

#### City of Keene, New Hampshire

#### AMENDED AGENDA

#### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Monday, October 16, 2017

### 4:30 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room City Hall

Thomas P. Haynes, Chair Sadie Butler, Vice Chair Councilor George Hansel Councilor Jan Manwaring Denise Burchsted

#### Commission Members

Andrew Madison Brian Reilly Eloise Clark, Alternate Alexander Von Plinsky IV, Alternate

#### SITE VISIT: <u>At 3:30 PM there will be a site visit of the Emerald Street Eversource</u> Substation.

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Minutes September 18, 2017
- 3. Wetland Permit by Notification Branch River Dam Dubois & King on behalf of the Town of Swanzey
- 4. Surface Water Protection Conditional Use Permit Eversource Emerald Street Substation
- 5. Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan RFQ Update
- 6. Aquatic Resource Mitigation Subcommittee Update
- 7. Conservation Master Plan Retreat Discussion
- 8. Commission Membership
- 9. Public Education and Outreach
- 10. Staff Updates
- 11. New or Other Business
- 12. Adjournment Next meeting date Monday, November 20, 2017

DRAFT

#### <u>City of Keene</u> New Hampshire

#### <u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</u> <u>MEETING MINUTES</u>

Monday, September 18, 2017

4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

#### Members Present:

**Staff Present:** 

Thomas Haynes, Chair Councilor Jan Manwaring Councilor George Hansel Brian Reilly Denise Burchsted Alexander Von Plinsky IV, Alternate

#### Members Not Present:

Sadie Butler, Vice Chair Andrew Madison Eloise Clark, Alternate

#### 1) Call to Order

Chair Haynes called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

#### 2) Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2017

Dr. Burchsted made a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2017, which was seconded by Dr. Reilly.

Dr. Burchsted noted on page 2/7, "detention basin" should be corrected to "tension basin." Dr. Reilly noted on page 2/7, "mild steel bolts" should be corrected to "meld steel bolts."

The motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2017 as amended carried unanimously.

#### 3) Communication and Notifications

No communications or notifications.

#### 4) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan RFQ Updates

Chair Haynes said right now Moosewood Ecological is working on a scope of work and budget to be approved through the City. He is unsure what the delay is; Councilor Hansel said it may be waiting to go through a Committee cycle for approval and if going before the Finance Committee that will likely occur next week. Chair Haynes said this has to occur before they can sign the contract and hopefully it will happen sooner than later so they have the entire fall season to collect data.

Dr. Reilly recalled the Committee was supposed to receive the first 12 pages of the RFQ that Moosewood Ecological submitted. Chair Haynes will ask Ms. Kessler to send it. Councilor Manwaring inquired about Ms. Kessler's absence, noting there is a shortage of staff for Committee's but statutorily, this Committee is required to have staff representation; if she will CONS Meeting Minutes September 18, 2017

not be as present, the Commission needs to know how to step up and fill the gaps they can. Chair Haynes noted she has had conflicts for the past few meetings and as far as he knows she is still with the Commission. Dr. Burchsted noted it is really the Planning Department in general that is shorthanded right now; Councilor Hansel noted they are not short-staffed but have many big projects going on, like the Land Use Code Update. Chair Haynes said he thinks all staff would like Committee's to do as much as they can to help and Ms. Kessler will let the Commission know how they can help; the dialogue is open and will continue.

#### 5) Aquatic Resource Mitigation Subcommittee Update

Dr. Burchsted reported that she, Chair Haynes, and Mr. Von Plinksy had met in the last month and discussed compiling the information she shared with the Commission. She said the idea of the schematic presented was to have a visual of all the possible projects discussed so far and how they have been arranged into the identified target areas (Ashuelot River north of West Street, Beaver Brook, Hurricane/Grimes Brook, and other identified projects). She wanted to check-in with the Commission for any feedback and will email Ms. Clark to review it with her as well. She has a follow-up call into Lori Sommer at NH DES to make sure this list is on the right track. Dr. Burchsted has the impression that synergistic target area projects would be more favorable to DES but wants to make sure.

Dr. Reilly asked if a project hits several different ARM fund categories if it would be higher priority. Dr. Burchsted cautioned use of the word priority, but they may be more likely to fund such projects; they also favor multiple-component projects. Councilor Hansel, Councilor Manwaring, and Dr. Reilly thanked the subcommittee for their work. Dr. Burchsted asked for comments on strategy, details, and who else should be asked to review.

Councilor Hansel said it looks good but wonders what the Commission will do when it is complete. Dr. Burchsted replied that is one of her questions for Ms. Sommer – how to move forward. She will try to speak with Ms. Sommer before the subcommittee meets again next week. She assumes this is too much to submit to DES and it will need to be further streamlined. Councilor Hansel suggested when this strategy document is complete it can be passed up through City Council with a presentation to keep it on the radar. While staff will ultimately submit this, it is the Commission's job to present it to Council so that staff knows what to work with. Councilor Manwaring agreed the Commission is setting the stage for how money will be spent so Council can be reassured it is being spent well.

Councilor Manwaring suggested that the Ashuelot River north of West Street is good but should include Goose Pond and the Farrar property. She also thinks a greenspace on the Kingsbury property should be included with Beaver Brook. Dr. Burchsted agreed she intends to add restoring the channelized section of Beaver Brook at Kingsbury as well as the Brownfield information. Councilor Manwaring said it is her opinion that ultimately the City will take that land because it is a Brownfield site.

Dr. Burchsted noted she included some locations/projects highlighted in grey that seem unlikely but can act as placeholders. Councilor Hansel said he does not think some of them are that unlikely. He also suggested Carpenter Field, though he knows it has been tried before, it has never been shut down. Dr. Burchsted noted the Planning Director was very clear that is not going anywhere. Councilor Manwaring agreed it is unlikely; she asked if the habitat in the swamp at Woodlawn Cemetery is not finished. Dr. Burchsted replied no, but it has a good start. Dr. Reilly asked if there are only four categories from DES. Dr. Burchsted replied the four categories displayed were the ones the subcommittee decided on and can be modified. She noted the ARM fund Sample Priority List:

- <u>Land protection</u> priorities can include acquisitions such as: Parcels adjacent to existing conservation lands; Town forests or parcels acquired not currently protected (consider habitat value for restoration); Land in vicinity to drinking water supplies; Floodplains and riparian areas, vernal pool habitat; Farmlands with focus for enhancing wetland and stream buffers.
- <u>Habitat restoration</u> priorities includes projects such as: Wetland restoration—remove fill, restore hydrology, remove ditching; Restoration of streams where they have been culverted, buried, channels straightened; Enhancement of buffers where they may be lacking; Water quality improvements—look at impaired waters for best locations for improvements.
- <u>Infrastructure modification</u> priorities include projects such as: Culvert replacements and dam removals; Connecting sections of streams to improve passage for aquatic organisms, fish passage; Stream bank restoration / vegetated enhancement.
- <u>Native species restoration</u> priorities include projects such as: Eradication of invasive species—with long-term monitoring program established.

Compiling a list of projects for Keene will allow immediate applications to the ARM fund when projects are shovel-ready. Dr. Burchsted noted she is also investigating sources of funding that may be available to supplement the ARM fund. Some projects are ready to go, like the culvert replacements; they are just waiting on funds. Councilor Hansel said while there may be four projects shovel-ready, for example, the Commission should be working to get the other shovel ready in the meantime with the Land Use Tax Fund. Dr. Burchsted agreed having as many projects as possible shovel-ready allows the Commission to take advantage of any situation that arises to keep moving them all along.

Mr. Von Plinsky asked if there was anything to add from a structural standpoint on potential target area layout. Dr. Reilly suggested adding the Beech Hill Conservation Easement under the miscellaneous list, although it is not aquatic. Dr. Burchsted and Chair Haynes agreed it could be considered aquatic because there are vernal pools and upland habitat. Councilor Hansel said this is a great example of what the Commission should be doing and is an opportunity to show the Council how active the group is.

#### 6) <u>Conservation Master Plan Retreat Discussion</u>

Chair Haynes reported that he has been emailing with Barbara Richter, who is interested in helping. Her dilemma is timing as she is currently planning the NH Conservation Commissions annual meeting in November. He will continue following-up with her; finding a facilitator is still ongoing. Dr. Burchsted noted David Montgomery, who is a National Academy of Science member, will be speaking at the meeting and at KSC. The Commission agreed the annual meetings are a great opportunity with workshops on diverse topics. Chair Haynes will make sure everyone gets the flyer about it.

#### 7) <u>Public Education and Outreach</u>

Chair Haynes noted little progress since the last meeting but asked to brainstorm City parcels to promote as opportunities when approaching people to facilitate. He listed Goose Pond and Drummer Hill as possibilities all year. Dr. Reilly suggested Beech Hill. Councilor Manwaring suggested getting permission to walk to Woodward Pond, where visitors are not typically welcomed at the Dam; she is unsure where the reservoir plan stands, but it could be an

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educational opportunity. She also suggested the Roaring Brook watershed. Chair Haynes agreed that could combine with a walk through historic Roxbury. Dr. Burchsted suggested Stearns Hill. Dr. Burchsted also suggested floating up and down the Ashuelot River (from Court Street to the dam) with an expert. She said the floodplain wetlands are fantastic and the float would be best in spring so there is enough water. Chair Haynes asked for additional ideas to be sent to him or Ms. Kessler.

#### 8) <u>New or Other Business</u>

Councilor Manwaring noted she did not work on a criteria list and will for next month.

Councilor Hansel suggested putting a financial update on the agenda for next month; it is good timing to start looking at it.

Chair Haynes recalled that Councilor Manwaring's term expires at the end of the year and he will find out if any others expire as well. Dr. Burchsted suggested Ken Bergman as a possible new member. She will invite him to an upcoming meeting to see if he is interested. The term limit is three years, you can serve a maximum of two terms, and there must be at least one Councilor on the Commission; these are statutory guidelines.

#### 9) Adjournment – Next meeting date Monday October 16, 2017

Hearing no further business, Chair Haynes adjourned the meeting at 5:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by, Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by, Tara Kessler, Planner

SEP 29 2017

# Permit Application New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau

Name of Project: Branch Dam Diversion Temporary Shutdown Keen, NH DuBois & King Project No. 123144

> Owner/Applicant: Town of Swanzey PO Box 10009 Swanzey, NH 03446

Prepared by Authorized Agent:



28 North Main Street Randolph, VT 05060 Phone: (802) 728-3376 Fax: (802) 728-4930

Dated: September 22, 2017



# WETLANDS PERMIT BY NOTIFICATION (PBN)



+

Land Resources Management

Check the status of your submitted notification: www.des.nh.gov/onestop/index.htm

RSA/Rule: RSA 482-A/ Env-Wt 100-900

The PE	DJECT TYPES BN process is limited to the 14 project types lis sal qualifies to use this Permit by Notification p			Project Specific Criteria Documents, confirm your project gualifying project type(s) listed below:	
1	Freshwater Seasonal Dock: Construction or modification of a seasonal pie (dock), located on a non-tidal stream or river or pond.	er or wharf	8	Culvert/Bridge Replacement: The replacement of a culvert/bridge on a watercourse with a contributing watershed less than or equal to 25 acres to permit vehicular access to one single family lot or for noncommercial recreational use.	
2	Retaining Wall Repair and Replacement: Repair or replacement in-kind of a retaining v dry during draw down).	vall ( <i>in the</i>	9	Beach Replenishment: Replenishment of an existing non-tidal beach with less than 10 cubic yards of sand.	
3	Maintenance Dredge: Maintenance dredging, when necessary to pr continued usefulness of nontidal drainage dit made ponds, and spillways Stormwater detention ponds, fire ponds, or agricultural p exempt from permitting pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, IV-b. 3 specific criteria document for further information.	cches, man-	10	Seasonal Dock Anchoring Pad: Construction of an anchoring pad for a seasonal dock in non- tidal waters.	
⊠ 4	Temporary Cofferdams: Temporary cofferdams and other water cont constructed in flowing water or adjacent to d conjunction with the repair or maintenance of structures. All work must be designed, and s a professional engineer (PE).	lams in of existing	11	Boatlift: Installation of one seasonal boatlift in non-tidal waters and not within 20 feet of abutter's property line.	
5	Docking Structure Repair: 5 Repair of <u>existing</u> tidal docking structures or repair of non- tidal docking structures.		12	Watercraft Lift: Installation of one or two personal watercraft lift(s) in non- tidal waters adjacent to a dock.	
6	Dry Hydrant: For a dry hydrant ONLY, excavation of less than 10 linear		13	Residential Utilities: installation of a residential utility line. Stream impacts limited to a contributing watershed of 25 acres.	
7	Maintenance of a Non-Docking Structure: Maintenance, repair or replacement of a non-docking 3 structure.		14	<b>Utility Right-of-Ways:</b> Temporary impacts associated with the inspection, maintenance and repair of existing utility lines within an existing utility right of way. Use the <u>Utility Maintenance Notification form</u> for this project type.	
Please	LATED NHDES LAND RESOURCES MANAGEME e indicate if any of the following permit applicate termine if other Land Resources Management	ations are requ	uired and		
	Permit Type	Permit Required		File Number Permit Application Status	
Alteration of Terrain Permit Per RSA 485-A:17       □       YES       NO         Individual Sewerage Disposal per RSA 485-A:2       □       YES       NO         Subdivision Approval Per RSA 485-A       □       YES       NO         Shoreland Permit Per RSA 483-B       □       YES       NO				APPROVED PENDING DENIED	

NHDES-W-06-027

shoreland@des.nh.gov NHDES Wetlands Bureau, 29 Hazen Drive, PO BOX 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 www.des.nh.gov

* e			11-1-15
Adoma lintro Use Gan	Adarinet store Lise Only	Admanstre (Jer Use Čeliv	Pile No Check No Ankumt.
3. PROJECT LOCATION A separate application m	nust be filed with each municipality that ju	risdictional impacts will occu	r în
ADDRESS: Dam located bety Branch River	ween Marlboro St. and Swanzey Factor Rd. in	TOWN/CITY: Keene	······································
тах мар: 906	BLOCK:		UNIT:
US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPO	D MAP WATERBODY NAME: Branch River		
LOCATION COORDINATES (If k	nown): 42.913092, -72.255488		.atitude/Longitude 🔲 UTM 🔲 State Plane

#### 4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Provide a brief description of the project, outlining the scope of work to be performed, including a narrative that describes the sequence of construction including pre-construction through post-construction activities and the relative timing and progression of all work. Do not write "see attached."

The project includes temporarily blocking the diversion of flow from the Branch River at the Branch Dam to the Upper and lower Wilson Ponds. Due to limited hydraulic capacity at both of the downstream dams, the Town wishes to temporarily eliminate flows from the Branch Dam and observe hydraulic conditions for a period of one year. Sandbags will be used to block off the overflow at the Branch River Dam to determine if sufficient baseflow is available at Upper Wilson and Lower Wilson Ponds to maintain normal water levels and provide adequate turn over to maintain water quality. The diversion will be put into place on October 30, 2018. The project meets the requirements of Env-Wt 303.04 and 506.04.

#### 5. IMPACT AREA:

For each jurisdictional area that will be/has been impacted, provide square feet and, if applicable, linear feet of impact Temporary = impacts not intended to remain (and will be fully restored to pre-construction conditions) after the project is completed

Jurisdictional Area	Permanent Sq. Ft.	Temporary Sq. Ft.	Jurisdictional Area	Permanent Sq. Ft.	Temporary Sq. Ft.
Forested wetland	0	0	Lake	0	0
Emergent wetland	0	0	Pond	0	110
Wet meadow	0	0	Tidal water	0	0
Intermittent stream	0	0	Previously-developed upland in TBZ	0	0
Perennial stream / river	0	0	Other	0	0

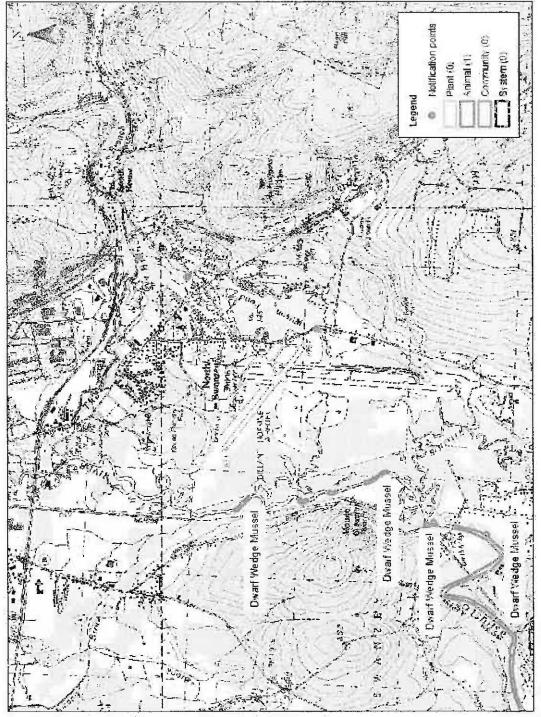
NHDES-W-06-027

<u>shoreland@des.nh.gov</u> or (603) 271-2147 NHDES Wetlands Bureau, 29 Hazen Drive, PO BOX 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 www.des.nh.gov



Memo		NH NATURAL HERITAGE BUREAU
To:	Loren Wehmeyer, DuBois & King 28 North Main Street Randolph, VT 05060	WIND LANACHECK RESULTS LETTER
From: Date: Re:	Amy Lamb, NH Natural Heritage Bureau 9/7/2017 (valid for one year from this date) Review by NH Natural Heritage Bureau NHB File ID: NHB17-2522 Town: Swanzey, Keene Location: Branch River Dan, near Marboro Stree and Swanzey Factory Rd Description: Proposing to modify the intake structure at Branch River Dan to reduce the amount of inflow to Wilson Pond Dan from 300 cfs to 0 cfs temporarily by shutting off the diversion with a cofferdam (send bass) to restruct the intervention in the motion in	Location: Branch River Dan, near Marboro Street and Swanzey Factory Rd ount of inflow to Wilson Pond Dan from 300 efs to evaluate the notential inwase to under models, in
cc: As requeste	Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds and to allow residences and users of both ponds to experience what impacts may result from a permanent modification. cc: Kim Tuttle As requested. I have searched our database for records of rare species and exemplary natural communities, with the following results.	experience what impacts may result from a experience what impacts may result from a following results.
Comments	Comments: Please contact NH Fish & Game.	
Invertebrate Species Dwarf Wedge Mussel <sup>1</sup> Codes: "E" = Endanger been added to the officia been added to the officia	State1Federal(Alasmidonta heterodon) $F$ $E$ ed, "T" + Threatened, "SC" = Special Concern, "-" = an e1 state list. An asterisk (*) indicates that the most recent repreviews: Kim Tuttle, NH F&G, (603) 271-6544.	Notes Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see below). venplaty natural community, or a rate species tracked by NH Natural Heritage that has not yet off for that occurrence was more than 20 years ago.
A negative a information species. An	A negative result (no record in our database) does not mean that a sensitive species is not present. Our data can only tell you of known occurrences, based on information gathered by qualified biologists and reported to our office. However, many areas have never been surveyed, or bave only been surveyed for certain species. An on-site survey would provide better information on what species and communities are indeed present.	aly tell you of known occurrences, based on veyed, or have only heen surveyed for certain
Department Division of J (603) 271-22	Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Forests and Lands (603) 271-2214 fax: 271-6488	DNCR/NHB 172 Pembroke Rd. Comond MH 02201

Concord, NJJ 03501



NHB17-2522

0 0102030405

# New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau - Animal Record

#### Dwarf Wedge Mussel (Alasmidonta heterodon)

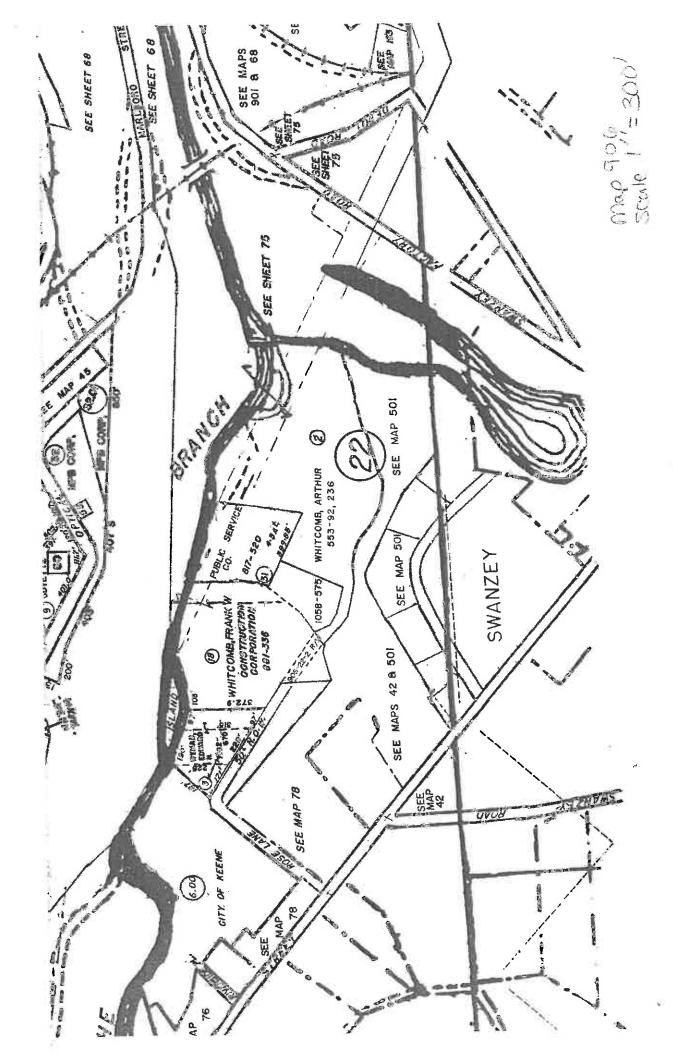
			Conservation Status			
Federal: Listed Enda State: Listed Enda		Globai: State:	Critically imperiled due to rarity or vulnerability Critically imperiled due to rarity or vulnerability			
Description at this Location						
Conservation Rank: Comments on Rank:		or landscaj	pe context ('C' on a scale of A-D).			
Detailed Description: General Area:	stretch of river. 496 musse from vicinity of Thompson pre-drawdown survey. Ref during drawdown.2003: O sex unknown. 2001: A tota Upstream of this stretch, fo the Ashuelot and The Bran observed. Site 10: 5 shells 2010: Ashuelot River - Cra stretch of river. Mussels of	Is collected ocovered bio ocation site bis_id 2421 I of 13 she our sites in ich each have and some j esson Bridg courred on a	te to Homestead Dam: Critical habitat throughout this and relocated. Relocation site 1: 17 animals relocated ridge. Relocation site 2: 166 animals relocated from 3: 313 animals relocated from surveys conducted 1 adult male observed. Obs_id 2459: 14 seen, age and 11s at six sites along a two-mile stretch of river. a 1.25-mile stretch downstream of the confluence of d no <i>A. heterodon</i> found. Sites 5 - 8: one shell uveniles observed. Site 11: four shells observed. ge to Homestead Dam: High quality habitat throughout stable banks, often in less than 6 inches of water.2003: 2421). 2001: Up- and down-stream of an effluent pipe			
	for a wastewater treatment large boulders and sand. C quick (0.2-0.4 m/s). River boulders, gravel, and sand. River is 1-6 feet wide, with sunlight, since riparian car 20-25 yards wide and less is almost entirely sand with stable substrate). Little rip- River is 2-6 feet (up to 11 where the mussels were for	plant. Site anopy fairl is 10-15 ya Heavy rip a substrat iopy minim than 3 feet h silt and cl arian canop feet) deep. und. Wood generally 2	5: Very slow flow (less than 0.05 m/s), substrate of y dense, and the river is well shaded. Site 6: Flow fairly rds wide, 1-4 feet deep, with a substrate of large arian canopy. Site 7: Slow flow (less than 0.10 m/s), e a mix of sand, gravel, and boulders. Receives a lot of al. Site 8: Very slow flow (less than 0.10 m/s). River is deep except for deeper spots along the banks. Substrate lay on the margins and much woody debris (almost no by. Site 10: Flow rate very slow (less than 0.10 m/s). Substrate mostly sand and silt but becoming very rocky y debris common throughout. Site 11: Very slow flow 2-6 feet deep, reaching 8-10 feet. Substrate rocky			
General Comments:	2010: Mussel survey was of Ashuelot River, as well as all mussels found near the site 1. Prior to dam remova and relocated to Relocatio removal, all mussels obser search of 500 yard site (2.: Tesselated darters abundar live). Lat./long. by Terrain taken from "Freshwater M	coordinated repairs to t footprint o al, ail muss n site 2. Du ved were c 5 hrs. x 2 pu t througho Navigator ussels of th	with the removal of the Homestead Dam on the he Thompson covered bridge. Prior to bridge repairs, f the construction work were relocated to Relocation els found upstream to Cresson Bridge were collected uring the impoundment drawdown following the dam ollected and relocated to Relocation site 3.2003: Scuba cople)found one large (>40mm) male DWM. ut. Also A. undulata (>50 live) and S. undulatus (20-50 near mid-point of site (Obs_id 2421). Information the Ashuelot River Keene to Hinsdale, August 2003," versity consulting firm. Report submitted to NHFG and			
Management Comments:	2001: Diverse mussel com		sites 10 and 11, 700 and 1500 yards downstream of the blasting negative consequences from the wastewater			

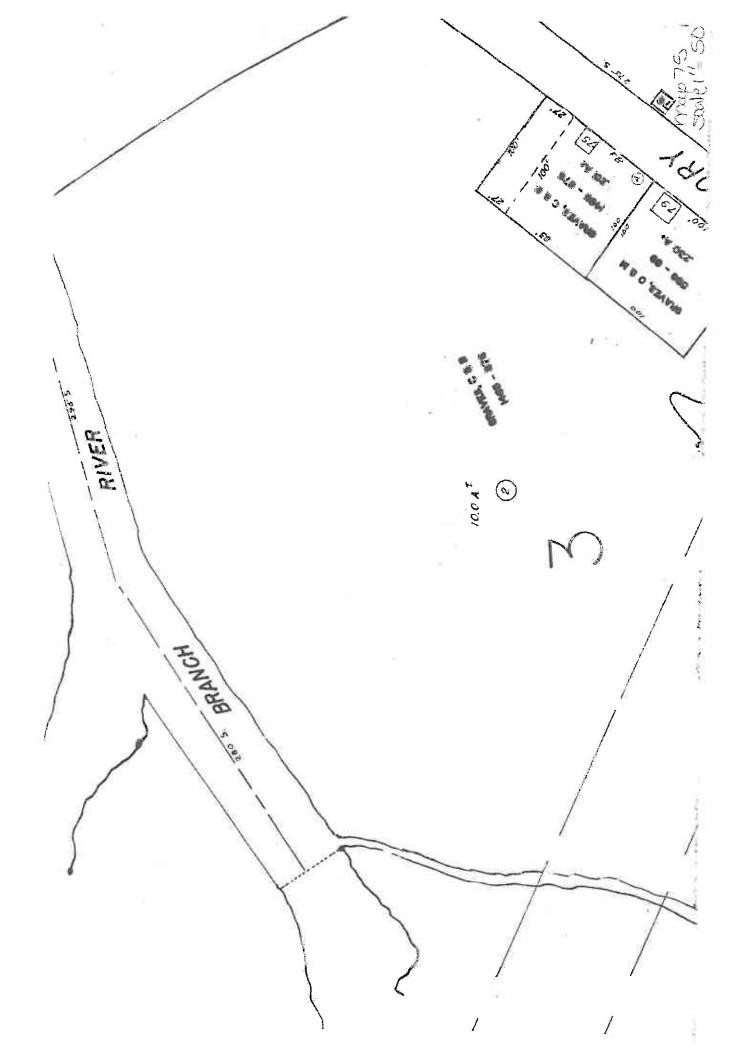
#### Location

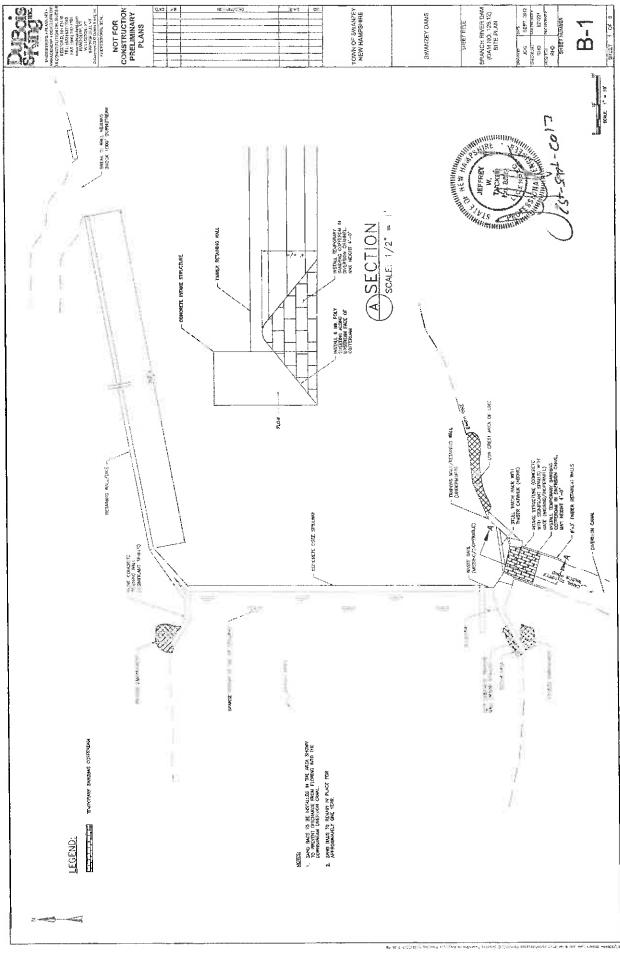
Survey Site Name:	Keene
Managed By:	Dickinson Memorial Forest

Town(s): Sw	eshire ranzey .8 acres	Elevation:	
Precision:	Within (but not necessarily	restricted to) the area indicate	d on the map.
Directions:	Cresson Bridge.2003: Obs (Swanzey Dam Site #16, J 2003) (Obs_id 2421). Fro the covered bridge over the powerlines border the rive yards upstream from the w the effluent pipe; just dow effluent pipe, along the we the western side of the rive area on the eastern side of	_id 2421: 30-60 meters upstrea Freshwater Mussels of the Ash m NH Rte 10 in Swanzey, take e Ashuelot River, 2001: Site 5: r upstream of a bend. Site 6: ca vastewater treatment plant efflu nstream of a bend in the river. estern shore. Site 10: ca, 200-30 er. Site 11: cance downstream	e. Relocation site 3: Downstream of am of the covered bridge at Swanzey Dam. uelot River -Keene to Hinsdale, August Sawyers Crossing Road ca. 2 miles east to canoe upstream ca. 1.6 miles to where a. 900 yards downstream of site 5 and 1000 tent pipe. Site 7: ca. 600 yards upstream of Site 8: ca. 100 yards upstream of the 00 yards upstream of the covered bridge, on of the covered bridge ca. 700 yards to an rp bend with a steep, rocky bank.
Dates docum First reported		Last reported:	2010-08-12

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has jurisdiction over Federally listed species. Please contact them at 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300, Concord NH 03301 or at (603) 223-2541.







