MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
December 4, 2024
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Petition - Reduction of Speed Limit - Upper Roxbury Street
2. Continued Discussion – Route 9 – Old Sullivan Road Intersection
3. Presentation - Red Pine Scale - Parks and Recreation Director
4. Proposed Changes to Winchester Street, between Wilson and Main Streets - Public Works Director
5. Relating to Designated Loading Zones and Bus Loading Zones
   Ordinance O-2024-16
6. Relating to Maintenance Parking Restrictions
   Ordinance O-2024-21
7. Relating to Gilbo Avenue Parking Restrictions
   Ordinance O-2024-22
8. Relating to Juneteenth Exception To Parking Regulations
   Ordinance O-2024-23

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Dear Mayor Jay Kahn and the City Council, the residents of upper Roxbury Street, would appreciate your consideration of this petition requesting the current speed limit from the intersection of Roxbury and Water Street to the intersection of South and North Lincoln Street from 30 miles an hour to 20 miles an hour.

There is high foot traffic in this area with many residents, many of whom are children, walking to Robbin Hood Park. The traffic continually violates the present 30 miles per hour by extreme speeds.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE OPTIONAL
Kevin Connolly	366 Roxbury Street	[redacted]
Mark Gempler	376 Roxbury St.	
Gary Tateosian	394 Roxbury St	
Lisa Tateosian	394 Roxbury St.	[redacted]
Michael Gartman	435 Roxbury St.	
Brian Scala	403 Roxbury St. Apt 3	[redacted]
Melissa Thogode	" " "	
Ida Marrone	381 Roxbury St	
Matthew Burrill	369 Roxbury St.	
Laura Rubiano-Gomez	367 Roxbury St.	
Keith J Barassa	337 Roxbury St.	
Nicholas Hart	315 Roxbury St.	
Lori Lathers	305 Roxbury St.	
Susannah Hayes	320 Roxbury St	
Anna O'Kelly	334 Roxbury St	[redacted]
Melanie O'Kelly	"	
Nell Wiener	352 Roxbury St.	[redacted]
marilyn huston	362 roxbury St	
SARAH HUSTON	362 ROXBURY STREET	
Isis Latham	9 Terrace St.	[redacted]
Constance Van Kirk	5 North Lincoln St	[redacted]

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE		
KEENE		
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	✪	BUREAU OF TRAFFIC
NH 9 AT SULLIVAN RD		
KEENE, NH		

DGN	STATE PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
Keene-Sullivan Rd	-	1	1

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CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: December 4, 2024

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Carrah Fisk-Hennessey, Parks and Recreation Director

Through: Andrew Bohannon, Deputy City Manager
Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: **Presentation - Red Pine Scale - Parks and Recreation Director**

Recommendation:
Move to recommend the presentation on the Red Pine Scale and the impact of this invasive species on Keene's community parks be accepted as informational.

Attachments:
None

Background:
Members of the UNH Cooperative Extension in State Forestry and Urban Forestry Management, along with members of the NH Division of Forests and Lands, met with City of Keene Staff on Thursday 11/7/24 to discuss the Red Pine Scale, an invasive pest that has been evidenced as close as Yale Forest in Swanzey.

The Red Pine Scale will decimate our Red Pine population in Keene, specifically in Wheelock Park and Dinsmoore Woods, where red pine was planted to improve the natural landscape disaster created by the Hurricane of 1938. Additional public parks with red pine population include Ladies Wildwood and Robin Hood, though after a site tour the forestry experts suggested we focus on Wheelock and Dinsmoore.

Noting the ecological value of our wooded lands and the dangers of the red pine monoculture (red pine scale and root rot), it is the recommendation of the group to develop/design a request for professional services to create an action plan that includes educational opportunities, harvesting of the red pine, and a reforesty plan that will shape our areas of highest impact in a new way.

Additional background and information regarding Red Pine Scale:
Red Pine Scale is an invasive piercing pest that acts as a barnacle, crawling as juvelines then settling in as adults and insulating itself with flocculent (a white wax-like substance). Flocculent is the most visible sign of insect infestation: adult red pine scale pierce the phloem of the bark and suck the moisture from the tree. Infestation starts the bottom of the red pine crown (on smaller 2-3 year-old branches), creating a rust-colored halo that creeps up the crown and kills the tree in a short period of time (within 3 years of evidenced infestation, often more quickly). Red Pine Scale is spread by wind, birds, and squirrels.

Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown, New Hampshire is a 10,000 acre state park that first evidenced red pine scale infestation in the Fall of 2012. Throughout the sanitation harvest that began in February 2013 and lasted through April 2014, all red pine trees were cut and stacked on-site for removal. Done in phases, all impacted trails were officially reopened at the beginning of May 2014. New Hampshire State Parks chronicled the work being done and helped Bear Brook State Park provide educational opportunities to park users and community members throughout the reimagination of the land aesthetics and reforestation efforts. Yale Forest in Swanzey has been put "on notice" this October as the red pine scale infestation kills red pine trees quickly.

Keene Red Pine Scale particulars:

While we cannot guarantee a specific date that Keene's parks will be hit with red pine scale infestation, we do know that no site of infestation has ever lived through it. We also know that there is harvest value in removing live trees to send for log cabin and utility pole processing and if we wait until the trees die, we would then be responsible for paying for their harvesting and removal. Guidance from UNH Urban Forestry during the Keene site tour included a pilot project where we would remove a tract of red pine on one side of the gated access road near the youth ball fields in Wheelock Park. Trees would be stumped, we could invite a local forest mulcher to demonstrate ground revitalization, and we could engage the community in various ways regarding replanting a variety of native species with different growth and canopy characteristics – local students, gardeners, artists, families and more can play an important role in the future of our highly impacted areas.

One of the biggest challenges is community perception and understanding. The City of Keene has been fortunate to exist with red pines since they were planted in 1939 as a response to the hurricane damage in 1938. The red pine scale is intensifying the need for a thorough forestry assessment and action plan to address the substantial changes that will occur in our public parks, especially at Wheelock and in Dinsmoore. The City's Capital Improvement Program already has $35,000 designated for forestry assessment in FY26 in the four park areas of interest: Wheelock Park, Dinsmoore Woods, Robin Hood Park, Ladies Wildwood Park.

The UNH Cooperative Extension has penned a letter for public release sharing important information about the red pine scale and the anticipated impact it will have within Keene city limits, including our parks. We have also welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Sullivan-Cheshire County forester, the UNH Cooperative Extension, and the NH Division of Forests and Lands to offer educational workshops and forward-planning surrounding forest health and reforestation efforts that will be part of our eventual red pine harvesting process.

We are paying attention to the health of our trees and appreciate the opportunity to be proactive in dealing with such a significant reality. Our site visits confirmed that we do have healthy undergrowth in the Dinsmoore Woods and in Ladies Wildwood Park that would thrive with the red pine removal. The largest park impact will be Wheelock Park. Our hope is to help our community members become educated advocates who help shape the future of our public parks and the natural beauty and health of our trees and forests.

CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: December 4, 2024

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Donald Lussier, Public Works Director

Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: **Proposed Changes to Winchester Street, between Wilson and Main Streets - Public Works Director**

Recommendation:

Move to recommend that the report on the proposed changes to Winchester Street be accepted as informational.

Attachments:

