



City of Keene, New Hampshire

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

4:30 PM

City Council Chambers

Commission Members

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Kenneth Bergman
Art Walker
Andrew Madison

Councilor Robert Williams
Brian Reilly, Alternate
Thomas P. Haynes, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2022
3. Guest Speaker:
 Matt Kelly, County Forester
4. Informational:
 - a. Subcommittee reports
 - Outreach Subcommittee
 - Arm Fund Subcommittee
 - Update on land auction purchase
 - Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship
 - b. Invasive Species
 - Tentative invasive plant removal schedule
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Conservation Commission speaking events
 - b. Beaver Brook to Cemetery
 - c. Airport solar project update-timeline
6. New or Other Business
7. Adjournment – Next meeting date **Tuesday, March 21, 2022**

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1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
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5 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

4:30 PM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

Councilor Andrew Madison, Vice Chair
Eloise Clark
Councilor Robert Williams
Art Walker
Ken Bergman
Thomas Haynes, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate

Staff Present:

Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Brian Reilly, Alternate

8
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10 **1) Call to Order**

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12 Ms. Clark called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

13
14 **2) Vote for Chair and Vice Chair 2022**

15
16 Both Mr. Von Plinsky and Ms. Clark were willing to serve again, which the Commission
17 supported. Ms. Clark was happy to have someone else serve as Vice Chair and Councilor
18 Madison offered to serve, which the commission supported; his schedule could be most
19 challenging in the winter, when he is busy at a whim as a first responder.

20
21 Mr. Bergman moved to approve Sparky Von Plinsky, IV, as Chair and Councilor Andrew
22 Madison as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission for the 2022 calendar year, which Mr.
23 Bill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

24
25 Vice Chair Madison took his seat as Chair of the meeting at 4:39 PM and the whole Commission
26 thanked Ms. Clark for her years of service as Vice Chair and Chair Von Plinsky for his continued
27 service.

28
29

30 **3) Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2021**

31

32 Revision: Line 137, change the name “Lou,” to “Lew.”

33

34 Ms. Clark moved to approve the December 20, 2021 minutes as amended, which Councilor
35 Williams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

36

37 **4) Applications**

38

39 No applications.

40

41 **5) Informational**

42 **A) Subcommittee Reports**

43 **i) *Outreach Subcommittee***

44

45 Mr. Haynes had nothing new to report. He reiterated that there was a walk at Goose Pond on
46 February 5 and that Ms. Clark continues her Nature Nuggets. Vice Chair Madison said the
47 Nature Nuggets are excellent.

48

49 Ms. Clark noted that she had been producing Nature Nuggets for 18 months and stated that they
50 do not get many “likes” on social media. Therefore, she was considering revamping them. Ms.
51 Marcou said there was a Community Development Department discussion about social media
52 and trying to brand the Nature Nuggets better as coming from the Conservation Commission to
53 draw more attention and make them more appealing. Mr. Bill asked whether there would be a
54 sign-up for the February 5 Goose Pond walk. Mr. Haynes said to contact Parks & Recreation and
55 ask to be on the list.

56

57 Mr. Bergman noted that there were not links to the Nature Nuggets on the City’s Conservation
58 Commission webpage and Ms. Marcou said the Department would be working on that. Mr.
59 Bergman thought that many in the Keene community who do not use social media would
60 appreciate that access. Ms. Marcou noted that they are currently posted to the Community
61 Development Department social media pages and she will work with the City’s IT Department to
62 have them posted on the Commission webpage. Councilor Williams noted that one way to draw
63 more attention is for everyone on the Commission with social media followers to share the
64 Nature Nuggets so they are exposed to a wider audience and can get more likes.

65

66 **ii) *ARM Fund Subcommittee – Non-Public Session***

67

68 No update.

69

70 **iii) *Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee***

71

72 Mr. Haynes said the Subcommittee met the week before this meeting. Mr. Haynes also walked
73 around Goose Pond with Lew Shelley to talk about trail maintenance workshops and get Mr.
74 Shelley's feedback on trail maintenance at Goose Pond. Mr. Shelley, from Walpole, oversees
75 SnowHawk, LLC, as a trails consultant and trail builder. Mr. Haynes said that Mr. Shelley
76 expressed excitement at the idea of trail maintenance workshops. They discussed the working
77 idea of individual workshops for different trail components, like building tread, stonework, or
78 bridgework. They are still brainstorming. Mr. Haynes said they also identified some areas of
79 maintenance needs around the Greater Goose Pond loop, some of which could be incorporated
80 into the workshops and other larger portions might be more suitable for grant applications under
81 consideration. Mr. Haynes said the Subcommittee would meet again in February to discuss
82 signage, kiosks, and blazing as the components that help people get around the loop trail and
83 other connected trails. Discussion ensued.

84

85 **B) Invasive Species**

86

87 Councilor Williams looked forward to engaging other interested Commissioners and volunteers
88 to develop a scheduled for the summer and fall programming. It worked well last year to have
89 events on the Monday of a holiday, like Indigenous Peoples Day, when people are available.

90

91 **6) Discussion Items**

92

A) Conservation Commission Speaking Events

93

94 Vice Chair Madison tabled this item until the Covid-19 threats are less.

95

96 **B) Multiyear Pollinator Census Results for Cheshire County**

97

98 Mr. Therriault recalled that he already presented this to the Commission. Mr. Therriault
99 continued using his time to discuss the annual Bee City USA membership report. He would have
100 reviewed it with the Community Development Director in the past but was unsure who to do so
101 with now. Ms. Marcou said she would get him the help needed and be in touch. Mr. Therriault
102 continued stating that Bee City USA requires a \$200 membership fee each year for a population
103 less than 23,000 *after the first full year of membership*. As of January 1, Keene had only been a
104 Bee City for 10 months. Therefore, Mr. Therriault would inquire with Bee City USA as to
105 whether the Commission owes that fee at this time and report back at the next meeting.

106

107 Mr. Therriault also recalled that last year he began discussions with the Director of Parks,
108 Recreation, & Facilities, Andy Bohannon, about establishing a pollinator strip at the Monadnock
109 View Cemetery on Park Avenue. He would meet with Mr. Bohannon again the week of this
110 meeting to confirm details about the location and size of the strip, so they are ready to act after
111 ground thaw. Discussion ensued about a pollinator strip established by the Friends of Open
112 Space in the community garden adjacent to the cemetery. Mr. Therriault noted that the initial
113 plan is to use a portion of a 2.5-acre area of the cemetery that used to be hayed and convert 1/8-

114 acre initially into a wildflower strip that cemetery visitors can pull from to place on graves. If it
115 is popular, they could expand annually within that 2.5 acres. Discussion ensued.

116

117 Mr. Haynes recalled that an obligation of being a Bee City is to have community involvement
118 and education, and he wondered if this pollinator strip was intended to serve that purpose. Mr.
119 Therriault said that there could be signage about pollinators as an educational component.
120 However, Mr. Therriault was trying to contact SAU-29 that services Keene about offering
121 honeybee and pollinator presentations to grade schools this spring when they are learning about
122 pollinators in science class, which he has done in the past. Vice Chair Madison suggested
123 contacting Mr. Bohannon for help with the SAU. Mr. Bill said that the Healthy Home Habitats
124 could be another connection. Discussion ensued.

125

126 **C) Beaver Brook to Cemetery**

127

128 This was tabled until Chair Von Plinsky returns in March. Mr. Bill noted a possible contact from
129 Friends of Piscatach newsletter, Steve Lisle from Grafton, VT.

130

131 **D) 2022 Healthy Home Habitats' Monadnock Sustainable Backyard Workshop**
132 **Series**

133

134 Vice Chair Madison welcomed Michele Chalice of 25 Beech Street and owner of Healthy Home
135 Habitats.

136

137 Ms. Chalice was present to inform the Commission of her upcoming six-session workshop series
138 called Create a Sustainable Yard, beginning on Saturday, February 19 at 10:00 AM at Heberton
139 Hall. Because she is a private entity, she is unable to partner with the Commission, which she
140 said is a shame because she wants to network and collaborate. Thus, she wanted to inform the
141 Commission of this opportunity. The subsequent sessions would occur at Ms. Chalice's home,
142 where she has different rain capture and composting methods, and a variety of pollinator
143 gardens. She is sharing and raising awareness of items families can do now that impact family
144 health, the community, and the ecosystem. She plans to interview others in the community doing
145 the same in their yards and to pass out profiles on those neighbors at the events to show attendees
146 that she is not the only one doing so, with the broader eventual goal of a sustainable yard tour
147 through the community. Ms. Chalice added that her series is based on a Chicago Environmental
148 Protection Agency grant on sustainable backyards. It was a large grant that reimbursed people
149 for installing rain barrels to help with stormwater and for planting shade trees. Her approach is
150 about saving on water bills. Discussion ensued. The early sessions at Heberton Hall would also
151 be available online and archived by the library. She welcomed the Commission to distribute
152 flyers and information.

153

154 Vice Chair Madison said it sounded like a wonderful program and something that people in his
155 neighborhood and more densely populated areas would be interested in conducting themselves.
156 Councilor Williams noted that Ms. Chalice's yard inspired his own. He was appreciative and said

157 it was something other people would do. He also noted that at a recent Council goals workshop
158 there was discussion of community complaints on flooding with all the rain last year and rain
159 garden techniques like these could help mitigate flooding problems.

160

161 **7) New or Other Business**

162

163 Mr. Bergman referred back to the agenda item on Beaver Brook, recalling that Mr. Bohannon
164 was going to share a video with the Commission before this meeting, but had not. Vice Chair
165 Madison said he would follow-up with Mr. Bohannon.

166

167 Mr. Bergman referred to the new solar array adjacent to the Airport near the end of Airport Road
168 before the entrance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, for which a significant number of trees
169 were cleared. He wondered who authorized the tree clearing because the Commission had not
170 heard about it and there could be wetlands issues. Ms. Marcou said that is City-owned land, but it
171 is in Swanzey. Ms. Clark said the matter was reviewed by the Swanzey Conservation
172 Commission and the project did receive an Alteration of Terrain permit from the State. It was
173 just outside the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee's (ARLAC) purview but there was
174 discussion in their minutes. Ms. Marcou would follow-up with the Airport Director and the
175 Public Works Department to see if there was a record of this decision. Mr. Therriault noted that
176 fences surrounding solar farms make great pollinator strips. Mr. Bergman said that would be
177 great for caterpillars and suggested that Mr. Therriault contact Sam Jaffe of the Caterpillar Lab.
178 Discussion ensued.

179

180 **A) 2021 ARLAC Annual Report**

181

182 The report was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Clark welcomed questions. Mr. Haynes said
183 that the Commission is grateful for the great work ARLAC does. Ms. Clark noted that there
184 would be an opening on the ARLAC Board of Representatives if any Commissioners were
185 interested. Discussion ensued.

186

187 **8) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

188

189 There being no further business, Vice Chair Madison adjourned the meeting at 4:21 PM.

190

191 Respectfully submitted by,
192 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker
193 January 25, 2022

194

195 Reviewed and edited by,
196 Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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4
5 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
6 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
7

Monday, February 10, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair
Eloise Clark, Vice Chair
Councilor Robert Williams
Art Walker
Thomas Haynes, Alternate
Brian Reilly, Alternate
Steven Bill, Alternate
John Therriault, Alternate

Staff Present:

Corinne Marcou, Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present:

Councilor Andrew Madison
Ken Bergman

8 **1) Call to Order**

9
10 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

11
12 **2) Discussion Items**

13 **A) Potential Land Purchase – Route 9/Washington St. Exit**

14
15 The Chairman said there was an opportunity for the City to purchase two parcels up for auction on
16 February 19. To get through all the City approvals in time, this special meeting was scheduled to make a
17 recommendation to Council for their approval on February 17. In response to Councilor Williams, the
18 Chairman and Ms. Marcou said they were unsure whether the matter would appear before the FOP
19 Committee on the same night of this meeting, though it was unlikely. Ms. Marcou said this opportunity
20 arose two weeks ago and she contacted the Chairman, who initiated meetings with the Director of Public
21 Works and Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities about the possibility before the City Attorney and
22 City Manager.

23
24 A motion by Chair Von Plinsky that the Keene Conservation Commission recommend to the City
25 Council to use funds from the Land Use Change Tax Fund to purchase parcels #6827 and #6825 was
26 duly seconded by Mr. Haynes.
27

28 The Chairman continued describing the two properties; while he was very excited, he wanted to hear
29 objections as well. The first property #6825 on the south side of RT-9 near the Washington Street
30 extension by Beaver Brook Falls; as you hike down the extension past the gate, it is all the land on the
31 left buffering between RT-9. Because of the narrow and very steep nature of this parcel, the City
32 Assessor did not believe it was developable. Acquiring this parcel would be great for the valley at
33 Beaver Brook Canyon, insulating it from the noise of RT-9. The second parcel #6827 on the north side
34 of RT-9 is important for its wildlife value and because it acts as a buffer between Drummer Hill, the
35 Greater Goose Pond Forest, and the chaos of RT-9. The Chairman said this parcel is bigger and more
36 awkward, but there was significant wildlife evidence, like a metric ton of deer droppings and deer dens.
37 This parcel is less buffered from the sounds of RT-9 and can be loud, but he said it is an important piece
38 of land in its own right, and the City Assessor said it was not developable, though more possible than for
39 #6827. It is likely undevelopable because there are NH rules stating that land without road access cannot
40 be developed. The only nearby option would be Timberlane Drive, which is private. It is unlikely
41 someone would get permission to develop with access from the RT-9 limited access highway. Both
42 parcels are owned by PGVG, LLC., which is a trust for the estate of Reverend Paul Garabedian.

43
44 The Chairman sent a letter (also signed by Councilors Williams and Madison) to the City Manager when
45 these parcels came to attention two weeks ago (February 3), highlighting why he thinks purchase is a
46 good idea for the City. It reads:

47
48 *Dear City Manager Dragon, We are writing today to urge the city to purchase and conserve two parcels*
49 *of land that have recently entered the market. The two parcels (ID numbers 6825 & 6827) are located*
50 *on either side of Route 9 near the intersection with Washington Street. The southern, 30 acre parcel*
51 *(6825) forms an important buffer between the intense noise of Route 9 traffic and the Beaver Brook near*
52 *its gorgeous falls along old Washington Street Extension. The brook and its falls are an important part*
53 *of the city's natural and cultural history. Preserving the area surrounding the falls will ensure that*
54 *future Keene Residents can enjoy this peaceful corner of the city for generations to come. The northern,*
55 *37 acre parcel (6827) is just as important as its neighbor across the highway, but for a slightly different*
56 *reason. The parcel is part of the first line of defense protecting the Drummer Hill and Goose Pond*
57 *Forests from the damaging pollution (visual, audio, and airborne) of Route 9. Wildlife needs insulation*
58 *from high stress environments such as highways. Without it much of their habitat becomes unusable.*
59 *Protecting this parcel will be an important step toward ensuring the vitality of our larger city forests.*
60 *We realize and appreciate that the city budget is not limitless; however, we feel that chances such as this*
61 *one do not come along frequently. These purchases would help to ensure that Keene's future is a*
62 *sustainable balance between man and the natural world. We hope that the city will take advantage of*
63 *this opportunity.*

64
65 Mr. Bill asked whether there would be complications related to the power line crossing. The Chairman
66 said the right-of-way continues for that crossing regardless of the property owner.

67
68 Mr. Walker asked the estimated values of the properties. The Chairman said the larger parcel is
69 appraised at \$46,000 and assessed at \$1,200. Because they are not developable, the Chair did not know
70 what the market value would be. The smaller parcel is appraised at \$28,000 and assessed at \$960. He

71 said that both properties are in “current use” and taking very little money from the City in tax payments;
72 current use is an extremely discounted tax rate.

73

74 Mr. Therriault asked the uses of either parcel for the City. In response, the Vice Chair cited the
75 Conservation Commission’s Land Protection Criteria (developed by past Conservation Commissions),
76 which help explain why she supports this acquisition. She stated how each parcel met certain criteria,
77 which she thought more than provides justification for recommending the acquisition:

78

1. Water Resources

79

a. Frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

80

i) The Vice Chair said parcel #6825 would satisfy this criterion, with the head waters
81 of Beaver Brook along there, where there is an already owned City parcel, and so
82 acquisition would help prevent development.

83

b. Land overlying aquifers and aquifer recharge areas

84

c. Wetlands, floodplains, buffer areas, and riparian zones

85

2. Forest Resources

86

*a. Tracts of woodland with sufficient size, appropriate soils, and other attributes that
87 support responsible forest management, including the production of timber and other
88 forest products.*

89

b. Steep slopes (slopes with grades greater than 15%)

90

i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6825 would satisfy this criterion, making it
91 undevelopable and would add to the package of Beaver Brook Falls.

92

c. Urban forests

93

d. Large un-fragmented blocks of forests

94

i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6827 is important because it would increase the
95 contiguous area of the Greater Goose Pond Forest. Adding to existing conserved
96 parcels is an important consideration to expand that footprint.

97

3. Agricultural Resources

98

*a. Farmlands and open fields with prime soils and other attributes that support agriculture
99 or have the potential to support agriculture.*

100

b. Land well suitable for agriculture that do not have prime soils

101

c. Urban agriculture

102

4. Wildlife and Natural Areas

103

a. Large tracts of undeveloped habitat and corridors important for wildlife

104

i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6827 satisfies this criterion by creating additional
105 land in the Goose Pond Forest.

106

b. Land containing ecologically significant or rare natural communities or species

107

*c. Priority land as identified in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan, Natural Resource
108 Inventories, or existing Land Management Plans*

109

i) The Vice Chair said that the whole NH Wildlife Action Plan targets those
110 northcentral and northeast corners of Keene as very high value for wildlife. The falls
111 nicely into the Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan.

112

*d. Other lands which increase the diversity and viability of wildlife populations, including
113 fields, riparian areas, land contiguous to existing protected natural areas, and land that
114 can serve as a buffer to developed areas*

115

i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6827 satisfies this criterion by creating additional
116 land in the Goose Pond Forest.

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- 5. Cultural, Recreational, and Scenic Value
 - a. *Land that offers opportunities for appropriate outdoor recreation by the public*
 - i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6827 satisfies this criterion by creating additional land in the Goose Pond Forest.
 - b. *Scenic views, ridgelines, and other aesthetic areas*
 - i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6827 satisfies this criterion by creating additional land in the Goose Pond Forest.
 - c. *Landscapes that preserve the region's cultural and historic heritage*
 - d. *Land that promotes connectivity of recreational networks*
 - i) The Vice Chair said that parcel #6827 satisfies this criterion by creating additional land in the Goose Pond Forest.
- 6. Collaboration and Leverage
 - a. *Land where there are multiple entities (e.g. surrounding towns or local organizations) willing to collaborate on protection/conservation efforts*
 - b. *Land that is vulnerable to development pressure*
 - c. *Land where there are landowners willing to support conservation and protection*

Mr. Therriault asked what the City would do with the parcels to provide a service to the public other than just “locking it up.” The Chairman thought that for the south parcel, the City had done a lot with that walkway up to Beaver Brook Falls and there were other ways the area could be opened to the public that would secure it for generations to come; the Falls are on City land but do not exist in a vacuum. Someone else could acquire that parcel and perhaps change the character of the Falls and the old Washington Street extension. The Chairman said he felt that protecting the northern parcel for wildlife was service enough; he did not think it needed to be opened to recreation or protected against development. Mr. Therriault asked whether parcel 36 on the map was a part of the Goose Pond Forest and the Vice Chair replied in the affirmative. Mr. Therriault referred then to the several hundred yards of interface between Goose Pond and the northern parcel. He asked if parcel 44 on the map was a part of Goose Pond and the Chairman said not yet. Mr. Therriault asked if it would be possible in the future to extend the Goose Pond trail network into this new acquisition #6827. The Chairman said absolutely and that the parcel is gorgeous, with stone walls and deer dens. Councilor Williams said he would love to see the trail network expand there and eventually connect with the road that goes to Beaver Brook Falls to create a loop to Goose Pond from the City. The Chairman agreed that was a project decades in the making. Mr. Haynes echoed the Vice Chair that the Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Plan recommends connecting with additional parcels.

The Chairman asked whether any Commissioners had misgivings or concerns and there were none.

Councilor Williams asked where the funds would come from. The Chairman referred to the Land Use Change Tax Fund (LUCTF). If common use land is developed in the City, the developer must pay a penalty tax that goes into the LUCTF for projects like this. Annually, \$25,000 is released into that fund.

Mr. Walker asked if there is an opportunity for water storage beyond the Beaver Brook Falls to help with downtown flood control. The Chairman noted that there already is water storage (from RT-9 onto RT-10) and he was unsure there was sufficient space or purpose in adding further storage between there

161 and the Falls. The Vice Chair said that if the City were to own that land, they could contribute to flood
162 storage and slower surface waters by not cutting trees on the parcel.
163
164 Vice Chair Clark asked how much money was in the LUCTF. Ms. Marcou stated \$129,214.02, including
165 this years \$25,000 addition. Still, the Chairman was unsure what the parcels would cost at market but
166 hoped there would be substantial funds remaining in the LUCTF after these purchases. That spending is
167 at Staff's discretion. Mr. Haynes noted that the annual \$25,000 addition is intended to offset these big
168 purchases.
169
170 Mr. Reilly asked whether there were other parties interested in these acquisitions. Ms. Marcou said the
171 Community Development Department received a few phone calls inquiring about the properties but that
172 does not mean they will show up to auction. The starting bid on each parcel is \$5,000. The Chairman
173 said there were no bids on the auction website at present.
174
175 Vice Chair Clark wondered who would do the bidding. Mr. Marcou was under the impression that the
176 Chairman would attend but further Staff decision making would ensue. The Chairman suspected that the
177 City Manager, City Attorney, and City Assessor would make the financial decisions, but he was happy
178 to attend and help. Ms. Marcou was unsure whether the auction was in person or virtual. Many
179 properties across the State are up for auction on the same day, so it might be virtual. Ms. Marcou will let
180 the Chairman know whether the letter he already wrote will suffice; she will attach the Land Protection
181 Criteria to the final letter too. Chair Von Plinsky intended to revise the letter.
182
183 Mr. Bill thought there was a good case to add to that stretch of Beaver Brook Falls, with value added for
184 water protection. Chair Von Plinsky called that area a nice micro watershed.
185
186 In response to Mr. Therriault, the Chairman said both parcels were owned by the same legal entity but
187 would be auctioned individually. Mr. Therriault suggested structuring the motion on each parcel,
188 because there could be a situation where one parcel costs too much to buy the other, and so the
189 Commission should likely prioritize the parcels. Discussion ensued on how to structure the motion. Mr.
190 Therriault cited his experiences doing negotiations and suggested knowing what they were willing to
191 pay but above which they were unwilling to pay. He urged prioritization to ease Staff burden in their
192 purchase. The Chairman said it was a fair point and good idea, Mr. Walker agreed.
193
194 The Commission discussed what parcel to prioritize. Councilor Williams favored the parcel by Beaver
195 Brook Falls because it would be most visited by the public. A Commissioner agreed inaudibly off
196 microphone. The Chairman favored the larger parcel by Goose Pond Forest, with the assumption that the
197 smaller parcel by the falls is likely too steep to develop. Mr. Haynes favored the larger parcel by Goose
198 Pond Forest because of its connection to the Forest, its wildlife habitat, and because the smaller parcel is
199 likely less developable. Vice Chair Clark also leaned toward the northern parcel because of the Goose
200 Pond connection, though she was hesitant choosing between the two. She said it was unlikely that
201 someone would develop the southern parcel, unless they buy it to clear all the trees, which she thinks
202 would be precluded by the Steep Slopes Ordinance. Mr. Bill thought the parcel south of RT-9 was most
203 useful but that the northern parcel needed more protection. The Chairman would address this

204 prioritization in his letter. Discussion ensued on the best motion to move forward with and how specific
205 they wanted to be about prioritization and spending.

206
207 An informal vote ensued to determine parcel prioritization. Five Commissioners favored the northern
208 parcel, and three Commissioners favored the south.

209
210 A motion by Chair Von Plinsky recommending to the City Council that the City use funds from the
211 Land Use Change Tax Fund to purchase parcels #6827 and #6825, with slight priority given to #6827,
212 was duly seconded by Mr. Therriault.

213
214 Vice Chair Clark asked whether an upper spending limit should be specified to not deplete the LUCTF.
215 Ms. Marcou noted that the City Council would set the monetary limit when they vote on this matter.

216
217 On a vote of 8–0, the Conservation Commission recommended to the City Council that the City use
218 funds from the Land Use Change Tax Fund to purchase parcels #6827 and #6825, with slight priority
219 given to #6827

220
221 **3) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

222
223 Following Vice Chair Clark’s advice, the Chairman was arranging guest speakers each month. In
224 February, County Forester Matt Kelly (just led a walk at Goose Pond) would present and asked that
225 Commissioners submit questions he should be prepared to address. In March, Amanda Littleton of the
226 Cheshire County Conservation District would attend. In April, the Chairman hopes that Councilor
227 Madison would discuss his work with the State. If Commissioners have other ideas, submit them to the
228 Chair.

229
230 There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

231
232 Respectfully submitted by,
233 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker
234 February 11, 2022

235
236 Reviewed and edited by,
237 Corinne Marcou, Admin. Assist.
238 February 18, 2022

239

**Proposed Tentative Schedule for Invasive Plant Removal in Keene
2022 Season**

Saturday, May 7 11am – 1pm
Garlic Mustard Challenge
Location TBD

Monday, June 20 5 – 7pm
Japanese Knotweed
Location TBD

Saturday, July 16 11am – 1pm
Watercress
Dillant Hopkins Airport

Saturday, August 20 11am – 1pm
Placeholder

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day) 5 – 7pm
Buckthorn
Old Stone Arch Bridge

Monday October 10 (Indigenous People's Day) 4:30 – 6:30pm
Norway Maple, Bittersweet, Japanese Barberry
Robin Hood Park

Friday, November 11 (Veteran's Day) 4 – 6pm
Burning Bush
Industrial Heritage Rail Trail