



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**AMENDED**

**Monday, July 18, 2022**

**4:30 PM**

**ROOM 22, Parks & Recreation  
Center**

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### Commission Members

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

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 – June 20, 2022
3. Report- outs
  - a) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee
  - b) Outreach
  - c) Arm Fund
  - d) Invasive Species
4. Discussion Items:
  - a) Conservation Commission speaking events
  - b) Airport proposed wildlife control fence
  - c) Budget Update
  - d) Update: 0 Washington St. Ext. property (TMP# 229-006-000)
5. New or Other Business
  - a) Planning Board referral – Earth Excavation Permit Application – 0 Rt 9 (TMP# 215-007-000-000-000) – Delayed by applicant request to August 15, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting
6. Adjourn – Next meeting date: **Monday, August 15, 2022**

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

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4  
5 CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Monday, June 20, 2022

3:30 PM

Room 22,  
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Alexander Von Plinsky, IV, Chair  
Councilor Andrew Madison, Vice Chair (Arrived Late)  
Eloise Clark  
Councilor Robert Williams (Left at 4:00 pm)  
Art Walker  
Ken Bergman  
Thomas Haynes, Alternate  
Steven Bill, Alternate (via Zoom)  
John Therriault, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Brian Reilly, Alternate

8  
9  
10 1) Call to Order  
11

12 Chair Von Plinsky called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call ensued, and Mr. Bill stated  
13 his location and whether anyone was present with him to participate via Zoom.  
14

15 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2022  
16

17 Revision: Line 170 should read “14 inches in diameter,” not height.  
18

19 A motion by Mr. Bergman to approve the May 16, 2022 minutes as amended was duly seconded  
20 by Mr. Walker and the motion carried unanimously.  
21

22 3) Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee Report  
23

24 Mr. Haynes reported that the first trail maintenance workshop in May was fun and successful,  
25 cutting a new section of trail with a knowledgeable group of five. The next maintenance  
26 workshop is Saturday, July 9 and will focus on trail water issues. Mr. Walker said that the only  
27 downside was that more of the public was not involved. Mr. Haynes recalled issues with  
28 publicizing the last workshop and noted that he had just submitted a press release for the July  
29 workshop.

30 Mr. Haynes reported that he had not heard from Peter Poanessa about the signage. Thus, Mr.  
31 Haynes suggested moving forward reallocating that \$95.95 before the end of the fiscal year,  
32 which the Chairman said would work well.

33  
34 Mr. Haynes continued, noting that the week before this meeting, the Subcommittee submitted a  
35 \$25,000 grant application to the State Recreation Trails Program for trails work in 2023 on the  
36 north side of Goose Pond. This work would include a new bridge and roughly 400 feet of  
37 rerouting the trail to that bridge. There is a 20% local match for the grant. The Chairman asked  
38 the location of this work. Mr. Haynes said that if one walked around the north side of the pond,  
39 they would reach a bridge that is currently muddy and full of roots on either side; the proposals is  
40 to reroute the trail north of that with a new bridge to let the current area go back to nature.

41  
42 The Subcommittee honored former Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, Brian Mattson and  
43 named the trail the Mattson Trail. Additionally, the trails workshop leader, Lew Shelley,  
44 provided the Committee with a list of tools to work toward purchasing when needed. Mr. Haynes  
45 concluded that it was a good month for the Subcommittee.

46  
47 **4) NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application – Keene/Swanzey**  
48 **Compensatory Storage**

49  
50 Ms. Brunner reported that this was an application from NH Department of Transportation  
51 (DOT) to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for a Dredge and Fill Wetlands  
52 Permit. The Conservation Commission has the opportunity to send comments and  
53 recommendations on this application to NH DES. Excerpts of the application were included in  
54 the agenda packet. This project would create compensatory flood storage for four NH DOT  
55 projects to offset floodplain impacts over time. The area in question is approximately 20 acres  
56 on the south side of Route 101, between Route 10 going south and Routes 9/12 going north. It is  
57 in an area owned by the State. Ms. Brunner shared two copies of the full permit application, and  
58 displayed maps on the screen to show the project area. She said she tabbed two sections of the  
59 application – one includes a description of species that may be impacted, including the northern  
60 long-eared bat (they will do an acoustic monitoring survey) and the monarch butterfly. This  
61 section notes that post-construction plantings include pollinator friendly species. The second  
62 section she tabbed provides some information about the history of the site, including its  
63 previous use as a corn field.

