



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

Monday, September 18, 2023

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
Eloise Clark
Steven Bill
Kenneth Bergman

Deborah LeBlanc, Alternate
Thomas P. Haynes, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate
Brian Reilly, Alternate
Lee Stanish, Alternate

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2023
3. Report-outs
 - 1) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee
 - 2) Outreach
 - 3) Invasive Species
 - 4) Land Conservation
4. Discussion Items:
 - a) Keene Meadow Solar Station project update.
 - b) Potential Land Purchase Update (Rt 9/Washington St. Ext. properties).
 - c) Airport proposed wildlife control fence update.
 - d) Conservation Commission speaking events.
 - e) Wantastiquet-Monadnock Coalition – Request for Commission assistance with construction of a bathroom along the Wantastiquet-Monadnock trail.
 - f) Neighborhood Pollinator Garden update
 - g) Antioch University CSI proposals
5. New or Other Business
6. Adjourn – Next meeting date: **Monday, October 16, 2023**

1 **City of Keene**
2 **New Hampshire**

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5 **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
6 **MEETING MINUTES**
7

Monday, August 21, 2023

4:30 PM

**Room 22,
Recreation Center**

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Councilor Andrew Madison, Vice Chair (4:41 PM)
Eloise Clark
Councilor Robert Williams
Art Walker
Ken Bergman
John Therriault, Alternate (Voting)
Brian Reilly, Alternate (Voting)
Thomas Haynes, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner
Kürt Blomquist, Public Works
Director/Assistant City
Manager/Emergency Management
Director

Members Not Present:

Lee Stanish, Alternate
Deborah LeBlanc, Alternate

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10 **1) Call to Order**

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12 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and roll call ensued. The following
13 guests were present: Paul Henkel, Peter Hansel, Nancy Ancharski, Sarah Ellsworth, and Jamie
14 Doherty.

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16 **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2023**

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18 Revisions: line 107, change “pointed out” to “questioned.” Line 266, change “any regulatory
19 approval process” to “any role in the regulatory approval process.” Line 355, change “the
20 Planning Board referral” to “the Planning Board wetlands CUP referral.”

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22 A motion by Mr. Walker to approve the July 17, 2023 minutes as amended was duly seconded
23 by Mr. Bergman, and the motion carried unanimously.
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28 **3) Report-Outs**

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

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31 Mr. Haynes reported that Lew Shelley of Snowhawk LLC, the Goose Pond trail maintenance
32 contractor, would be finishing his work within the few weeks after this meeting. The new bridge
33 was nearly complete and most of the major trail reroute was complete. The old bridge would be
34 removed the day after this meeting. Then, all that would remain is tidying the trail after the
35 machinery had come in and out. There were also some steps from the north trailhead to finish.
36 Ms. Clark noted that there was a recent article in the Keene Sentinel about this work at Goose
37 Pond.

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39 **B) Outreach**

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41 Mr. Haynes reported that the Outreach workgroup had not met since the last meeting. He
42 recalled that he needed to step back from leading this workgroup to devote his time to the Goose
43 Pond Subcommittee. Mr. Haynes noted that some of the long-term Commissioners' terms were
44 ending at the end of 2023, and he felt like a new generation of Commissioners could lead this
45 effort. Determining the new leader should be a focus on the September agenda.

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47 **C) Invasive Species**

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49 Councilor Williams reported that after the July Conservation Commission meeting, volunteers
50 met at the Woodland Cemetery and removed a lot of Japanese knotweed. This was the second
51 year removing knotweed at this location along Beaver Brook and he thought there was a lot of
52 improvement since last year. He recalled the need to remove knotweed from the same location
53 several years in a row to ensure it does not come back. Councilor Williams said there would be
54 another invasive event immediately after this meeting to address more knotweed at the Ladies'
55 Wildwood Park, where Mr. Bergman said there is a clear knotweed monoculture. Councilor
56 Williams agreed with Mr. Bergman that it could require equipment or chemicals to treat/remove
57 the knotweed at this location in the future. For now, Councilor Williams was interested in
58 clearing and keeping the knotweed from encroaching on one area. Councilor Williams also
59 wanted to discuss purple loosestrife. He said this invasive was all over the cemetery and he did
60 not know what to do about it. He said there was more than he had seen in previous years. Pulling
61 the plant is challenging and is not something Councilor Williams would want to task volunteers
62 with.

63

64 Mr. Bergman noted that when he was a professor at Keene State College (KSC), a colleague co-
65 ran a trial release of beetles (supplied by another institution) to target knotweed. The program
66 lasted several years, but Mr. Bergman was unsure of the conclusion. Councilor Williams agreed
67 there are opportunities to use beetles to manage knotweed.

68

69 Chair Von Plinsky noted that when driving down Maple Avenue recently, he saw that someone
70 removed knotweed from Dinsmoor Woods. Mr. Bergman recalled riding his bike in that area a

71 few years ago, when the knotweed was so pervasive it forced him to bike in the street. Mr.
72 Bergman also mentioned a recent walk along Arch Street, where he noticed that a vehicle had
73 left the roadway, hit, and destroyed the bench by the Ladies' Wildwood Park sign.

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75 **D) Land Conservation**

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77 Chair Von Plinsky said the workgroup had not met.

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79 **4) Street Tree Discussion – Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director**

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81 Chair Von Plinsky welcomed the Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager/Emergency
82 Management Director, Kürt Blomquist, to talk about street trees. In his 29 years as Keene's
83 Public Works Director, he had experimented with many things tree related. Keene has always
84 been proud of its trees. However, he said it was interesting how many times residents have come
85 to the City Council, requesting that trees be removed. He said the City has no formal forestry
86 program, though he had tried to create one over the years. He said that a challenge of the City
87 Council's fiscal policies is that budgets are based on the Boston Consumer Price Index (CPI),
88 which does not leave a lot of opportunities for additional programs. The City also does not have
89 a formal tree maintenance program. The Downtown Memorial Tree Fund dates back to the 1988
90 downtown renovation and created funding for specific trees. Today, Mr. Blomquist has \$5,000 in
91 his budget annually to maintain those specific downtown trees (i.e., trimming and replanting).
92 Mr. Blomquist only has \$3,000 annually in his budget for new trees, which is challenging with
93 new trees (2–3-inch caliper that take a decade to fully mature) costing \$600–\$800. Further, he
94 has \$40,600 for emergency tree operations (e.g., a public hazard). When possible, in-house City
95 Staff address these maintenance needs.

96

97 Mr. Blomquist continued explaining that when installing new trees, he looks for sugar maples,
98 pin oaks, lindens, birch clusters, Cleveland pears, crab apples, crimson maples, and blue spruces.
99 These species are 14–20 feet high. Species are chosen based on the application and location. Mr.
100 Blomquist avoids planting species that would interfere with electrical lines, for example. Over
101 time, City Staff have also experimented with other tree species, like the American Liberty elm,
102 which are present at the Rt-101 roundabout, along Main Street, and along Winchester Street.
103 There is a different demand for trees in more urban parts of the City. Urban trees must be road
104 salt tolerant, heat tolerant, and taller. Mr. Blomquist also works with the Cheshire County
105 Forester, the state of NH, licensed arborists, and other tree professionals. It is challenging to find
106 licensed arborists to consult on tree projects; former arborists at KSC had retired. Mr. Blomquist
107 had been working with Eversource's arborist. It helps when the Council hears information from a
108 third party versus City Staff. Mr. Blomquist talked about the City's street tree requirements.
109 Street trees are required every 50 feet along both sides of a new street. There is an exception to
110 allow trees within 20 feet of the right-of-way. Trees do not always fit in this right-of-way or
111 might conflict, sometimes requiring going onto private property with an easement that allows the
112 City to maintain the trees. If a property owner wants one of those trees removed, they need City
113 Council permission.

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Mr. Blomquist recalled when many Dutch elms were planted in the City in the 1970s. The City had also used ash trees. Now, the City has faced the emerald ash borer for 8 years; before 2015, there were purple traps throughout the City to capture the insect. Now, the emerald ash borer's impacts are visible, particularly in the ash tree canopies downtown. The City has been trying to chemically treat the downtown trees. In City projects, Mr. Blomquist avoids planting monocultures of trees in favor of more biodiversity, which can prevent an insect/disease from destroying all of the trees. He has considered a public campaign (perhaps this Commission could help) about addressing this infestation. There is not strong legislation in NH for dealing with trees on private properties. When managing/taking down infected trees, there is a risk of spreading insects/disease to other nearby trees. He said the best option is to treat the trees for as long as possible before eventually having to remove them.

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Mr. Blomquist continued explaining that the Public Works Department is responsible for managing Keene's urban forest and all open land. There had been Staff concern about who is responsible for monitoring and maintaining conservation land donations. Mr. Blomquist had been having this conversation with the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, Andy Bohannon. Mr. Blomquist also mentioned that after the 1938 hurricane, George Wheelock planted white and red pines that worked very well for close to 80 years but had now reached the end of their useful lives. He recalled that 1–2 years ago, Staff removed many trees along Maple Avenue because they had become hazardous to the roadway and park users. While many community members were upset about this, Mr. Blomquist said it would have only taken one severe ice storm to significantly damage those trees. Looking ahead, Mr. Blomquist said that unfortunately, the future of Keene's street trees depends largely on funding.

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Councilor Williams appreciated that summary. With the potential to lose many ash street trees, the Councilor's concern was how to replace them. He mentioned the need for shade trees and the desire for natural areas. He said that the City Council had seen new requests from residents to remove City-owned trees every few months, many of which he said had not been replaced. A lot of trees on private property are dying too. Councilor William would like to locate some funding for trees as a project in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It would need to be a reasonably solid plan for the City Council to get behind it. He wondered what would be possible if that money was allocated. Councilor Williams also suggested pursuing grants for buying and replacing trees.

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Mr. Blomquist said there would need to be 2 pieces of a forest management program: 1) inventory – there is already a fairly good one of the immediate downtown and KSC areas (an aerial inventory is possible), and 2) education – it is important for the public to know that older tree roots are attracted to the wet underground sewer infrastructure and compromise those pipes. Most trees cannot be replaced in the exact same location because of remnants of the old trees. Mr. Blomquist gave examples of the constraints of the right-of-way. In the 1960s/1970s, the City Council declared that anything in the right-of-way would be under the City's control, but there is case law that could challenge that. The City owns a lot of trees on newer streets from the 1940s–

157 1960s. Mr. Blomquist suggested that the Conservation Commission could recommend the first
158 step—a tree inventory—to the City Council.

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160 Mr. Therriault asked how the Liberty elms had worked over the last 30 years. Mr. Blomquist
161 replied that it takes 15–20 years for the Liberty elms to mature and to determine whether they
162 will survive. He said the City was reaching the time when it would be clear whether the Liberty
163 elms would survive or be resistant to the Dutch elm disease. Several of the trees had been lost
164 during that time, which could happen to any species. He said the rest seem to be thriving. Mr.
165 Therriault asked if there was a plan for at least 1 Liberty elm on Central Square as a part of the
166 downtown project. Mr. Blomquist said Central Square is unique. The goal is to have minimal
167 impacts to Central Square as a result of this downtown infrastructure project and thus, no new
168 trees are planned at this time. The water line under Central Square would be abandoned to
169 minimize the impact there. For example, the oak across from the church is 125 years old.

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171 Mr. Bergman talked about a tree inventory and specifically about elms. The largest elm he had
172 ever seen on the west side of Keene was killed by roadwork approximately 20 years ago. He
173 asked if the City had a list of the Liberty elms in Keene. Mr. Blomquist said he has a general list
174 but not a specific inventory of those within the right-of-way. He was not aware of many. Mr.
175 Blomquist said the elm killed by road work was already well on its way to removal; the roadway
176 is a very harsh environment. When talking about this aspiration of a tree inventory—which
177 would be limited by money, volunteers, etc.—Mr. Bergman asked if it would be exclusively a
178 right-of-way inventory. Mr. Blomquist replied that at this point, focusing on the right-of-way
179 would be the most manageable but he thought that enlisting property owners to do their own
180 inventories was possible; there are web-based crowdsourcing tools available for such an effort.
181 Still, Mr. Blomquist’s responsibility is within the right-of-way and parks that the City owns.
182 There needs to be a focus on public input about the City’s parks over the next decade. Mr.
183 Bergman asked how the right-of-way is defined. Mr. Blomquist said it is the space where the
184 City has the rights for pass and repass. Prior to the 1940s, the right-of-way was 33.33 feet or 2
185 rods wide; the middle of the road is a general marker, but not all roads were built in the center of
186 a space. Post-1940s, the general right-of-way width in most neighborhoods is 40–50 feet. In
187 some areas, like downtown, the right-of-way is 134 feet or 8 rods. Residents are often surprised
188 that their property does not go all the way to the pavement edge; they usually own anywhere
189 from 4–15 feet back from the pavement edge.

