



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
October 23, 2024
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation: Code and Fire Inspections - Fire Marshall Rick Wood
2. Robert C. Hamm - Request for Improvements in Sidewalks and Traffic Patterns - Intersection of Grove Street and Water Street
3. Presentation: Route 9 - Old Sullivan Road Intersection - NHDOT
4. Staff Report on the results of the Ward Optimization Weeks (WOW!) Program - Public Works Director

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Keene City Council
Mayor Jay Kahn
Patti Little City Clerk

We request that City Council consider improvements in sidewalks and traffic patterns at the intersection of Grove Street and Water Street. There is no sidewalk on the northeast side of Grove Street (Community Way) and the sidewalk on the southwest side of Grove Street was sacrificed in order to provide the left turn lane on Grove Street going on to Water Street west.

It seems that this left turn lane was provided when the Co-op building was constructed. We submit that this left turn lane is hardly used; the majority of left turning traffic at this intersection is from Water St westbound onto Grove Street southbound, which actually is a short cut of sorts.

Some solutions could be:

- 1- Elimination of the left turn lane and provision of sidewalk on the west side of Grove St.
- 2- Elimination of the left turn lane and roadway striping to squeeze the traffic lanes down to single file when approaching Water Street from the south.
- 3- Provision of missing sidewalk on the
- 4- Pedestrian stop light controls to ease crossing.
- 5- Different color pedestrian crossing lanes across each street.
- 6- Added to the Stop Signs: small signs indicating that this is an "all-way stop" intersection, such as at the intersection of Hastings, Summit and Maple Avenues.

Other traffic calming and slowing techniques may be applicable, and we look forward to City proposals. The increased pedestrian traffic in the area between the Co-op and the School, as well as overall increased housing density in the area warrants these improvements to create a more livable as well as safe environment.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Hamm
89 Valley Street
Keene, NH
July 30, 2024



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.4.

Meeting Date: October 23, 2024

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Donald Lussier, Public Works Director

Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: **Staff Report on the results of the Ward Optimization Weeks (WOW!)
Program - Public Works Director**

Recommendation:

Accept as Informational

Attachments:

None

Background:

Between September 9TH and October 11TH, Staff from Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Community Development, and the Library participated in a program that we are calling “Ward Optimization Weeks” (WOW!). The program was aimed at improving the appearance of City neighborhoods, addressing safety concerns, and allowing for more efficient use of our staff resources to address resident-identified maintenance needs.

We began promoting the program publicly on August 16TH. Our outreach efforts, including social, print and broadcast media encouraged residents to use our existing non-emergency reporting app, called “[See-Click-Fix](#)”. Between August 16TH and the end of the program on October 11TH, we received **184 requests** from the public. For residents that preferred not to use the app, City staff also received requests by phone and e-mail.

During the 5-week period, Public Works staff completed a total of **682 individual tasks**. We expended more than **\$109,000** on labor, equipment costs and materials. More than **2,500** labor hours were spent addressing maintenance needs within the 5 wards. It should be noted that all work was completed during staff’s normal working hours, and the cost for equipment and materials was funded through our normal operating budget. There is no “additional” cost for this program. Some of the tasks completed during the program include: pothole patching, tree trimming, cleaning and repairing storm drains, painting fire hydrants, and flushing sewer mains.

The Parks and Recreation Department used the program to showcase a selected recreational space within each Ward. On Wednesday of each week, they posted a description of a particular facility via Instagram and highlighted specific improvements completed this year via Facebook. All social media posts had significant engagement, a testament to the Department’s positive relationship with the

community and their efforts to highlight the incredible recreational resources our city has to offer. Here are the specifics:

Week 1: Instagram - Edgewood Commons (1,093 views)
Facebook - Edgewood pollinator garden installation (1,004 views)

Week 2: Instagram - Robin Hood Amphitheater (808 views) &
Facebook - Amphitheater accessibility improvements (38,379 views)

Week 3: Instagram - Fall Sports Fields (286 views) &
Facebook - Fall field maintenance & prep work (1,267 views)

Week 4: Instagram - Ashuelot River Park (ARP) Story Walk (197 view) &
Facebook - ARP Story Walk accessibility & flow improvements (1,869 views)

Week 5: Instagram - Ladies Wildwood Park (162 views) &
Facebook - Ladies Wildwood invasive species mitigation & improved trails (7,187 views)

In total, the Parks & Recreation Department received more than **52,000** views of their "Ward Wednesday" posts on Facebook and Instagram.