64  
65 Councilor Williams reminded the Commission of a presentation they heard from two Keene  
66 State College students about the research on constructed versus pristine wetlands. He said the  
67 constructed wetland is similar to this proposed work. The students determined that the  
68 constructed wetland was not supporting nature, partly due to low oxygen levels in the water and  
69 being exposed to salt and silt from the highway. He said it seems hard to keep such a wetland  
70 healthy and asked what could be done proactively to keep this from being a low nature wetland.  
71 Mr. Bergman recommended that a riparian buffer be included to protect the constructed wetland  
72 from salt and siltation coming off the highway. The Chairman said it was unfortunate that

73 constructed wetlands aren't as healthy, and he was unsure it was possible to have a healthy  
74 version of the constructed wetland by Target. Councilor Williams suggested something like a  
75 solar powered aeration system that keeps water moving and oxygenated.

76

77 Mr. Therriault suggested regular monitoring at the location and the Commission discussed an  
78 ongoing partnership with Keene State College. He also stipulated that a pollinator forage mix be  
79 used and not a mix that attracts only one species. The group noted that the application refers to a  
80 planning list; however, that appendix was not provided.

81

82 The group discussed how water will get to the constructed wetlands. Ms. Clark reminded the  
83 group that the purpose of this application is to create a flood compensatory storage area, the  
84 focus is less on the ecosystem benefits of the wetland and more on flood storage. She said she  
85 attended some of the meetings with the State when they were trying to choose a location, and  
86 this particular location was chosen mostly because the State owns it.

87

88 Mr. Bill discussed the possibility that the project would be removing contaminated soils. He  
89 brought up the possibility of soil contaminants remaining on site, noting the site's history and  
90 nearby uses that could have generated contaminants, and recommended soil testing. If there are  
91 contaminants such as heavy metals, that may affect how soil removal is handled.

92

93 Vice Chair Madison made the following motion, which Mr. Bergman seconded. The  
94 Conservation Commission unanimously recommended to NH DES that the following items be  
95 considered as a part of the Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application for  
96 Keene/Swanzey Compensatory Storage: a solar-powered or other type of aeration system for  
97 wetland health, an ongoing monitoring partnership with Keene State College, a riparian buffer  
98 between the site and the highway, the use of pollinator-friendly foraging plants, and soil testing  
99 to confirm contaminants are not present on the site.

100

101 **5) Work Group Reports**

102 **A) Outreach**

103

104 The group had not met. The recent bird walk was well-attended, and all attendees seemed to  
105 have a good time. The Friends of Ashuelot River Park are hosting a Pollinator Palooza on June  
106 21 from 1-3 pm.

107

108 Vice Chair Madison reported that he petitioned the City Council to amend their next fiscal  
109 year's budget to increase the Conservation Commission budget by \$500 for diverse education  
110 and outreach events. The Commission thanked the Vice Chair.

111

112 **B) ARM Fund**

113

114 The Chairman reported that he walked one of three properties with Jocelyn Duffy from the  
115 Conservation Land Stewardship Program as part of the LCIP easement monitoring, which he

116 called a good thorough walk near Goose Pond. The other parcels were near the Stone Arch  
117 Bridge on Court Street and near Production Avenue. If anyone would like to view the reports,  
118 they can request them from Andy Bohannon.

119

120 **C) Invasive Species**

121

122 Councilor Williams reminded the group of the Japanese knotweed pull after this meeting along  
123 the Beaver Brook channel near Woodland Cemetery. They are meeting by the bridge. The next  
124 event will be in July at the Airport, following-up on last year's invasive watercress pull to ensure  
125 the area stays clear. The Chairman said it is nice to spend a hot afternoon in the water.