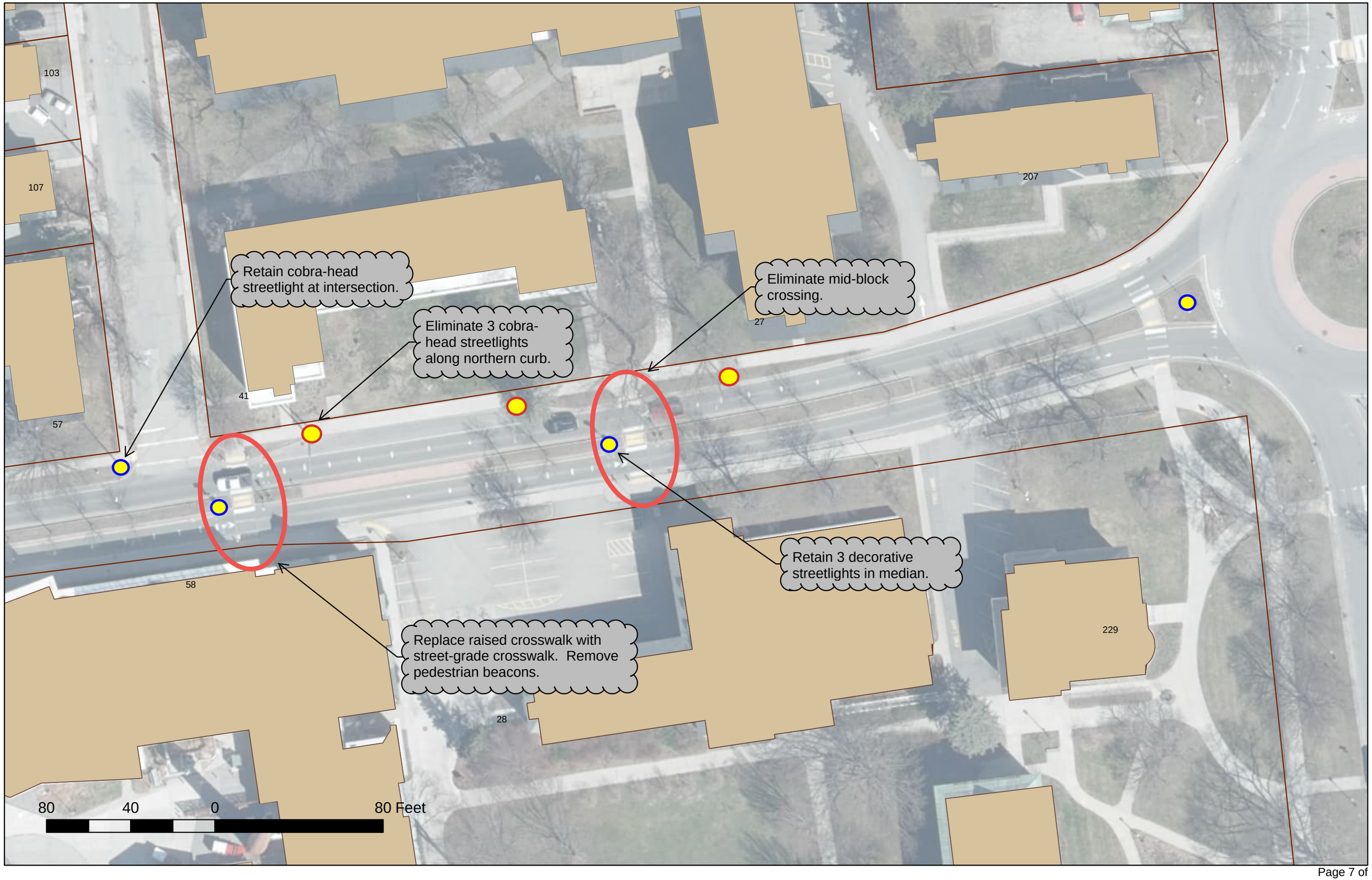
1. Winchester St. Crosswalk Changes

Background:

In 2007, the City collaborated with Keene State College to install two raised crosswalks across Winchester Street. The original design for these crosswalks included motion-activated flashing signs as well as in-pavement lighting. The intent of these improvements was to improve safety for the high volume of students crossing between campus and the dormitories on the north side of Winchester St. While the lighting, signage and raised crosswalks were effective at slowing traffic and making the crosswalks highly visible, the systems used required significant maintenance in order to keep operational.

In 2023, Keene State College demolished the two dormitories on the north side of Winchester St. As a result, the high volume of pedestrian traffic originally justified the enhanced crosswalks no longer exists. Public Works discussed the issue with staff from KSC's Facility Services and Campus Safety departments. The College is in agreement with the proposal to remove the enhancements.

This section of Winchester Street is planned for repaving in 2025. As part of that work, we intend to remove the flashing beacons from both crosswalks. The eastern, mid-block crosswalk will be removed entirely. The western crosswalk, at the intersection with Wilson Street will be converted to a standard street-grade crosswalk. A sketch of the proposed changes is included with this memorandum.


103
107
57
41
207
27
58
28
229
Retain cobra-head streetlight at intersection.
Eliminate 3 cobra-head streetlights along northern curb.
Eliminate mid-block crossing.
Retain 3 decorative streetlights in median.
Replace raised crosswalk with street-grade crosswalk. Remove pedestrian beacons.
80
40
0
80 Feet

ORDINANCE O-2024-16

CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Four

AN ORDINANCE Relating to Designated Loading Zones and Bus Loading Zones

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

That the City Code of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as amended, is hereby further amended by removing the stricken text and adding the bolded text to the provisions of Section 94-92, "Designated loading zones."; and by adding the bolded the bolded text as subsection (h), "Bus Loading Zones", within Section 94-94, "Restrictions", Division 2, "Specific Street Regulations" of Article III, "Parking Services", of Chapter 94, entitled "TRAFFIC, PARKING AND PUBLIC WAYS" as follows;

Sec. 94-92. – Designated loading zones.

…

Roxbury Street, north side, ~~along~~ **beginning at a point 70 feet from the southeast corner of the former Cheshire County Savings Bank, continuing easterly for the remainder of** the indented portion of the street curbing directly in front of the Central Square Terrace apartment building.

Sec. 94-94. – Restrictions

…

h) *Bus Loading Zones* – It shall be a violation for any vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle as defined in NH RSA 259:28 or a community transportation vehicle as defined in NH RSA 239-B:1-a (i.e., public transit service), to stop, stand or park at any time, at any of the following locations:

(1) Roxbury Street – In front of the Central Square Terrace apartment building on Roxbury Street, westerly of the designated loading zone defined in Section 94-92, above.

(2) Gilbo Avenue – Along the curbline on the north side of the Keene Transportation Center.

(3) West Street – Within the indented portion of curbline on the south side of the Keene Public Library.

In City Council November 7, 2024.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

City Clerk

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Jay V. Kahn, Mayor

ORDINANCE 0-2024-21

CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Four

AN ORDINANCE Maintenance Parking Restrictions

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

That the City Code of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the bolded text to and removing the stricken text from Sec. 94-95, "Snow and Street Maintenance Period" and Sec. 94-95 (a) and 94-95 (b) as follows:

Sec. 94-95. ~~-Snow and street maintenance period.~~ **Maintenance Parking Restrictions.**

(a) ~~Winter Maintenance Period~~ ***Emergency Weather Parking Ban***

1) The Public Works Director or their designee ("Director") shall be empowered to declare a Winter Weather Parking Ban whenever the existing conditions warrant or weather forecasts predicting snowfall, sleet, freezing rain, or other inclement weather indicate that the execution of necessary highway maintenance activities will require the prohibition of parking on city streets or municipal lots. Once a Winter Weather Parking Ban is declared, it shall continue until such time as it is terminated pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance. The Director may declare a Winter Weather Parking Ban at any time and for any duration necessary to conduct highway maintenance activities.

2) No vehicle or trailer shall be left standing or unoccupied upon any of the public ways or bridges in the city and owners of all vehicles or trailers so standing during a declared Winter Weather Parking Ban shall be deemed in violation of RSA 262:31 et seq. **and may be ticketed or towed as provided for in section 94-154 pertaining to enforcement practices.**

3) The Police Chief or his/her designee is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this section as provided for in Sections 94-181 through 94- 184, pertaining to penalties, towing, immobilization and appeals.

4) The Director shall notify the public when a Winter Weather Parking Ban starts and ends by using available methods for communicating messages to the public, which may include but not be limited to an automated push notification system, the City's website, social media, texts, signage, and telephone notification.

    a. The declaration shall be made no less than six (6) hours prior to the starting time of the ban.

    b. The declaration of a Winter Weather Parking Ban may be made applicable to all City streets, certain streets, or streets within a defined perimeter

c. The declaration of a Winter Weather Parking Ban may be made applicable to all public surface parking lots or only certain lots.

(b) ~~*Summer*~~ ***Scheduled*** *maintenance* ~~*period*~~*.* To provide for maintenance **of** ~~in~~ the city's ~~downtown, business, and commercial~~ streets, no vehicle or trailer shall be left standing or unoccupied upon any of the public ways or bridges ~~in the areas specified~~ and owners of all vehicles or trailers so ~~standing between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.~~ **during a scheduled maintenance period** as specified shall be deemed in violation of RSA 262:31 et seq., and ~~shall~~ **may** be **ticketed or** towed as provided for in section 94-154 pertaining to enforcement practices. The prohibition described in this subsection shall apply during ~~the period each year from May 1 to October 31:~~ **any scheduled maintenance period as described in this section.**

~~(1) The summer maintenance period shall apply to the following streets on Wednesday and Thursday of each week:~~

~~Center Street.~~

~~Church Street from Main Street to Wells Street.~~

~~Commercial Street.~~

~~Court Street from Mechanic Street to Central Square.~~

~~Cypress Street.~~

~~Eagle Court.~~

~~Elm Street from Vernon Street to Mechanic Street.~~

~~Emerald Street from Main Street to Ralston Street.~~

~~Federal Street.~~

~~Gilbo Avenue.~~

~~Lamson Street.~~

~~Main Street from Marlboro Street and Winchester Street Intersection to NH Route 101.~~