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191 Ms. Clark reviewed the downtown tree study by Bartlett Tree Experts, and she found it detailed
192 and impressive. With the ever-shifting plans for the downtown project, she asked how Mr.
193 Blomquist perceived the project impacting the carefully laid-out plans espoused in the tree study.
194 Mr. Blomquist said that tree study was the second one in the last decade and helped to identify
195 the trees’ general health and specifically, the high priority trees that the project should try to
196 work around. Those trees would be considered in the next design decisions by the City Council
197 over the next 6 months. Mr. Blomquist said that how the Council uses the tree study to determine
198 tree maintenance and funding would be important. Ms. Clark asked about recommendations to
199 create more collars around trees. Mr. Blomquist said little had been done about that

200 recommendation to date because there is insufficient space. Most trees downtown are rootbound.
201 Such recommendations could act as guidance for the downtown project and tree survival for the
202 next 30 years.

203
204 Ms. Ellsworth is a resident of the Edgewood neighborhood, where there are huge pines. She said
205 there had been an issue with removing the pines that had reached the end of their useful lives and
206 were causing problems. She has removed 20 large pines from her 1/3-acre property over the last
207 24 years and replaced them with things like oak seedlings that only needed a few years of
208 tending. She noted how some people are impatient with the time it takes for a big tree canopy to
209 develop. Mr. Blomquist noted the difference between trees in the right-of-way and those on
210 private property, as those along the roadway must be heartier to withstand things like road salt
211 and snowbanks. Ms. Ellsworth said she was thinking more about locations like Ladies'
212 Wildwood Park and Wheelock Park. Mr. Blomquist said those discussions are needed as there
213 are different priorities at different locations. Ms. Ellsworth wondered whether the budget could
214 be stretched at some locations by planting smaller trees. Mr. Blomquist said his recommendation
215 was for the Conservation Commission to continue this discussion about the parks into the future
216 in consultation with Mr. Bohannon.

217
218 Mr. Hansel recalled that Keene has been designated as a Tree City USA for many years. Mr.
219 Blomquist agreed, noting that Keene just received its designation for the 41st year. Mr. Hansel
220 asked if there are any responsibilities associated with that. Mr. Blomquist says he has to
221 complete the application each year and report on newly planted trees. Keene continues to meet
222 the minimum for this designation and is the second longest Tree City USA designation in NH.
223 Mr. Hansel urged keeping as many mature trees as possible during the downtown project and,
224 where they cannot be retained, to plant new trees where possible. He hoped that Mr. Blomquist
225 would continue speaking for the trees as the final design comes to fruition. Mr. Blomquist agreed
226 that during his time in Keene, the trees remained a priority. In many cases, he has left trees
227 beyond their useful life because he knows the public's reaction when trees are removed,
228 especially downtown, where the tree canopy is valued. Mr. Hansel said he is a member of the
229 City's Energy and Climate Committee and noted that trees play a role in reducing greenhouse
230 gas emissions and heat. Mr. Blomquist agreed that heat especially is an emerging issue in NH,
231 where there are ample shelters to escape winter weather but not to escape the summer heat. Mr.
232 Hansel referred to 2 big elm trees planted 20 years ago on Washington Street near the Recreation
233 Center, noting that the trees were 10 years old when planted. He said those were examples of the
234 time it takes for trees to mature.

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236 Ms. Ancharski echoed Mr. Hansel's comments about retaining/replacing trees downtown.
237 Regarding the conceptual design accepted by the City Council, she said 60 trees were planned
238 for removal, versus the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee's
239 recommendation of 32 trees. She was concerned about that significant difference. Mr. Blomquist
240 said he would have to refer to the project notes, but he did not recall that difference, which Ms.
241 Ancharski said she was sure about. Mr. Blomquist said most of the tree impacts are due to the
242 utility work, and those utility plans were the same across all the concept designs considered. Ms.

243 Ancharski said she walked Main Street and Central Square to count all the trees lining the
244 sidewalks. She counted 61 and asked everyone to keep that in mind.

245

246 Mr. Bergman said he would like to see follow-up tree inventories in 2–3 years and 10 years later
247 to best understand the results. Mr. Blomquist thought the Commission has an opportunity for
248 greater influence, especially in terms of education. Also, the Conservation Commission is a sub-
249 committee of the City Council and can help the Council remember conservation foci. Mr.
250 Blomquist was grateful for the Commission’s continued support.

251

252 **5) Discussion Items**

253 **A) Society for the Protection of NH Forests**

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255 Chair Von Plinsky recalled that the Society for the Protection of NH Forests requested comments
256 on their re-accreditation process. He agreed with Ms. Clark that the Commission is not the best
257 entity to make those comments. This would be removed from the agenda moving forward.

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259 **B) Keene Meadow Solar Station Update**

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261 This should remain on the agenda. No one had heard about a public walk yet.

262

263 **C) Potential Land Purchase Update (Rt 9/Washington St. Ext. Properties)**

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265 Chair Von Plinsky recalled that the Commission recommended to the City Council to offer the
266 assessed value of these properties to Hull Forest Products. Hull replied with what the Chair
267 called an astronomical asking price. So, unfortunately, it did not look like the City would be able
268 to purchase these 2 properties. He thought the Commission could take some solace in the fact
269 that one of the parcels is beyond developable, but he added that he does not put anything past a
270 developer. Hull Forest Products asked for \$150,000 for both parcels, which is essentially double
271 what they paid for it. Chair Von Plinsky said the Commission could recommend paying that total
272 to City Council, but that would nearly eliminate the funds left in the Land Use Change Tax Fund
273 (\$200,000 by December 2023). The Chair did not think this would be wise.

274

275 Ms. Clark wondered about only purchasing the one property near Beaver Brook Falls that would
276 have the greatest impact on flooding in downtown Keene. Chair Von Plinsky thought that might
277 be an option, but he was unsure of the asking price for the individual parcels. Ms. Clark
278 requested more information on this option from Ms. Brunner.

279

280 Mr. Therriault said that Hull Forest Products owns the properties at present and would be paying
281 property taxes until they no longer own them. So, he thought the City could make them an offer
282 for the one parcel, and if they are not interested, advise them that they can follow-up again when
283 they are tired of paying the taxes. Chair Von Plinsky agreed.

284

285 Mr. Bergman said he looked up these tax map parcels, and the documents showed that these 2
286 parcels were purchased on March 15, 2023 for \$52,800 each. Ms. Brunner said the
287 Commission’s recommendation to the City Council was to purchase both parcels together for the
288 then assessed value of about \$75,000. Hull Forest Products paid more than the assessed value
289 because they were focused on the revenue from logging all the timber from these two parcels.
290 The assessing website should list the 2023 assessed values. Mr. Bergman was unsure of those
291 numbers and what factored into them. He said the numbers on the map were not clear to the
292 average user. Ms. Brunner would follow up with the City Manager to see if there is an option to
293 purchase only 1 of the properties. She noted her understanding that the assessed value is partly
294 based on the previous sale price, which would be higher because Hull paid over the assessed
295 value, despite them having cleared all the timber. Mr. Bergman said the assessing website listed
296 the properties as purchased for \$52,800 each. Chair Von Plinsky tabled this discussion until the
297 September meeting, when Ms. Brunner would bring more details, and the Commission could
298 make an updated recommendation to the City Council.
299

300 Ms. Brunner recalled hearing about a buyer who is interested in the smaller parcel for maple
301 sugar and another buyer was interested in the larger parcel for wind or solar power. The latter
302 would be complicated because they would need a road frontage, and the logging road would not
303 provide that access.
304

305 Councilor Williams said Hull Forest Products might have seen their neighbor working on solar
306 energy and realized that temptation. He asked if the larger parcel could be subdivided into 2-acre
307 lots with the latest Zoning change. Ms. Brunner could not recall the Zoning of these parcels but
308 thought they were Rural. As such, there would need to be a way to access the parcel, which is
309 along a limited access highway, and they would have to build a road across other private
310 properties to accomplish that. To Ms. Brunner, these parcels did not seem developable, but
311 someone might find a way.
312

313 **D) Airport Proposed Wildlife Control Fence Update**
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315 Chair Von Plinsky recalled that this project was facing some hang-ups in the grant application
316 process. The Commission will await further communication from the Airport Director, David
317 Hickling.
318

319 **E) Conservation Commission Speaking Events**
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321 Councilor Madison had no updates.
322

323 **F) Wantastiquet-Monadnock Coalition – Request for Commission Assistance**
324 **with Construction of a Bathroom Along the Wantastiquet-Monadnock Trail**
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326 Chair Von Plinsky recalled that the Commission was contacted about this effort to construct
327 rustic campsites and privies along the Wantastiquet-Monadnock trail. The trail goes through

328 Keene near the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve. The Wantastiquet-Monadnock Coalition wants
329 Antioch University New England, the Monadnock Conservancy, the Cheshire County
330 Conservation District, and the Keene Conservation Commission to collaborate on building this
331 privy. This would require a \$500 investment and undisclosed volunteer time. Chair Von Plinsky
332 would find out more and report to the Commission in September.