126

127 **6) Discussion Items**

128 **A) Conservation Commission Speaking Events**

129

130 The Chairman said that now there is dedicated funding for such events, so the Commission  
131 should pursue opportunities. Vice Chair Madison said the problem is weather-dependent outdoor  
132 events, but outdoors is better for the pandemic. The Monadnock Food Co-op agreed to co-  
133 sponsor events and to let the Commission host events in its outdoor amphitheater for free. The  
134 Commission agreed that summer is a busy time for all, so they should pursue an event in  
135 September.

136

137 **B) Airport Proposed Wildlife Control Fence**

138

139 Mr. Bergman said this was pending an understanding of where things stand. He was unsure if  
140 there was money allocated in the next Fiscal Year's budget for this fence. Vice Chair Madison  
141 was unsure but would check; he noted that the Operating Budget was adopted by the City  
142 Council the week prior.

143

144 **C) Budget Discussion**

145

146 Chair Von Plinsky said that \$95.95 remained in the Commission budget to be spent before June  
147 30. Mr. Therriault suggested using it to begin the Goose Pond trust, but the Commission agreed  
148 there was not time for that before the deadline. Mr. Walker suggested using it to buy a tool for  
149 Goose Pond, but Mr. Haynes hesitated to rush purchasing one item at that price. The  
150 Commission agreed to donate the funds to the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee.

151

152 A motion by Chair Von Plinsky to donate \$95.95— or the remainder of the Conservation  
153 Commission budget for FY 2022—to the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee was duly  
154 seconded by Vice Chair Madison. The motion carried unanimously.

155

156 Ms. Brunner reported that the Commission had received a thank you letter from ARLAC for the  
157 previous annual donation.

158

159 **D) NHACC 2022 Membership**

160

161 Ms. Brunner reported that an email was included in the meeting packet from the NH Association  
162 of Conservation Commissions, asking for updated Commissioner contact information. Staff  
163 provided that information for all members, including alternates, and everyone should begin  
164 receiving e-newsletters, which they could opt out of. For \$20, Commissioners could purchase a  
165 revised edition of the NHACC handbook.

166

167 **E) Senate Bill 267 Upland Invasive Species Program**

168

169 This bill was for \$150,000 under the offices of the Department of Agriculture, with the idea to  
170 create a State-level coordinator to work with towns on invasive species removal. Towns can  
171 request funds for invasive species projects and the coordinator would provide information on  
172 invasive species treatments. Councilor Williams would discuss this more next month.

173

174 Mr. Haynes asked about requesting funds for materials. The Chairman suggested that minor  
175 materials like trash bags are not an issue, but that for some areas in the City, expensive chemical  
176 treatments are required. Fortunately, the coordinator would be certified to apply herbicide.

177

178 Discussion ensued about the challenges of knotweed eradication. Chair Von Plinsky noted that  
179 this bill states that each municipality should designate a contact person for the invasive species  
180 coordinator, and asked who that would be for the City of Keene. Ms. Brunner said she would  
181 check with Ms. Dragon to see who she would like to designate for that role.

182

183 **F) Debrief Site Walk of 0 Washington Street Ext. Property (TMP# 229-006-000)**

184

185 Chair Von Plinsky reported that, following the last meeting where the group heard from Mr.  
186 Cadadie regarding his company's plans for logging two properties, the Commission was invited  
187 to walk the site along Beaver Brook. The County forester, Matt Kelly, also participated at their  
188 invitation. The site visit went well and helped them understand what impact the logging would  
189 have. Mr. Casadei pointed out trees he would keep and trees he would remove. Mr. Bergman  
190 said he felt it was important to have another forester there, and said the group should continue to  
191 involve Mr. Kelly in these types of site visits.

192

193 Chair Von Plinsky said that there will also be a site visit of the northern parcel. Ms. Clark noted  
194 that the northern long-eared bat likes to roost in mature trees. It is one of only a few tree-roosting  
195 species of bats, and each roost only has 1-2 pups. She said the area should be checked for the  
196 presence of the northern long-eared bat prior to logging. Chair Von Plinsky noted that the State  
197 of NH doesn't have a lot of regulations for logging, so he isn't sure if that would be required.

198

199

200

201

202     **7)   New or Other Business**

203

204     Ms. Brunner noted that Chris Casadei had reached out again about taking a walk with the  
205     Commission at Goose Pond now that he had a chance to read the Greater Goose Pond Forest  
206     Stewardship Management Plan. The Commission agreed to refer Mr. Casadei to the Goose Pond  
207     Stewardship Subcommittee, which would involve the Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities,  
208     Andy Bohannon.

209

210     **8)   Adjournment**

211

212     There being no further business, Chair Von Plinsky adjourned the meeting at 4:32 PM.

213

214     Respectfully submitted by,  
215     Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker

216

217     Reviewed and edited by,  
218     Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

219



Civil Engineers  
Structural Engineers  
Traffic Engineers  
Land Surveyors  
Landscape Architects  
Scientists

July 13, 2022

ATTN: Mari Brunner  
City of Keene Community Development  
City Hall, 4th Floor  
3 Washington St.  
Keene, NH 03431

*Via email mbrunner@keenenh.gov*

Re: Request for Postponement  
Excavation Site, Route 9 Keene, NH  
G2 Holdings, LLC

Dear Ms. Brunner;

The purpose of the letter is to request a postponement of the Conservation Commission site walk, the Conservation Commission Public Hearing and the Planning Board Public Hearing. TFM Moran staff including Senior Project Manager Jeff Kevan would like to still meet with Community Development Staff during the original Conservation Commission site walk time slot, of July 18, 2022 at 3:30 PM, to discuss how to move the project forward.

Please postpone the Public Hearings for Conservation Commission and Planning Board by 1 month. Please extend the time frame for approval by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board by 1 month as well. Apologies for the inconvenience.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
TFMoran Inc.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Robinson, PE  
Project Manager

CC: Cody Gordon, G2 Holdings ([cody@mygordonservices.com](mailto:cody@mygordonservices.com))  
Evan Clements ([eclements@keenenh.gov](mailto:eclements@keenenh.gov))  
Megan Fortson ([mfortson@keenenh.gov](mailto:mfortson@keenenh.gov))  
Jesse Rounds ([jrounds@keenenh.gov](mailto:jrounds@keenenh.gov))





Victoria F. Sheehan  
Commissioner

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

District 4 Office, 19 Base Hill Road, Swanzey, NH 03446



William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner

**DRIVEWAY PERMIT**

To: Chris Casadei  
Hull Forest Products, Inc.  
PO Box 534  
Bradford, NH 03221

City/Town: Keene  
Route/Road: Washington St (N2370  
Patrol Section: 407  
Tax Map: 229  
Lot: 6  
Development: Temporary Logging

Permit #: **04-237-0038**  
District: 04  
Permit Date 6/7/2022

Permission is hereby granted to construct (alter) a driveway, entrance, exit or approach adjoining Washington St (N2370029), pursuant to the location and specifications as described below. Failure to adhere to the standards and engineering drawings previously approved shall render this instrument null and void. Failure to start or complete construction of said facility within one calendar year of the date of this permit shall require application for permit extension or renewal in accordance with the Driveway Access Rules. Facilities constructed in violation of the permit specifications or the rules, shall be corrected immediately upon notification by a Department representative. Any cost by the State to correct deficiencies shall be fully borne by the landowner. The landowner shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Department and its duly appointed agents and employees against any action for personal injury and/or property damage sustained by reason of the exercise of this permit.

**Drive 1 Temporary Logging expires: 6/8/2023**

Location: Approximately 0.1 miles south of NH 9 on the east side of Washington St (N2370029).  
SLD Station: 13000 (right) GPS: 42.955117 N 72.271773 W.

Specifications: This permit authorizes a crushed stone access to be used as a Temporary Logging drive. Any change in use, increase in use or reconstruction of the driveway requires reapplication.

The right-of-way line is located varies.

The driveway shall not exceed 20 feet in width. The entrance of the drive may be flared; typically the flare radius is one half the driveway width.

**Other Conditions:**

No structures, including buildings, permanent or portable signs, lights, displays, fences, walls, etc. shall be permitted on, over or under the Highway Right of Way.

No parking, catering or servicing shall be conducted within the Highway Right of Way.

The applicant shall comply with all applicable ordinances and regulations of the municipality or other State Agencies.

The Department has relied on the title and subdivision information provided by the landowner. The Department has not performed additional title research and makes no warranty or representation concerning landowner's legal right to access. In the event of a dispute about the landowner's legal right to the access provided herein, the landowner will defend and indemnify the Department.

All excavated topsoil, or in the absence of topsoil the top 6 inches of soil, within the limits of state ROW shall be properly re-used within the limits of the state ROW. All temporary stockpiles of the re-use material shall be located within the state ROW, or as otherwise approved by the District Engineer.

The Contractor shall be solely responsible for the handling, transport and disposal of any surplus material generated by their project and shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, ordinances and rules in doing so.

I/We, the contractor/Owner, certify that the property will not have any illicit unauthorized drainage connections to the NHDOT storm water drainage system. An illicit discharge is any direct or indirect discharge to the NHDOT drainage system that is not composed entirely of storm water. Illicit discharges include, without limitation, sewage, process wastewater, or wash water and any connections from floor drains, sinks, or toilets.

1. Our records show that no points of access were granted this frontage under the Limited Access Right of Way Agreement. This permit is intended for temporary logging access only. Upon completion of work and prior to the expiration of this permit the access is to be removed and restored to preexisting conditions. Loam, seed, fertilize, and mulch all disturbed areas within the right of way.
2. The driveway is a right in/right out only driveway. All contractors and or vendors working on site shall be informed of this prior to their working on site. In addition, should this condition be violated, this permit shall be declared null and void until such time as solutions are proposed and constructed to the satisfaction of the District Engineer or his authorized agent
3. Driveway to match existing grade to toe of slope. Driveway shall have a section contiguous to the highway (20' minimum) which approximates level ground. The grades beyond the platform should not exceed 15%. The algebraic difference between adjacent grades should not exceed 10%.
4. Establishing a landing area and/or loading trucks upon State of New Hampshire property is strictly prohibited.
5. Driveway to be 90° to the State highway, from the edge of roadway pavement to the right of way line.
6. Erect portable warning signs at an appropriate distance from the driveway. These signs shall be removed during nonworking hours. Sign size shall be 48" X 48". Signs should read "Trucks Turning and Entering". ( Colors: orange sign, black letters, in accordance with the manual on uniform traffic control devices.) For more information call the Administrator, Bureau of Traffic, TEL: 271-2291.
7. Applicant to line driveway with clean stone, beginning at the edge of pavement and extending a minimum of 50 feet, to prevent mud from tracking onto the state highway. Clean mud tracking onto the state highway daily.
8. Repair any damage done to either the gravel or paved portion of the highway shoulder, i.e. replace gravel and/or repave.
9. In addition, should this project change or significantly increase the current flowage pattern to a point where the integrity of the highway drainage system is threatened, this permit shall be declared null and void until such time as solutions are proposed and constructed to the satisfaction of the District Engineer or his authorized agent.
10. State roadways are subject to customary spring load limits and may be posted. The maximum allowable vehicular weigh on posted sections of State highways is 30,000 pounds gross weight or the cumulative width in inches of all tires contacting the road surface multiplied by 300, whichever is less. Logging trucks are not exempt from seasonal load postings.
11. Driveway permit to be posted in a conspicuous place near the access for the extent of the logging operation.
12. Applicant to contact the District 4 Office (Driveway Permits) at 603-352-2302 prior to installation for approval of route through State of New Hampshire property. This permit may be revoked in the event the applicant does not comply with the terms of this permit.

Temporary access approved by William Cass, Assistant Commissioner, on April 17, 2022.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

  
Assistant District Engineer  
For Director of Administration

Copies: District, Town, Patrolman

**TIMBER HARVEST MAP**  
**PROPERTY OF HULL FOREST**  
**PRODUCTS, INC.**  
**BEAVER BROOK CANYON**  
**ROUTE 9**  
**KEENE, NH**  
**67 AC**  
**MARCH 2022**



**LEGEND**

- HULL FOREST PROPERTY BOUND
- WOODS ROAD
- SKID TRAIL
- LANDING
- CAMP
- WETLAND DRAINAGE
- CROPPING
- BEAVER BROOK
- TOWN ROAD
- CLASS V

