



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
January 24, 2024
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Councilor Remy - Enforcement of Winter Parking Ban
2. PowerPoint Presentation - Winter Operations
3. PowerPoint Presentation - Neighborhood Parking Program - Community Development
4. Stephen Bragdon – Safety Issues Associated with the Driveway at 82 Court St. **and** Staff Response to No Parking Request – 82 Court St.
5. Downtown Project Timeline - City Manager
Councilor Greenwald - Design Issues to be Considered in the Downtown Improvement Project
6. PowerPoint Presentation - Transportation Heritage Trail, Phase 1 - Proposed Action
7. PowerPoint Presentation - Project Update - Thompson Road Reconstruction Project

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Remy
City Councilor, At-Large

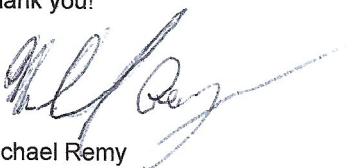
December 9, 2023

Re: Winter Parking Ban

To: Mayor and City Council

I would like us to review modifying the winter parking rules and only enforcing a winter parking ban during announced winter weather advisories or warnings.

Thank you!



Michael Remy

October 17, 2023

City of Keene
3 Washington St.
Keene, NH 03431

RE: Street Parking at 82 Court St., Keene, NH

Honorable Mayor and City Councilors,

We write this letter as owners of the property located at 82 Court Street, Keene, NH as well as being the owners of two of the businesses located at this address. Please note that our primary concern is the safety hazard created due to lack of visibility that the current parking structure creates for anyone exiting our driveway, as well as those citizens driving south on Court Street.

It is virtually impossible for anyone exiting the driveway of 82 Court Street to see the traffic coming south. The same is true for the drivers coming down Court Street, they cannot see if there is anyone pulling out of our driveway. This hazard is created by the vehicles that are parked north of the corner of our driveway. We have already had a couple of accidents and many near misses due to the visibility restrictions. The situation is not as hazardous as regards to vehicles moving north on Court Street.

Currently there are two no-parking signs, one is located 20 feet from the northern corner of our driveway and the second sign is 22 feet from the southern corner of our driveway. These are "No Parking Here to Driveway" signs.

A couple of weeks ago the city was re-marking parking spaces and they actually **added** parking spaces in front of both signs.

When we met with Don Lussier and Harry McElvey to discuss what we assumed was an error in the new parking lines, we were informed that the new spacing is correct and in fact, there is no reference in the City Code authorizing such signage in front of 82 Court Street.

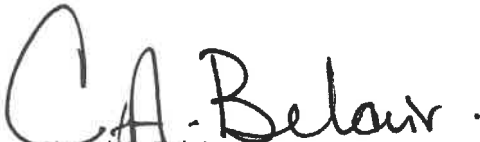
If these signs are removed and the additional spaces are left as marked, it will turn an already dangerous situation into an EXTREMELY dangerous situation. Anyone can confirm this by trying to exit from our driveway during a weekday!

We would appreciate the City Council's consideration of an Ordinance that would codify a no parking area on the south side of the driveway to the current sign (22 feet) and allow a no parking area on the north side of the driveway 30 feet from the northern corner of the driveway. The reason for the different distances is that the danger is greater from the traffic coming south than going north due to the change in elevation and our driveway being on the west side of Court Street.

Respectfully,



Stephen B. Bragdon



Cheryl A. Belair

KEENE DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Review designs of Downtown Infrastructure.

Two ways to participate!



Design Review Workshops

**FEB.
14**

Design Area #1

Main Street
Streetscape

**MAR.
20**

Design Area #2

Gilbo/
Railroad Sq.

**APR.
17**

Design Area #3

Central
Square

WHEN? 3-4:30PM or 5:30-7:00PM

WHERE? Keene Recreation Center
312 Washington Street, Room #14

MSFI Committee Meetings

**FEB.
21**

**MAR.
27**

**APR.
24**

WHEN? 6:00PM

WHERE? City Council Chambers
3 Washington Street (also televised)

No RSVP required. For additional project details, visit:

<https://keenenh.gov/public-works/revitalizing-downtown-keene>



Mitchell Greenwald
Chairman, MSFI Committee
Ward 2, City Councilor

January 16, 2024

Re: Main Street Reconstruction Project

To: City Manager
Mayor and City Council

The City Council and City Staff are about to proceed with the next stage of the design process for the Main Street reconstruction project. It is important that City Councilors are involved in a pro-active, rather than reactive manner as we develop the plans from the approved “concept” to detailed construction drawings. I am considering that the “concept” includes the bike lanes and the square in its current configuration, with minor modifications.

I am communicating through you, to the staff and consultants, design issues I have heard from Councilors, to be explored in analysis and plans.

- Including the “slip lane” at Central Square.
- Including the U turn at the flagpole.
- Including the U turn at Gilbo/Railroad Street
- Including the center parking.
- Right turn on red at Roxbury and West Streets.
- Confirmation of the location and quantity of parking spaces.
- Confirmation of the location and quantity of trees and planting beds.

I urge my fellow Councilors to communicate to you issues they hear from residents, so they may be considered as the planning process proceeds.

Working together in cooperation will make the project a success!

Thank you,

Mitchell Greenwald

Cc: City Clerk



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Donald Lussier, City Engineer

Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: **PowerPoint Presentation - Transportation Heritage Trail, Phase 1 - Proposed Action**

Recommendation:

Recommend that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the Proposed Action, as presented, for the Transportation Heritage Trail, Phase 1 Project.

Attachments:

None

Background:

In 2021, the City applied for and received a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for phase 1 of the Transportation Heritage Trail project. In 2022 the City was also successful in securing Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds for the same project. The ultimate goal of the Transportation Heritage Trail is to connect the Cheshire Rail Trail in Keene to the improved trail in the Town of Swanzey. Phase 1, currently under design, will improve the trail between Eastern Avenue and the northern edge of NH Route 101.

In October 2023, the City entered into a contract with Stantec Consulting Services to complete the preliminary engineering for the phase 1 project. The initial portion of this contract, the "Engineering Study", includes a topographic survey, property rights research, public engagement, alternatives development, and completion of a report for review by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT).

On December 4, 2023, the City hosted the first of two public meetings to request community input about the project. Over 50 people attended and provided valuable input about concerns and opportunities to ensure a successful project. On January 8, 2024, the City hosted a second public meeting to review design alternatives, which incorporated feedback received at the December meeting. At the January meeting the design team reviewed alternatives for the following items:

- Trail alignment
- Security fencing and screening
- Trailhead and parking configuration
- Trail surfacing material

The alternative review included a chart to compare the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative. After reviewing with the attendees, the design team concluded with a recommended alternative for each option. This serves as the basis of the Proposed Action presented tonight. Following City Council approval, the Engineering Study Report will be provided to the NHDOT for review and approval. Following NHDOT approval, the detailed engineering design of the project will proceed. Construction is planned for Calendar Year 2025.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.7.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Donald Lussier, City Engineer

Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: **PowerPoint Presentation - Project Update - Thompson Road Reconstruction Project**

Recommendation:

Accept as Informational.

Attachments:

None

Background:

In January 2021, the Municipal Facilities, Services and Infrastructure Committee reviewed alternatives for addressing the deterioration of Thompson Road. Those alternatives included either reconstructing the roadway in its current location or relocating the road to a new location. Although costs were similar for both options, each presented advantages and disadvantages. Relocating the roadway would address the steep slope of the road and simplify future road maintenance, but would require significant private property acquisitions. Reconstructing in place would be less disruptive to private property, but the road would remain just as steep as it is today.

Staff recommended that the roadway be reconstructed in place, and that it be permanently widened to 18' of pavement width. In addition, it was recommended that the project be programmed through the next scheduled update of the Capital Improvement Program (FY23-29).

At the end of 2021, City staff observed continued settlement of the roadway edge. In March 2022, the City Council passed a resolution to fund the design work to begin immediately. A design contract was executed in August 2022. Construction funds were included in the City's FY24 Operating Budget.

An informational meeting was held with residents of Thompson Road on May 17, 2023. During this meeting we reviewed alternative retaining wall styles and solicited resident input into the aesthetic aspects of the proposed wall. Some residents expressed a preference for retaining walls on both the uphill and downhill sides of the roadway. However, our engineering consultant determined that this was not necessary to address the geotechnical stability of the roadway and has therefore not been included in the design.

The design work is now complete, and the construction project will be advertised for bids this month. The major features of the project will include:

- Stabilizing the slope by excavating loose gravel and replacing it with angular rock fill (i.e., riprap).
- Widening the roadway to a consistent width of 18 feet (it currently varies from 12 to 15 feet).
- Installing approximately 250 feet of soldier pile retaining wall with reinforced concrete facing.
- Plugging all existing cross-drains and installing a new drainage system from the top of the hill to the bottom.
- Installing approximately 450 feet of granite curbing and 540 feet of guardrail