333

334 **6) New or Other Business**

335 **A) Neighborhood Pollinator Garden**

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337 This discussion occurred earlier in the meeting, before agenda item 5.A.

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339 Ms. Doherty was present with other residents of the Edgewood neighborhood. Ms. Ellsworth
340 explained that in the middle of the neighborhood, there is a triangle-shaped piece of land that the
341 City mows and is otherwise only used by kids playing. Many of the trees surrounding this parcel
342 have died. She recalled that Keene is also a Bee City USA. The Edgewood neighbors requested
343 the City's support to develop that parcel as a native pollinator garden. They imagined starting
344 small (21' x 21') and expanding in the future. Ms. Ellsworth cited some of the history of the
345 parcel, such as when it was used for horses and buggies. None of the neighbors were opposed.
346 Ms. Ellsworth's only question was how to get water to the parcel, which might just have to come
347 from the neighbors' properties to start. Creating a garden would save the City from having to
348 mow the parcel. The City's permission would be needed because they own the land.

349 Commissioners supported this idea.

350

351 Mr. Blomquist suggested that the neighbors should meet with him and Mr. Bohannon to discuss
352 and check any restrictions on that land. The biggest questions would be about the neighbors'
353 long-term plans to ensure the garden is sustainable. Chair Von Plinsky thought there was a
354 precedent for this proposal. Mr. Blomquist agreed that service clubs (e.g., Kiwanis) have had
355 similar projects in the past. Ultimately, the City Council's permission would be needed too.

356

357 Mr. Therriault said he wholeheartedly supported this idea. He agreed to be the Commission's
358 liaison on this project and asked to be included in the planning meetings. Given that this is a
359 previously mowed grass area, Mr. Therriault said a 2-year running start would be needed to
360 smother the grass before overseeding with pollinator friendly wildflowers. After that, the garden
361 should only need maintenance twice per year—weeding in the spring and cutting down stalks to
362 6 inches off the ground (and hauling away) in the fall. The garden should flower every year or
363 every other year depending on the species. Ms. Doherty also pointed out that there are invasive
364 bittersweet and burning bush around the flagpole near this parcel.

365

366 **B) Antioch University New England – Collaborative Service Initiative Request**
367 **for Proposals**

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369 Chair Von Plinsky recalled that last year, the Commission submitted one of these proposals but
370 did not match with a master's student. The window is open again this year with a September 22

371 deadline for proposals on a wide range of topics. Commissioners can send ideas to the Chair
372 before the September meeting or bring ideas to the meeting for more discussion. Ms. Brunner
373 would forward the guidelines to the Commission. There is usually a team of students for each
374 project, and they are committed to 400 hours between the end of January and end of April. The
375 students are not compensated, but the Commission would have to pay for things like travel or
376 materials. A member of the Commission would need to act as the project supervisor.
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378 Mr. Haynes asked if a tree inventory could be a viable project. Ms. Brunner thought so, but the
379 Commission was unclear on what level of effort that would require. Perhaps there would be an
380 opportunity to focus on one City ward, for example, versus too wide of a scope. Ms. Brunner
381 thought the Commission could submit multiple proposals for different projects.
382

383 Mr. Bergman asked if there was feedback last year on why the Commission's proposal was not
384 chosen. The Chair said no, it just did not align with student interests.
385

386 For a narrower scope, Ms. Clark suggested a tree inventory of Robin Hood Park or Beech Hill.
387 Chair Von Plinsky thought the scope might depend on how many students are working on the
388 project. Ms. Clark thought that a smaller area, like Dinsmoor Woods, could be more manageable
389 as a student project.
390

391 **C) Other New Business**

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393 Chair Von Plinsky asked Commissioners to submit (to him via email) 1–2 representative photos
394 from past site visits so he could upload them to the Commission's Flickr account. The Chair will
395 share the public link to view the photos and will work with Ms. Brunner to get a link to Flickr on
396 the Commission's website.
397

398 **7) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 18, 2023**

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400 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 5:58 PM.
401

402 Respectfully submitted by,
403 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker
404 August 28, 2023
405

406 Reviewed and edited by,
407 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner