection Overlay District buffer area is measured on a horizontal plane from either the top of the bank of a stream, or the ordinary high-water mark of a river, or the reference line of a lake or pond, or the delineated edge of a wetland or change in soil type.

As she notes, and we reiterate, the planned parking lot appears to overlook the requirements of the Surface Water Protection Ordinance. Building a paved surface so close to Beaver Brook could increase the risks of runoff and erosion.

Instead, all areas within 100 feet of Beaver Brook would benefit from the Beaver Brook Restoration Plan prepared in 2009 by Moosewood Ecological LLC for the City. The report recommends establishing a healthy riparian zone of native, flood-tolerant, deep-rooted plants that stabilize stream banks, filter runoff, cool the water, and support wildlife.

A parking lot will offer none of these ecological benefits. And, since the parking spaces available at Patricia Russell Park and along Carpenter Street are rarely, if ever, fully utilized, there would be no evident need to spend our City's tax dollars on a new parking lot for which there is no apparent need.

Although the proposed parking lot might cap a hazardous waste site, we urge the City to explore more innovative alternatives that would actually benefit the immediate community. For instance, consider developing a community garden with raised beds, for which there is already some neighborhood interest.

Further, since Keene was officially designated a “bee-friendly” community in 2021, establishing pollinator gardens would align with this commitment.

Expanding greenspace would help offset the effects of hotter summers and reducing pavement would assist with floodwater management in the watershed.

Therefore, we urge the City Council to reject plans for a parking lot proposed by the City.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Hamm



Sandra Hamm



TO: Honorable Mayor Kahn and City Council Members
FROM: Barbara and Frank Richter, 22 Valley Street, Keene, NH
DATE: April 12, 2026
SUBJECT: Parking lot at skatepark questions and concerns

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed parking lot off Water Street next to the Skatepark property.

The redevelopment of this area has been a great improvement to the neighborhood. This park is used by all ages throughout the year. Investing in East Keene is a benefit to the city, with so many citizens looking for walkable neighborhoods. We appreciate the City Council's support of this area of the city.

We have concerns about the proposed parking lot off 160 Water Street. The proposed parking lot would be a violation of the City of Keene Surface Water Protection Ordinance. This City regulation requires a 30-foot-wide buffer area from the top of bank.

ARTICLE 11. SURFACE WATER PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT

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The proposed parking area provides no buffer and paves up to the top of the Beaver Brook Bank. According to the regulation, construction of new roads, driveways, and parking lots would require a conditional use permit. We ask that the city go through this process if they intend to continue with the plans for a new parking lot.

Additionally, the proposed parking lot is in direct conflict with the BEAVER BROOK RESTORATION PLAN, Stream Morphology, Wildlife Habitat and Land Use Assessment written by Moosewood Ecological LLC for the City in 2009. According to the plan, a "*Good buffer is greater than or equal to 100 feet wide.*" Paving up to the top of the stream bank would provide no buffer whatsoever, putting the water quality at risk.

The Restoration Plan recommends a buffer as a top priority for immediate restoration efforts. It describes the importance of a natural buffer for water quality protection;

"Vegetated buffers have a few key features that drive their ability to reduce the threat of nonpoint source pollutants. With sediment as a leading NPS concern, it is easy to see part of the role vegetation plays in preventing soil erosion. The root system that holds soil in place is perhaps the most recognized feature that makes buffers effective at reducing NPS pollution threats."

Finally, the current parking lot is never full. There is plenty of parking along Carpenter Street and the Pat Russell Parking lot. The neighbors do not see a need for additional parking in this area. We would prefer to have more green space to help mitigate increasingly hot summers and less pavement to help mitigate flood waters in the watershed.

We understand that this area needs to be capped because of toxins found in the soil on the site. We believe the site can be capped and then replanted with a vegetative layer. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has recommendations on options to cap soil with plants.

Vegetative layer: A top layer of soil planted with grass or other vegetation can help prevent soil erosion and make the area look more natural and attractive. An evapotranspiration or "ET" cover is a vegetative cap in which the plants and underlying soil keep rain and snowmelt from soaking down into the contaminated area. (For more information, please see A Citizen's Guide to Evapotranspiration Covers [EPA 542-F-12-006].)

We request that you cap the soil, plant a pollinator garden, and fence off the area. Adding more trees, rain gardens, and possibly raised beds with sealed bottoms would be more of a public benefit to the community than unnecessary parking. Extending the gardens from the northern section of the property may also be appealing to local grants and foundations. Restoration of this streambank would enhance the Beaver Brook Restoration Plan and model what we could apply elsewhere in its watershed.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara and Frank Richter

Frank Richter 4/13/26
Barbara Richter 4/13/26

April 12, 2026

Mayor Jay Kahn
City Manager Elizabeth Ferland
Keene City Council Members
3 Washington Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431

Vicky Morton
275 Water Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431

RE: In support of Barbara Richter's letter

The City of Keene is indeed fortunate to have someone as knowledgeable and articulate as Barbara Richter. I support her consultation on why the City should not add more hardscape to the skate park property and her suggestions on alternatives.

East side residents are heavily invested in both the overall neighborhood and the Pat Russell Park. I truly wish there were more interactions between the City personnel and the neighborhood prior to proposals such as the proposed parking lot so that we can move forward together.



Vicky Morton



The City Council

Keene, NH

197 Water St.

Keene, NH

April 8, 2026

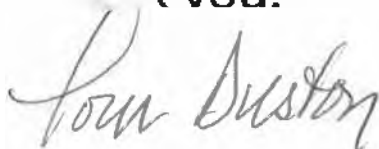
To the Council:

and the Mayor

I live in American House (#224) and hence have a unique view of the parking lot at Pat Russell Park. I can say that in the 2 years I have lived here I don't believe the lot has ever been filled, even when the East Keene Neighborhood Association meets here once a month. This is because most of the folks using the park are from the neighborhood and either walk, come in a carriage, ride their bicycles or come by skateboard or scooter.

The last thing the neighborhood needs is the additional impervious ground that a parking lot would bring. Consult your gardening consultant (Conservation Commission, Parks and Rec, etc.) about appropriate plants or trees if you are concerned about contaminated soil

< YOU.



Tom Duston



March 30, 2026

City of Keene Clerk's Office
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council,

There is currently "no dogs allowed" rule in Woodland Cemetery.

I think it would benefit the neighborhood if this rule were to be changed to allow dogs on leashes in the cemetery. The increase in dog walkers would increase foot traffic on the paths, improving security for everyone.

I am requesting for this issue to be reviewed in Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Williams". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Bobby Williams
City Councilor, Ward 2



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: April 29, 2026
To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee
From: Bryan Ruoff, City Engineer
Through: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager
Donald Lussier, Public Works Director
Subject: **2026 Construction Season Update - City Engineer**

Recommendation:

Move to recommend that the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee accept the 2026 construction season update as informational.

Attachments:

None

Background:

As the 2026 construction season starts, the Engineering Division is currently managing the following projects that are either in construction, under contract with a planned construction start date, being bid or planned to be bid and start construction in 2026:

Under Contract and/or in Construction

George Street Bridge Replacement Project 40563 : March 13th to November 2026

Stormwater Main Lining Project : March 13th to June 2026

THT Phase#1 Project 43737 : March 23rd to September 2026

Sewer Manhole Rehab Project: April 2026

Appel Way Trail Paving Project: April 9th and 10th, 2026

Marlboro Street and Cheshire Rail Trail Corridor Project 42515: April 13th to November 2026

Island Street Road Reconstruction Project : April 13th to June 2026

Sewer Main Lining Project: April 20, 2026 to June 2026

Transfer Station Paving Project: April 20th to June 2026

City Hall Parking Garage Rehabilitation Project: April 20th to July 2026

Sidewalk Replacement Project: May 11th to July 2026

Key Road Drainage Replacement Project: May 18th to August 2026

Public Works Parking Lot Reconstruction Project: May to August 2026

Bidding and Planned Projects:

Downtown Infrastructure Improvements and Reconstruction Project: July 2026 to December 2026

Martel Court PS Bypass FM: July to December 2026

Court Street Water Main Replacement Project: July to December 2026
WTP Valve and Yard Piping Replacement Project: July to December 2026
2026 Gate Valve Replacement Project: July to December 2026
Robin Hood Park Pool Improvements: August 2026 to November 2026
Parks & Recreation Trail Bridge Rehabilitation Projects: August 2026 to November 2026
Monadnock View Cemetery Expansion Project: August 2026 to November 2026