Appendix C - Inspection Photographs - Branch Dam



Dam View - Looking Upstream



Concrete Spillway



Right Abutment Training Wall

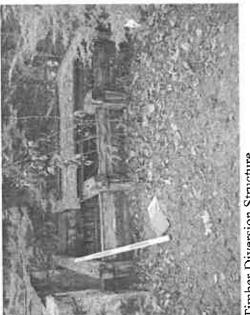


Left Abutment Training Wall

Appendix C - Inspection Photographs - Branch Dam



Waste Gate



Timber Diversion Structure



Diversion Intake Structure



Upstream Training Wall, Left Abutment

# CITY OF KEENE PLANNING BOARD

Surface Water Protection Conditional Use Permit (SWP CUP) Application To be used when project also requires Site Plan Review

Please fill out entire application

Section One: Project

Tax Map Parcel # 047 - 03 - 009

Existing Zoning: Commerce (COM)

**Project:** 

Name Emerald Street Substation

Address 0 Emerald Street

#### Section Two: Contact Information

Owner:	/ Valla
Name PSNH	Signature Stund
Name PO Box 270, Hartford CT 06141-0270	
Address	
Phone (day) (	(Fax) ( )
Date	
Applicant/Agent:	
	Signature
Address PO Box 330, Manchester, NH 0310	35
Phone: (day) (603 ) 634-3256 Fax: ()	Date 8/15/2017
Surveyor/Planner/Engineer:	
Name VHB - David Fenstermacher Sign	atura AL There
<u>viib David Penscermacher</u> Sign	alure Al decimation
Address 2 Bedford Farms Drive, Suite 20	0, Bedford, NH 03110
Phone: (day) (603) 391-3900 Fax: (	Date: 9/14/2017

Keene Planning Department, 3 Washington St. Keene, NH 03431 (603) 352-5474, http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/planning

# Section Three: Required items included with this submittal

- 2 Copies of the application.
- I Copy of Notarized abutters list required as part of the Site Plan Review Application, including Name, Address, and Tax Map # of owner, agent, and all abutters within 200 feet.
- 1 Copy of the scaled and dimensioned plot plan of the property, showing existing conditions and proposed changes, detailing all the relevant features of the site including surface waters and buffer zones.
- $\boxtimes$  1 Copy of the plan reduced to  $8\frac{1}{2} \ge 11$  inches.
- 2 Copies of the written narrative that includes all information outlined in Section 4.
- S 3 Copies of wetland delineation reports completed by a NH Certified Wetland Scientist including location, area, and limits of all surface waters and associated buffers (9 copies for the Planning Board may be required after staff review).
- 2 Copies other reports: Stormwater Memorandum

#### Section Four: Conditional Use Permit Criteria

All applicants must comply with the standards of Section 102-1480 Surface Water Protection of the Keene Zoning Ordinance (Please refer to the Keene Zoning Ordinance for a full description.). All applicants *must* submit documentation that supports the following:

Documentation of proposed mitigation measures, including details of how mitigation has been designed to prevent adverse impacts to surface water resources

⊠Disclosure of any State or Federal Permits needed in addition to CUP requirements

#### Written narrative explaining:

Why proposed use or activity cannot be placed outside of Overlay District

How encroachment into buffer zone has been minimized to maximum extent possible

How proposed use was designed to avoid adverse impacts to surface water resources

How the buffer will be maintained in natural state

E Location and connectivity of surface water in relation to surrounding watershed

Extent to which buffer serves as wildlife habitat

Please note that the submittal of this signed application grants members of the Planning Board and City employees to access the project site for matters related to site plan and conditional use permit review from the time of application submittal to the time of the final decision rendered by the Planning Board.

Keene Planning Department, 3 Washington St. Keene, NH 03431 (603) 352-5474, http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/planning



To: Ms. Michele Chalice City of Keene - Planner 3 Washington Street, 4th Floor Keene, New Hampshire 03431 Date: September 14, 2017

Memorandum

Project #: 13563.33

From: Malia Ohlson, P.E. Senior Project Engineer Re: Conditional Use Permit Criteria Emerald Street Substation Keene, NH 03431



VHB has prepared this narrative to demonstrate conformance with the conditional use criteria for the proposed substation rebuild on Emerald Street as outlined in Section 102-1490 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Emerald Street Substation rebuild includes the retirement of aging equipment, upgrades to existing equipment, and installation of new equipment which will be supported by a new switchgear building on an expanded pad. In association with this work, new fence will be installed, existing fencing will be replaced and underground conduit will be constructed. No State or Federal permits are required for the proposed project.

Two surface waters are located on the site which would be considered part of the Surface Water Protection Overlay District. Mill Creek is located on the west side of the site and a wetland is located to the south of the site. See wetland delineation memorandum for a detailed description of the surface waters, under separate cover. The site is located in the Commerce District, therefore a reduced buffer of 30-feet applies to both surface waters.

The proposed work within the Surface Water Protection Overlay District is located within the existing substation yard with a small portion of underground conduit work connecting to existing poles within the wetland and wetland buffer. The substation expansion areas are located to the north of the site and are outside of the overlay district.

- a. The proposed work includes a rebuild of the existing equipment with a minor expansion of the substation yard. The work within the Surface Water Protection Overlay District is associated with conduit connected to existing poles and upgrades to existing poles. All other work has been minimized within the Surface Water Protection Overlay District.
- b. The expansion of the substation yard will be to the north of the site to minimize further impacts to the wetlands and the 30-foot buffer. The expansion of the substation yard will be outside of the Mill Creek buffer. However, upgrades to existing poles will be located in the Creek buffer. Work will be performed in a way as to minimize impacts to the natural state of the Mill Creek buffer.
- c. The site is an existing electric substation. The proposed work is a rebuild of the existing use. The expansion of the yard has been located to minimize impacts within the Surface Water Protection Overlay District and a large portion of the site will be maintained in its current undeveloped state.
- d. The buffer for Mill Creek will be minimally impacted where the existing poles are located. The buffers natural state will be maintained to the maximum extent possible. The work within the buffer for the on-site wetland is limited to underground conduit to existing poles within the conduit. The ground

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cover over the conduit will be re-established with vegetation. The remaining buffer will not be impacted.

- e. A portion of the proposed work is within the 30-foot buffer, but it is limited to upgrades or conduit connections to the existing utility poles already located within the buffer. The expansion of the substation yard will occur outside of the surface water buffers.
- f. A wetland delineation memorandum is included in the application package and addresses surface water characteristics as associated with Mill Creek and the on-site wetland. A stormwater memorandum is also included in the application package which addresses stormwater impacts in rate and volume for the proposed site.