



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
August 25, 2021
5:30 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. John and Louise Hilow - Flooding at 36 Wetmore Street
2. Renaming of the North Bridge - Recommendation from the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Board

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

1. Keene Elm City Rotary Club – Use of City Property – Clarence DeMar Marathon
2. Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam - City Manager

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.1.

Meeting Date: August 25, 2021
To: Mayor and Keene City Council
From: John and Louise Hilow
Through: Patricia Little, City Clerk
Subject: John and Louise Hilow - Flooding at 36 Wetmore Street

Council Action:

In City Council August 19, 2021.

Communication referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. Communication_Hilow

Background:

The Hilows have experienced flooding at their 36 Wetmore Street residence on multiple occasions. They are wondering whether any actions by the Army Corps of Engineers are contributing to their problem and are requesting the City's assistance.

John S. Hilow, Sr. and Louise B. Hilow
36 Wetmore Street, Keene, NH 03431
603-352-0226

August 4, 2021

Honorable George Hansel and City Council Members
City of Keene
3 Washington Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431

Re: Recent Flooding(s)

Dear Mayor Hansel and City Council Members:

We purchased our house on 36 Wetmore Street on February 28, 2013 and moved in the end of May 2013. Our first flooding experience happened the summer of 2014. Billy Byrnes from the City of Keene came to see the damage and called Surry Dam to tell them to shut the dam down because it was flooding Wetmore Street and Hamshaw Lumber. Our basement was flooded again in 2015. Recently we were flooded twice in July, on July 17 and July 30th, our basement filled with at least four feet of water. Our furnace was under water all four times. We are writing to see what the City is able to do to assist us with our recent flooding issues at our home at 36 Wetmore Street. The four times our basement flooded was after Surry Dam was opened. As a result, we have had to have our furnace fixed four times at over \$900 each time. The rain was so bad on July 17 that our neighbors were able to canoe on our lawn.

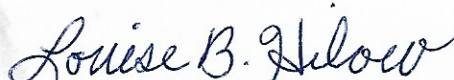
We have been told that the dam has not been opened any of the times that we have been flooded and that it is just a "fluke" that our basement floods each time we have had extreme rainfall. However, over the past weekend the Red Cross came to our house to see if we needed anything and they indicated that indeed the dam is opened each time we have a large amount of rainfall.

We are a 90 and 87-year-old married couple. The floods are taking their toll on us personally and financially. Please let us know how we can get the City and the Army Corps of Engineers to stop opening the dam each time we have an extreme amount of rainfall.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


John S. Hilow, Sr.


Louise B. Hilow



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.2.

Meeting Date: August 25, 2021

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: William Schoefmann, Mapping Technician

Through: Rhett Lamb, AMC/Community Development Director

Subject: **Renaming of the North Bridge - Recommendation from the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Board**

Recommendation:

Recommend to City Council that the name "North Bridge" remain the same and to explore dedicating a segment of trail from Island Street to Pitcher Street to the former Mayor.

Attachments:

None

Background:

Minutes Excerpt from BPPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee) July 14 Meeting:

Agenda Item 3) **"Naming of North Bridge – MSFI/Council Referral"**

Chair Benik stated that the minutes from MSFI's last meeting are in the agenda packet. Mr. Bohannon and Councilor Manwaring were in attendance at that meeting. Councilor Manwaring informed the committee that when a bridge is named it goes to MSFI and that typically causes some disagreement in the community about what the name should be. She said there is the option of the Dale Pregent Bridge but many community members want the bridge to remain the North Bridge. She said her advice is to honor Dale Pregent with the 101 bridge because citizens believe that the North Bridge is colloquially recognized already. Mr. Bohannon stated that a subcommittee did a public process and returned with the consensus to keep the name as North Bridge. He said that the idea of naming the other bridges after the former mayor may be a good option. However, the will for the Council and group may be to keep the name as North Bridge. He said they received 63 nominations and reviewed the names and selected North Bridge. There was a lot of sentiment from the various veterans as well. Dr. Russell asked for the name of the bridge by AUNE (Antioch University New England) is. Members replied it is named South Bridge. Dr. Russell stated that names are challenging and perhaps one option is to have stretches of the trail have names to honor certain people. He said the Krauss Bridge possesses political and strategic challenges as well, however, they may have control over naming sections of trail. Mr. Redfern stated that he spoke to Mayor Pregent and he wants to express how important that it is for him, he put a letter to the editor, and seemed easy going. Mr. Redfern stated that he spoke to Mr. Lussier and he indicated that his concern is changing the name may impact eligibility for historical grants; Mr. Redfern stated that keeping the North Bridge name the same is good for now, as well as the Bailey Bridge.

Chair Benik stated that he does not love the idea of changing the name of a bridge, however, he likes the idea of naming stretches, for example, the Pearl Street to West Street segment could have a sign dedicated to a person. Chair Benik asked if Council is looking for a motion from BPPAC for renaming North Bridge. Mr. Russel stated that the Ashuelot Bridge currently does not have a name so that may be an option as well.

Chair Benik moved to recommend to Council that the name North Bridge remain the same and to explore dedicating a segment of trail from Island Street to Pitcher Street to the former Mayor, Mr. Redfern seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously”