



City of Keene, New Hampshire

AGENDA

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 21, 2018

4:30 PM

**2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall**

Commission Members

Thomas P. Haynes, Chair
Brian Reilly
Councilor George Hansel
Alexander Von Plinsky, IV

Andrew Madison, Vice Chair
Denise Burchsted
Eloise Clark
Art Walker, Alternate
Kenneth Bergman, Alternate

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Minutes** – April 18, 2018
- 3. Communication & Notifications**
 - a) Request for City's Top 10 ARM Priority Projects RE. Signal Mast Arm Sign Structures Project on NH Rt. 101/12/9 – NHDOT
- 4. Updates**
 - a) **Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Pre-Proposal**
 - b) **Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan**
 - c) **Commission Functions/Roles**
 - d) **Land Prioritization Criteria**
- 5. New or Other Business**
- 6. Adjournment** - Next meeting date Monday, June 18, 2018

DRAFT

City of
Keene
New
Hamps
hire

CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

Monday, April 16, 2018

4:30 PM

**2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Thomas Haynes, Chair
Andrew Madison
Eloise Clark
Brian Reilly
Art Walker, Alternate
Denise Burchsted
Ken Bergman, Alternate
Alexander Von Plinsky IV
George Hansel, Councilor

Staff Present:

Tara Kessler, Planner
Don Lussier, City Engineer
Michele Chalice, Planner

Members Not Present:

1) Call to Order

Chair Haynes called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

2) Minutes – March 19, 2018

Councilor Hansel made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2018 as presented. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Communications & Notifications

**a. Wetlands Permit Application – City of Keene Maintenance of
Drainage Upgrades Along Ralston Street**

Don Lussier, City Engineer explained he was before the Commission last month regarding the drainage ditch work application. At that time he also provided an overview of the Ralston Street work. Mr. Lussier noted copies of the application were submitted to the Commission by Ms. Kessler. Mr. Lussier reiterated his overview of the project for Commission members not present at last month's meeting. In an attempt to address the frequent flooding seen around Winchester/Ralston Streets the City proposes installation of a 36-inch storm water

line from Ralston Street to the Ashuelot River; and a 24-inch line from the Ralston/Winchester Streets intersection up Davis Street. The piece the Commission will be most interested in is where it empties into the Ashuelot River. He reported a temporary bank impact of 73 square feet and 94 square feet below the ordinary water line. The embankment is riprapped below the ordinary high water line and the same material will be put back which is why we are calling it a temporary impact.

Ms. Clark asked if there was any cause to worry about impact of the amount of water to flow out of there; like erosion on the opposite bank. Mr. Lussier replied the width of the Ashuelot is such that it would not cause erosion on the opposite bank. All of this water flows through the KSC campus and goes to the Ashuelot River. We are adding capacity to get it out of that neighborhood a little bit. Our expectation is to stop the street flooding in maybe up to a 10-year storm event.

Mr. Walker asked if it was going down further to accommodate the pipe diameter. Mr. Lussier reiterated the system drains out through KSC campus and the existing 15-inch pipe starts at the bike path (high point); when you are draining it all the way back up to Ralston/Davis Streets neighborhood the whole system has to be a bit lower.

Councilor Hansel asked if other communities are doing anything to filter some of this storm water and in the future would we be able to retrofit any of that technology. Mr. Lussier reported there are systems that treat water at the discharge end. He explained he and Ms. Kessler have been discussing applying for some ARM funding for some of those systems. Instead of designing the system for a 36-inch pipe it would be designed for what is called the first flush; the first inch of rain would get treated through a system. These systems allow the sediments, floatable materials, and oil/grease to get trapped while the water continues on its way. Mr. Lussier also noted the consultant looked at other green systems that were not economically feasible.

Mr. Bergman asked for clarification on whether or not the water that exits this pipe upstream of the Winter Street Bridge includes some from the KSC campus as well. Mr. Lussier replied in the negative and provided a whiteboard diagram. He noted the installation of the bigger pipe is to improve the capacity not to eliminate the connection to campus (split flow).

Mr. Madison wondered if there were any longer term strategies to deal with flooding there; he shared what may be a 10-year storm today might be an annual storm 10-20 years from now. Mr. Lussier explained we used the Cornell Storm Water data for the analysis we did (most recent). He reiterated long term we have to find a way to manage it on our sites instead of just putting it into the street. Mr. Lussier noted the challenges as Keene is built on an ancient lake bed and people rely on dumping it into the street drains.

In response to Ms. Clark, Mr. Lussier explained this project does not include any filtration and will not be increasing negative elements into the Ashuelot. The

filtration discussion was talking about future projects; and Mr. Lussier was describing hydrodynamic separator systems. Mr. Lussier then explained how these systems function.

After Ms. Kessler explained the Commission's options Mr. Lussier said as the applicant he is here requesting the Commission authorize the Chair to sign the application so it can be put out as an expedited permit application. Mr. Lussier also noted the intent to get the work done while KSC is not in session.

Councilor Hansel motioned for the Conservation Commission to sign the application without comment. Mr. Madison seconded the motion which carried on a 7-1 vote. Ms. Clark voted in opposition.

b. Otter Brook Master Plan Review- Army Corps of Engineers

Ms. Kessler referred to the communication in the packet noting when the Army Corps enters the planning phase for the Master Plan they will keep this Commission in the loop. The Commission will be provided an opportunity to comment on the draft Master Plan when it is available.

4) Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund

Mr. Von Plinsky reported the ARM Fund is accepting applications. He noted Commission discussions regarding potential projects. He distributed copies of his proposal entitled "Tenant Swamp Project", an opportunity to permanently protect more than 180 acres of wetland within the City. The map depicts three parcels; only parcels #1 and #2 are included in the proposal. Mr. Von Plinsky said should the Commission decide to move forward with this project a pre-proposal would need to be submitted by April 30th; which is non-binding. The actual proposal date is August 31, 2018. Mr. Von Plinsky presented the following questions.

1. Who will take up the easement? Monadnock Conservancy is the only realistic option reported by Mr. Von Plinsky.
2. If we were to get an easement donated and get funding what would the easement look like (currently part of Ashuelot River Park)? What uses are still available and who has responsibility for certain aspects of the property?
3. Is the City even interested in donating this easement?

Mr. Von Plinsky feels the upside of this project (permanently protecting almost 200 acres of wetlands) is really big. He also suggested connecting to parcel #3 which would be a big bonus.

Ms. Burchsted said she endorses Mr. Von Plinsky's idea; adding there is value in storing water- these sites provide a service we do not pay for.

Mr. Madison asked if parcel #3 was privately owned. Mr. Von Plinsky replied it is owned by Emily Shaw's family with oversight by the City. In response to Mr. Bergman, Mr. Von Plinsky said the parcel numbering is his means of identifying each one. Parcels #1 and #2 are currently City owned with a utility easement through them. Mr. Bergman indicated he could provide Mr. Von Plinsky three years of trail camp data for parcel #1. Mr. Von Plinsky noted this would be very helpful if the Commission decides to move forward with this project; he outlined the sales pitch to be utilized.

Playing the devil's advocate, Mr. Reilly affirmed most of this is wetlands. He then asked what is the likelihood anyone else would ever be interested in this area. Mr. Von Plinsky agreed that was a good question. He noted his motivation for this project is that he has been other places where land cannot be developed; until it does. Mr. Reilly then asked who would set the price. Mr. Von Plinsky indicated there were two ways this could go forward.

1. The City could sell the easement to an easement holder.
2. The City could donate the easement to an easement holder.

Mr. Von Plinsky continued the money we would be going after (ARM Fund) would pay for the administrative costs of that easement. Ms. Burchsted echoed the concerns about City land getting chipped away at. Ms. Burchsted reiterated the value of the project noting her support. Mr. Madison initiated a discussion regarding how City land gets chipped away at; the Middle School, the hospital, and the Eversource substation were mentioned.

Chair Hay asked Mr. Von Plinsky what the next steps would be if the Commission decided to go forward with this project. Mr. Von Plinsky reiterated his earlier comments regarding the pre-proposal submitted by April 30th and the actual proposal submitted by August 31st. Mr. Von Plinsky continued the pre-proposal is non-binding. He noted the actions that would take place and pointed out if Council is not interested then there would be no need to continue with this effort. Mr. Von Plinsky also explained once the actual proposal is submitted we would be competing against the rest of the watershed (from Lebanon to Hinsdale) for the money with a decision made in late fall.

Ms. Kessler reported she spoke with the City Manager who would like to see the Commission go before City Council after submitting the pre-proposal to gain their thoughts, input, and willingness to grant the easement. Ms. Kessler also explained the Commission would have to do the work to pull the application together and play a significant role in managing this grant. Questions the City Manager wanted to be clear on were:

- How this easement would impact the use of the land as it is today.
- How restrictions would impact the use of that land into the future.

As the discussion continued Councilor Hansel asked how much the administrative costs would be. Mr. Von Plinsky said he was advised that with a survey approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000 would be needed for the whole transaction, as a ballpark figure. Ms. Chalice asked if that included the monitoring funds; Mr. Von Plinsky replied in the affirmative. Ms. Chalice then asked if the easement would protect from future utility requests for additional land/disturbances. Mr. Von Plinsky said he feels it would. Ms. Clark commented we have a Conservation Easement on our land and we have a Right-of-Way that runs through it with power lines. Mr. Von Plinsky clarified the power lines were there before the easement was obtained. Ms. Kessler and the Commission members thanked Mr. Von Plinsky for his efforts.

There being no further questions or comments Chair Hay asked if the Commission wanted to move forward with the pre-proposal application.

Councilor Hansel moved to approve a pre-application to the ARM Fund for the Tenant Swamp Project. Ms. Burchsted seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Von Plinsky said he would draw up the 1,000 word pre-application and obtain the USGS map. By consensus the Commission agreed to let the subcommittee review the draft. Mr. Von Plinsky said by the next meeting he would have a better idea of what the next concrete steps are.

Ms. Clark suggested the Friends of Open Space and the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee would be favorable to this proposal.

With a quorum still present Mr. Von Plinsky left the meeting at 5:22 PM.

5) Land Prioritization Criteria

Noting this item was tabled at the last few meetings Chair Hay asked if there were any additional comments before approval.

Ms. Burchsted suggested adding vernal pools under section 1.c.

Mr. Bergman asked if it was premature to ask how such a list of priorities would be used. Councilor Hansel indicated it could potentially be used on several projects; this would be a guiding document for the Commission. Mr. Bergman continued its use would depend on the context we find ourselves in so this discussion is premature. Chair Hay explained the reasoning behind the development of the list. Mr. Bergman raised the question of weighing the properties which Chair Hay agreed was a good question. Ms. Clark added the Conservancy has a similar list and an evaluation committee. Ms. Kessler suggested it could also be used if the Commission is approached by an outside entity looking to give land to the City.

Councilor Hansel moved to adopt the City of Keene's Conservation Commission' Land Protection Criteria as amended; adding the vernal pools to section 1.c. Mr. Madison seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chair Hay said the next question is do we want a working group to look at this and City owned land for conservation easements. Ms. Clark suggested the Commission put its efforts towards Mr. Von Plinsky's proposal. Chair Hay and Ms. Burchsted agreed.

6) Updates

a. Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan Update-

Mr. Madison reported the group did meet but he was unable to attend. Ms. Kessler reported there was no quorum. Mr. Madison advised he will no longer be available to attend these meetings because of taking a new position. Ms. Kessler asked if there were any other Commission members interested in attending these meetings in Sadie Butler's position. She also noted Ms. Butler's resignation from the Commission. Ms. Kessler advised she needs a resignation letter from Mr. Madison and a letter of interest from Chair Hay and Ms. Burchsted if they are interested for approval by City Council.

Ms. Kessler reported there is a quorum available for the meeting tomorrow at 6:30 PM, at the Rec Center. A flyer was distributed for the Goose Pond Walks. Ms. Kessler reported there will be a presentation and opportunity for public input. The walks will take place April 28th, May 12th, May 26th, and June 2nd. Ms. Kessler noted she is looking for volunteers from the Commission to serve as an ambassador at each of the walks.

Volunteers are as follows:

- Mr. Madison – April 28th
- Ms. Burchsted – needs to confirm for May 12th
- Chair Hay – possibly May 12th and May 26th
- Mr. Reilly – possibly May 26th and June 2nd

Commission members agreed to check their calendars and advise Ms. Kessler of their availability.

b. Commission Function/Roles

Add to next meeting agenda.

7) New or Other Business

Ms. Burchsted reported some beavers have moved into the cemetery at Beaver Brook, and they are both: (a) restoring some really excellent wetland and riparian habitat; (b) about to cause serious havoc for the road and the cemetery. Ms. Burchsted is asking the Commission to consider investigating the use of Beaver Deceivers. Ms. Burchsted feels Skip Lisle, the Beaver Deceiver originator would be willing to visit Keene and assist with the research. Ms. Burchsted reported the water is running over the culvert and there is a risk to the road and graves.

Chair Hay asked which Department oversees these operations. Ms. Kessler replied Parks & Recreation. Not knowing if Andy Bohannon is aware of the situation Ms. Kessler advised she would forward Ms. Burchsted's email to him.

Mr. Madison reported the damage is more urgent than it sounds as he discovered when walking through the cemetery on Saturday. He noted the water is just a few inches from some of the graves. Although he thinks the Beaver Deceiver might be a good solution, Mr. Madison noted his concern with some of the bigger storms we may get and if we can keep up with incoming water. He and Ms. Burchsted agreed this is new beaver activity (late this fall). Ms. Burchsted echoed Mr. Madison's comments regarding the imminent damage. Mr. Bergman shared the beaver history at the cemetery.

Mr. Reilly asked had the budget to support this. No one present had the answer nor did anyone have information on the cost of the Beaver Deceiver. Ms. Kessler indicated she would report back on Mr. Bohannon's response to her email. Chair Hay suggested it might be beneficial to have Mr. Lisle come to Keene. Councilor Hansel said it would be nice to know how many wild animal removals the City actually does; Ms. Burchsted agreed.

Ms. Kessler reported with new staff in the office and varied responsibilities she will be transitioning away from the Commission. Michele Chalice will be her replacement.

Charles Daloz, of Keene said he wanted to make his usual pitch for an agricultural piece. Mr. Daloz posed two questions he would like the Commission's input on.

1. How much land needs to be in production to feed the City?
2. What is the interaction between the agricultural land use and conservation land use?

Chair Hay asked if Mr. Daloz was in the midst of a study. Mr. Daloz reported on the

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

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difficulty he has run into obtaining the necessary data. Ms. Clark suggested contacting the Cooperative Extension.

8) Adjournment - Next meeting date Monday, May 21, 2018

Hearing no further business, Chair Haynes adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker

April 17, 2018



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

April 18, 2018

Re: Statewide 41805

Conservation Commission Chair
Tom Haynes
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Mr. Haynes:

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is planning the subject project to replace signs at various locations in Keene. The project will replace three signal mast arm sign structures with cantilever sign structures on NH Route 9 westbound at the NH Route 101 intersection and NH Route 101 east/westbound at the junction of NH Route 12 and replace overhead signs on an existing sign structure on in NH Route 9 westbound at the junction of NH Route 12. All proposed work is within the state right-of-way. A location map is enclosed.

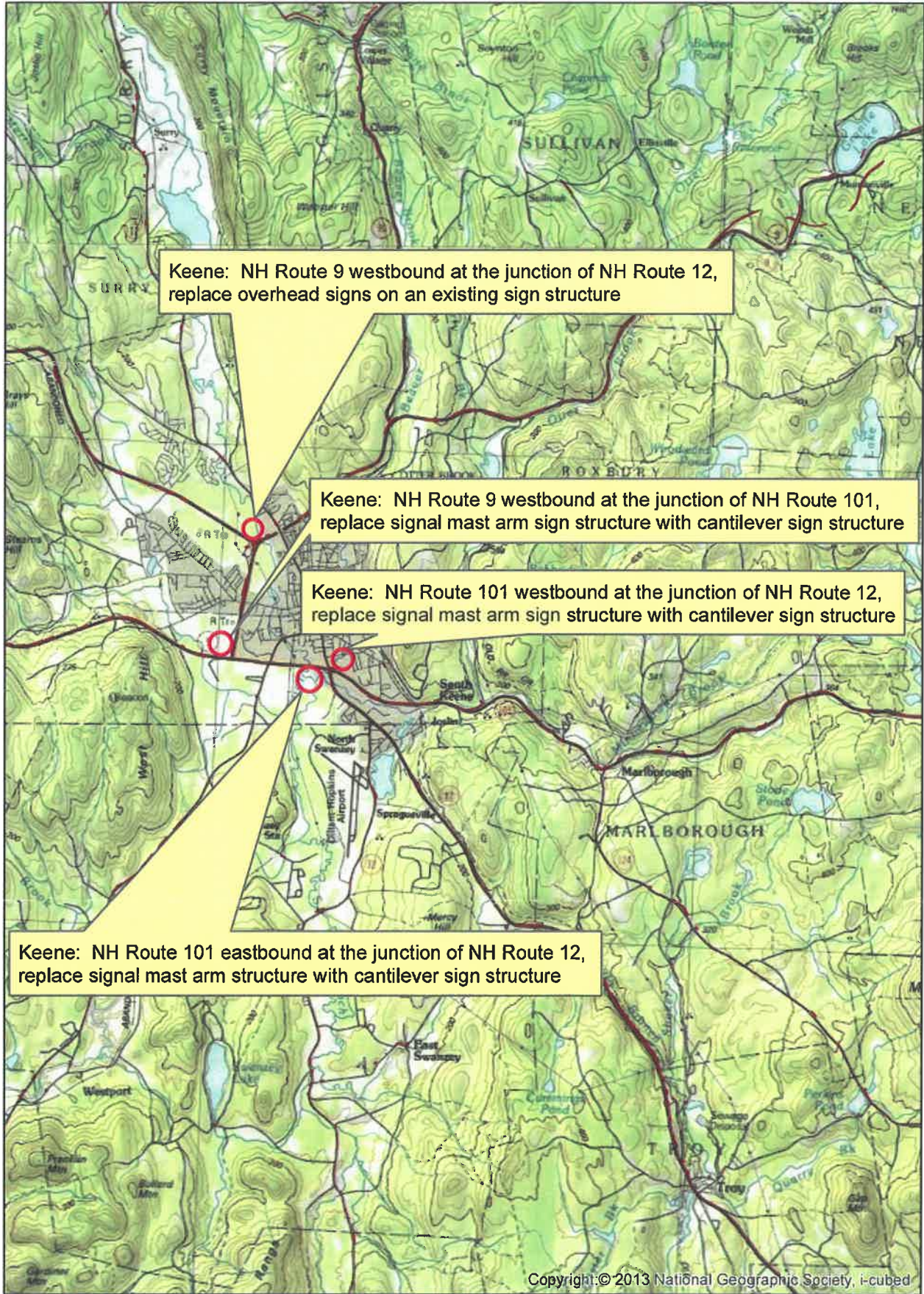
Engineering studies have been initiated to refine the scope and limits of work necessary for this project. The Department's Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To assist in this evaluation, I am asking that you notify me of any concerns relative to the project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, or cultural resources, such as wetlands, historic properties, and invasive plant species.

Some transportation projects require mitigation for possible wetland/stream impacts. The natural resources in this project area have not yet been identified and investigations are forthcoming. Preliminary engineering studies have begun and the Department will attempt to avoid, and minimize impacts through design before determining if there will be any stream or wetland impacts that may require mitigation. As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the Town's preferred/priority mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation. Please let us know if your Town has identified such priorities. In the absence of any Town priorities to evaluate the Department will pursue permittee responsible mitigation through the Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). If it's determined that no viable options exist through the SPIP, the Department will pursue a payment into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), at which time those funds will become competitively available through the ARM fund grant process.

As such, does the Town have a list of priority mitigation efforts (Top 10 Priority List) that the DOT may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require



Statewide 41805

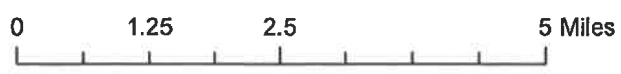


Keene: NH Route 9 westbound at the junction of NH Route 12, replace overhead signs on an existing sign structure

Keene: NH Route 9 westbound at the junction of NH Route 101, replace signal mast arm sign structure with cantilever sign structure

Keene: NH Route 101 westbound at the junction of NH Route 12, replace signal mast arm sign structure with cantilever sign structure

Keene: NH Route 101 eastbound at the junction of NH Route 12, replace signal mast arm structure with cantilever sign structure



1:115,000

DRAFT List of Potential Projects Eligible for ARM Funding
Keene Conservation Commission Ad-Hoc Committee on ARM Fund Project Identification
September 17, 2017

Prepared by: Denise Burchsted. Other committee members: Tom Haynes, Andrew Von Plinsky

	Potential Target Area			
ARM Fund Priority Category ¹	Beaver Brook	Ashuelot River north of West Street / connection to Goose Pond lands	Hurricane + Grimes Brook	Other projects not in any particular project area
Land protection	Purchase flood-prone parcels along Beaver Brook (<i>need to check with Rhett Lamb that I understood this correctly</i>) ^{FEMA} Purchase parcels for sale adjacent to Carpenter Field (<i>very unlikely based on past experience</i>)	Protect Tenant Swamp with a conservation easement Purchase parcel north of Hannaford's—Arwe parcel (<i>family has historically not wanted to sell but worth investigating again</i>) Purchase Shaw property along the river to help connect protection of Ashuelot river corridor with Goose Pond land. Purchase Farr property along the entrance to Good Pond. Purchase Henderson parcel connecting protected lands along the Ashuelot with the Goose Pond area (<i>very unlikely based on past experience</i>)	Parcel acquisition along Hurricane Road / abutting Stearns Hill	Land by Lacy Brook that would connect to Pisgah Put conservation easements on Beech Hill parcels Purchase parcels along the lower Ashuelot River to protect floodplain habitat.
Habitat restoration	Restore habitat in swamp of Woodland Cemetery by de-channelizing the river Restore channelized section of Beaver Brook at Carpenter Street Field ^{CIF} Restore channelized section of Beaver Brook at Kingsbury Property (<i>very unlikely based on past experience</i>)	Restore fish passage at the West Street Dam either through dam removal or through installation of fish passage around the existing / modified dam in place	Un-channelize Black Brook currently managed as tax ditches—section of brook that is downstream of Park Ave	Restoring wetlands along Production Avenue through decommissioning of tax ditches
Infrastructure modification	Replace culverts + bridges and improve riparian habitat at the following road crossings: Woodland cemetery; Spring Street (has potential abutter conflict) ^{CIF?} ; Roxbury Street ^{CIF} Potential new flood storage projects if they include aquatic habitat restoration components ^{ACOE}	Address erosion on Jonathan Daniels trail and associated drainage from Perham Street Create a greenspace in the abandoned parking lot by Ashuelot River Park		
Native species	Japanese knotweed along Beaver Brook	Address invasive species on JD trail		

Notes

¹ Priority Categories have been developed using the “Sample Priority List” for the ARM fund, provided to the committee by Lori Sommer at NH DES. These are:

- Land protection 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
- Habitat restoration 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
- Infrastructure modification 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
- Native species restoration priorities include projects such as: Eradication of invasive species—with long-term monitoring program established

Some projects may have supplemental funding. These are noted above as follows:

^{ACOE} Army Corps of Engineers is working on a H&H study of Beaver Brook to determine options for flood storage. They will provide recommendations based on their cost-benefit analysis. I'm not clear if the Corps will be able to provide funds for the actual projects. Need to ask Rhett/Kürt.

^{CIF} City of Keene Capital Improvement Fund

DRAFT List of Potential Projects Eligible for ARM Funding
Keene Conservation Commission Ad-Hoc Committee on ARM Fund Project Identification
September 17, 2017

^{FEMA} Hazard mitigation funds from FEMA (check with Rhett Lamb on this)

Grey text identifies potential projects with low likelihood for success, based on past experience.



AQUATIC RESOURCE PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Water Division/ Wetlands Bureau
Land Resources Management



RSA 482-A:28-32 / Env-Wt 800

1. SHORT TITLE FOR PROPOSED PROJECT		
City of Keene Tenant Swamp Conservation Easement		
2. PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION		
Street/Road: 2 Parcels Off NH Route 12 (TMP#s 91317009 & 91317011)	Town/City: Keene, NH	Service Area: Lower Connecticut River
3. APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Applicant Name: City of Keene Conservation Commission		
Applicant Mailing Address: Keene City Hall, 3 Washington St, Keene, NH 03431		
Contact Individual: Sparky Von Plinsky IV, Keene Conservation Commission member		
Daytime Telephone: 706-399-0349	Email (if any): sparky.vonplinsky@gmail.com	
4. GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED; MATCHING FUNDS		
Total Amount Requested: \$ 75,000	Total Project Cost: \$ 75,000 + value of easement donation	
Source(s) And Amount(s) of Matching Funds: Source: City of Keene Donation of Easement – Amount to be determined		
5. RESOURCE WORKSHEET		
Aquatic Resources Involved in Project: See Table Below.		
Total preservation proposed:	Upland: 56 Acres	Wetland: 125 Acres
Total length of stream(s) on property: 9,103 Linear Feet	% having 100-ft wooded zone:	in direction
% upland: Unknown at this time		in direction
# confirmed vernal pools: 1	# potential vernal pools: Unknown at this time	
Area of wetland restoration proposed: 0 acres	Area of wetland creation proposed: 0 acres	
Area of wetland enhancement proposed: 0 acres	Area of upland enhancement proposed: 0 acres	
6. SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION		
I hereby certify that:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information contained in or otherwise submitted with this application is true, complete, and not misleading to the best of my knowledge and belief; • I understand that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submitting false, incomplete, or misleading information is grounds for denying the application or revoking any award of ARM Funds that is made based on such information; and - I am subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements specified RSA 641:3 or any successor N.H. statute. 		
Signature:	Date: 4/30/18	
Name, Title: Sparky Von Plinsky, Keene Conservation Commission		

Lori.Sommer@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4059
NHDES Wetlands Bureau, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03303-0095
www.des.nh.gov

Wetland Functions & Values: A wetland evaluation is the process of determining the values of a wetland based on an assessment of the functions it performs. The evaluation of wetland functions and values should be determined through use of the Method for Inventorying and Evaluating Freshwater Wetlands in New Hampshire, 2015 edition (2015 NH Method), available at <http://nhmethod.org> OR U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District highway methodology workbook supplement, 1999 edition (1999 US ACE Highway Workbook Supplement). The evaluation should focus on the following: Ecological Integrity, Wetland-Dependent Wildlife Habitat, Fish and Aquatic Habitat, Scenic Quality, Educational Potential, Wetland-based Recreation, Flood Storage, Groundwater, Sediment Trapping, Nutrient Trapping/Retention/Transformation, Shoreline Anchoring, and Noteworthiness.

Please note a request for funds can be used for projects that protect or produce habitat improvements so as to provide enhancement of functions within a degraded wetland or improved connectivity in a riparian system. Possible improvements include water quality improvements, tidal flow manipulations, culverts and dam removal, as well as stream or river restoration/enhancement activities. The NHDES Coordinator should be contacted relative to information on deficient culvert crossing locations and analyses available for assessing geomorphic compatibility and aquatic organism passage.

TABLE OF RESOURCES

Wetland ID or Number	Resource Type (list all that apply such as PFO, PSS, PEM, M1, M2, E2, RUB, etc.)	Acreage (by resource type)	Wetland Functions (List all that apply, and if possible, according to wetland ID or number)
	PFO1A	0.18	
	PSS1E	1.93	
	PFO4E	41.03	
	PFO1/SS1E	19.13	
	PFO1C	4.07	
	PFO1C	0.12	
	PEM1E	16.10	
	PUBF	0.60	
	PUBF	2.43	
	PSS1E	3.41	
	PFO4/1C	14.24	
	PSS1F	0.96	
	PSS1E	7.45	
	PFO4E	0.91	
	PEM1F	0.20	
	PEM1F	0.75	
	PSS1/FO4E	1.08	
	PSS1/EM1Fh	8.61	
	R2UBH	1.98	



AQUATIC RESOURCE PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Water Division/ Wetlands Bureau
Land Resources Management



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

1. PROJECT TITLE		
City of Keene Tenant Swamp Conservation Easement Project		
2. PROJECT INFORMATION		
LOCATION: Off NH Route 12 (Tenant Swamp)	TOWN/CITY: Keene	SERVICE AREA: Lower Connecticut Valley
3. APPLICANT/ORGANIZATION		
CONTACT PERSON: Sparky Von Plinsky - Keene Conservation Commission		
PHONE (DAY): 706 - 399-0349	PHONE (CELL):	EMAIL: sparky.vonplinsky@gmail.com
3. OTHER ENTITIES INVOLVED AND THEIR ROLES		
ENTITY: City of Keene	ROLE: Potential Easement Donor	
ENTITY: Monadnock Conservancy	ROLE: Potential Easement Holder	
ENTITY:	ROLE:	
ENTITY:	ROLE:	
4. GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED		
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ 75,000	AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS: \$ Donation of Easement - Amount to be determined	
SOURCE(S) OF MATCHING FUNDS: \$ City of Keene - Value of Donation		
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$ 75,000 + value of easement donation		

lori.sommer@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4059
 NHDES Wetlands Bureau, Concord, NH 03303-0095
www.des.nh.gov

The Tenant Swamp ARM Fund proposal is a win-win-win right from the start. The ARM Fund gets a poster-child project for a bargain price. The City, citizens and wildlife of Keene ensure the protection of beautiful and valuable natural resource for generations to come. And the Monadnock Conservancy gets to expand its already astonishing contribution to the protection of vital landscapes in the Monadnock Region.

In order to lay out our proposal we will briefly answer perhaps the three most important questions of any conservation project; What?, So What? and Now What?

What?

The City of Keene's Conservation Commission is seeking funding in the ballpark of \$75,000 to cover administrative and transactional costs to facilitate the donation of an conservation easement by the City of Keene of the 180 acres identified below to the Monadnock Conservancy. The donation of the easement rights by the City of Keene will constitute a significant (if unknown at this time) in-kind contribution to this project.

So What?

The Tenant Swamp project encompasses two parcels totaling 180 acres along the Ashuelot River near downtown Keene. The New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game identified a majority of the land on these two parcels as either being among the Highest Ranked Habitat Land in the region or as valuable habitat support landscape (2015 WAP). The land provides a number of valuable services to the City and this easement will ensure that those services are available to the city for generations to come.

1. **Green Infrastructure** - The swamp and surrounding landscape provide a large area of storm water retention and infiltration just upstream from the flood prone western side of downtown Keene. Additionally, this project would permanently conserve more than a mile of the western bank and buffer of the Ashuelot River which would complement already preserved stretches of the eastern bank both up and down stream from the project site.
2. **Wildlife** - The parcels support a great variety of confirmed species including the Dwarf Wedge Mussel a listed species of concern. Additionally, larger mammals such as fishers, gray and red foxes, coyotes, bobcats and deer are all also present on these parcels. Finally, there is at least one confirmed vernal pool on the site which serves as an vital incubator for a variety of amphibian species.
3. **Recreation** - The Tenant Swamp property is situated such that there exists an exciting potential for nature trails between the Middle School in West Keene and the relative hustle and bustle of West and Court Streets near downtown. This easement would protect that potential.

4. **Historical** - The Tenant Swamp area has supported humans in the Keene Area for thousands of years as evidenced by discoveries at the adjoining Keene Middle School site which revealed 12,000 year old artifacts.
5. **Aesthetics** - The project site is very near the junction of NH Routes 9, 10 and 12 and runs alongside Route 12 for nearly a mile. It provides both a buffer for Elm City Residents who live off of Court Street as well as a beautiful, natural kickoff for the drive up Route 12 toward Walpole.

For the reasons listed above, we believe that this project very clearly fits the criteria of protecting vital aquatic resources in perpetuity through the application of a conservation easement.

Now What?

This Pre-proposal marks the beginning of a process but there are many steps left to be taken, though we on the Conservation Commission feel like the following steps are well worth the effort. If the ARM Fund Site Selection Committee determines this Pre-proposal is a candidate for funding, the following must be confirmed prior to the submittal of a full application:

1. The City Council must authorize the Conservation Commission to submit a formal application to the ARM Fund.
2. The City Council must grant support to the Conservation Commission for the donation of the easement rights.
3. Although we have had initial conversations with the Monadnock Conservancy regarding this project, we must confirm that the Conservancy is interested in taking on this easement.
4. After careful and complete consultation with all stakeholders, we must outline the terms of this easement (i.e. what rights will the city retain under a potential easement).
5. We must determine the overall costs involved in a potential easement; including, but not limited to: survey costs, administrative costs, value of the donation, ongoing monitoring costs etc.

Conclusion

When this project is completed we believe that 180 acres of the beautiful Tenant Swamp, with all of its valuable resources intact, will be protected for all future generations. We thank you for your time and consideration and welcome any feedback you may have concerning this wonderful project.

Tenant Swamp ARM Fund Conservation Proposal

Legend

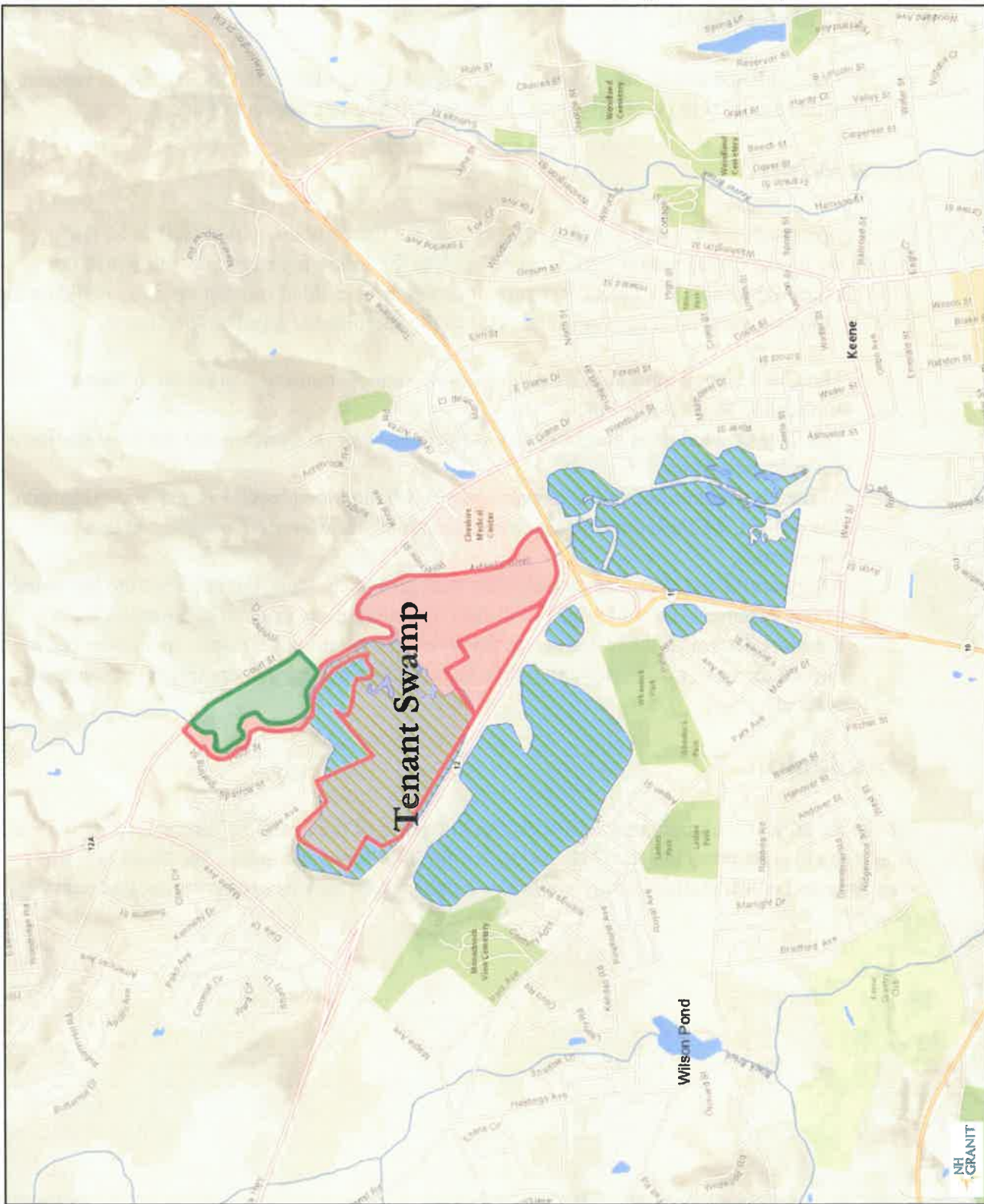
- Water Bodies**
-  Lake/Pond
 -  Reservoir
 -  Estuary
 -  Swamp/Marsh

Map Scale
1: 24,000

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Map Generated: 4/29/2018

Notes

The two parcels highlighted in red represent the conservation goal of this proposal. The adjacent parcel, highlighted in green, is a parcel that is already conserved in perpetuity.



City of Keene Tenant Swamp Wetland Complex



LEGEND

- Streets
- Proposed Conservation Easement
- Ashuelot River
- Wetlands

