

**ADOPTED**

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**CONSERVATION**  
**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Monday, May 21, 2018**

**4:30 PM**

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

**Members Present:**

Thomas Haynes, Chair  
Art Walker, Alternate  
Brian Reilly  
Alexander Von Plinsky IV  
George Hansel, Councilor  
Eloise Clark (Late)  
Andrew Madison (Late)

**Staff Present:**

Tara Kessler, Planner  
Michele Chalice, Planner

**Members Not Present:**

Denise Burchsted  
Ken Bergman, Alternate

**1) Call to Order**

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

**2) Minutes – April 16, 2018**

Councilor Hansel made a motion to table the minutes of April 16, 2018 until the June meeting. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**3) Communications & 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**

Ms. Chalice reported 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. The Department's Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project.

As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the City'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. 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 City 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 mitigation.

Ms. Chalice reported the City Engineer does not anticipate mitigation will be required for the scope of this work. She noted the Commission's most recent list is dated September 17, 2017. Ms. Chalice is seeking the Commission's authority to send the list onto the City Engineer so he can send it along. Although this is a NHDOT project the list would go directly to NHDES.

As discussion continued regarding the 2017 list Ms. Kessler noted she was unsure if the Commission voted to adopt the ARM Fund list. Chair Haynes asked when the City Engineer needs this information. Ms. Chalice indicated no date was specified.

Chair Haynes suggested a more concise list was needed. As Commission members did not receive the meeting packet Councilor Hansel suggested waiting until the next meeting to vote on this issue. Chair Haynes suggested the subcommittee could meet and prepare a draft prioritized list to present at the June meeting. Ms. Chalice advised she will need the date of the subcommittee meeting so she can post the notice.

Commission members agreed to table this item until the June meeting.

#### 4) Updates

##### a. **Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Pre-Proposal**

Mr. Von Plinsky reported the preproposal was submitted and confirmation of receipt has been received. He noted they made recommendations on how we should proceed if we decide to proceed. Mr. Von Plinsky will forward the email to Michele for distribution. Mr. Von Plinsky added if the Conservancy is not interested in taking on the easement the project is essentially dead. He also noted there were 13 preproposal submissions in competition for the grant. It was determined this issue could also be discussed at the subcommittee meeting. Chair Haynes suggested adding it to their agenda.

Ms. Kessler thanked the subcommittee and specifically Mr. Von Plinsky for their work on the preproposal.

##### b. **Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan**

Ms. Kessler reported over 100 people attended the forum and summary results are posted on the Goose Pond Forum website. There are two more walking tours coming up; May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Kessler reported the Ad-hoc Committee met last week; Chair Haynes and Ms. Burchsted are now officially members. Noting the Consultant got a later start Ms. Kessler provided the following timeline.

- July – draft report produced
- September – host second community forum

- Soon after produce the final report with Council presentations.

Ms. Kessler also noted the next meeting date for the Ad-hoc Committee has yet to be determined. She also reported data collection is still happening in the forest. Chair Haynes commented one of the things that came up in the meeting was the importance of educating the public in what the stewardship plan intends to accomplish. Mr. Madison reported attending the vernal pool walk and noted it also was very well attended and people seemed genuinely interested. Chair Haynes commended Swift Corwin and Mr. Madison commended Jeff Littleton for the job they did on the walks answering questions and keeping people engaged.

c. **Commission Function/Roles** - Add to next month's agenda.

d. **Land Prioritization Criteria**

Chair Haynes reported we are still waiting to have that group get together. As the staff transitions Ms. Chalice will take the lead. Ms. Kessler will remain on the Goose Pond project. Ms. Kessler advised she will get all the necessary information to Ms. Chalice. Ms. Chalice will advise subcommittee members when she has everything so a meeting can be scheduled.

5) **New or Other Business**

1. Ms. Chalice asked if everyone received Ms. Clark's email request for more information (Goose Pond/Winchester Street drainage). Ms. Clark advised the email was in response to what ARLAC had comments about. Ms. Chalice will forward the email to Commission members.
2. Ms. Clark reported Friends of Open Spaces will be planting at the pocket park on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
3. Mr. Von Plinsky initiated a discussion regarding easement monitoring and asked if this is something the Commission can do. He reported the City holds five easements. Mr. Von Plinsky suggested an Adopt an Easement idea for Commission members. Ms. Kessler noted the City does not own the land it just holds the easements. Councilor Hansel liked the idea of Commission members performing this duty; he also asked if this was not already part of the Commission's duties. Ms. Chalice advised that property owners would need to be contacted before any visits. Ms. Kessler advised the Commission of the materials that exist in the Planning Department for the easements (binders). She also noted there is no formal process for the monitoring. She recommended creating a City specific checklist. Councilor Hansel agreed to create the language for this to present at the next meeting. Ms. Kessler also reported equipment was purchased last year (vests, compasses, etc.). Chair Haynes also agreed to review the materials to start the discussion at the next meeting.
4. Chair Haynes suggested the Commission think about an education outing/walk later in the summer; something other than Goose Pond. Perhaps a walk in the water shed. Mr. Madison noted projects going on with the Public Works Department and suggested collaborating. Ms. Chalice agreed to contact Public Works. Ms. Kessler reported on the Horatio Colony collaboration with the Historical Society. Chair Haynes agreed to contact Anita Carroll-Weldon. Ms. Clark made the suggestion of walking Sterns Hill in the fall.

6) **Adjournment** - Next meeting date Monday, June 18, 2018

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Hearing no further business, Chair Haynes adjourned the meeting at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker  
My 21, 2018