~~Marlboro Street from Main Street to Grove Street.~~

~~Mechanic Street.~~

~~Middle Street.~~

~~Norway Avenue.~~

~~Railroad Street.~~

~~Ralston Street.~~

~~Roxbury Plaza.~~

~~Roxbury Street from Central Square to Norway Avenue.~~

~~St. James Street.~~

~~School Street from West Street to Emerald Street.~~

~~Summer Street.~~

~~Vernon Street.~~

~~Washington Street from Central Square to Mechanic Street.~~

~~Water Street from Main Street to Grove Street.~~

~~Wells Street.~~

~~West Street from Central Square to NH Route 9/10/12.~~

~~Winchester Street from Main Street to NH Rt 101.~~

~~Winter Street.~~

~~93rd Street.~~

~~(2) The summer maintenance period shall apply to the following streets on Sunday through Saturday of each week:~~

~~Central Square.~~

~~Main Street from Central Square to Marlboro Street and Winchester Street Intersection.~~

~~(3) Nothing in this section will prohibit the public works department from closing all or parts of any listed streets at any other time periods then listed for maintenance, as long as the public is notified of the closing at least three calendar days prior to the closing.~~

(1) The Director shall declare the occurrence of a scheduled maintenance period and shall notify the public when a scheduled maintenance period starts and ends by using available methods for communicating messages to the public, which may include but not be limited to signage, the City website, social media, and an automated push notification system.

(a) The declaration shall be made no less than three (3) calendar days prior to the starting time of the maintenance period.

(b) The declaration may be made applicable to all City streets, certain streets, or streets within a defined perimeter.

(c) **The declaration may be made applicable to all public surface parking lots or only certain lots.**

In City Council November 7, 2024.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

City Clerk

Jay V. Kahn, Mayor

ORDINANCE 0-2024-22

CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Four

AN ORDINANCE Gilbo Avenue Parking Restriction

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

That the City Code of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the bolded text to the provisions of Section 94-93, "No Parking" item (b), "Specific times" as follows;

Gilbo Avenue, north side, from Main Street to St. James Street, between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

In City Council November 7, 2024.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

City Clerk

Jay V. Kahn, Mayor

ORDINANCE 0-2024-23

CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Four

AN ORDINANCE Juneteenth Exception To Parking Regulations

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

That Chapter 94 "TRAFFIC, PARKING AND PUBLIC WAYS" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as amended, is hereby further amended by removing the stricken text and adding the bolded text to Sec. 94-153 "Exceptions to Parking Regulations" as follows:

Sec. 94-153. - Exceptions to parking regulations.

The following vehicles and time periods shall be exempt from parking regulations as specified herein;

(1) A privately owned vehicle under the direct control of the owner while being used on official government business as authorized by RSA 265:73 or a vehicle owned by federal, state, county or municipal government shall be exempt from meter fees and established time limits.

(2) In addition to the previous section, any police or fire vehicle in the performance of duty or other vehicle providing emergency services shall be exempt from the provisions of section 94-66.

(3) While their vehicle displays an identity card issued by the clerk of court, as provided in RSA 500-A:17, jurors in attendance at Superior Court shall be exempt from meter fees and established time limits. Jurors may not park in spaces marked as 15-minute loading zones.

~~(4) A vehicle owned by a member of the city's senior citizens association and displaying a valid membership card on the dashboard, when parked in the area of Court Street from Summer Street on the west and from Mechanic Street to Union Street on the east shall be exempt from the established time limits.~~

~~(5)~~ **(4)** Consistent with the provisions of RSA 265:73 and 265:74, any motor vehicle carrying the special plates or placard issued to a person with a walking disability, while under the control of or transporting the person who qualified for the special plates or placard, shall be exempt from meter fees. Such extended vehicles shall be subject to established time limits except for parking in a two-hour zone shall be permitted for three hours.

~~(6)~~ **(5)** During the period seven days immediately preceding the Christmas Day holiday each year meter fees will be suspended at every metered space in the city, however established time limits will remain in effect.

~~(7)~~ **(6)** During the period starting the day of Thanksgiving and extending through the entire Holiday Weekend each year meter fees will be suspended at every metered space in the city, however established time limits will remain in effect.

~~(8)~~ **(7)** On the following holidays and observed holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King/Jonathan Daniels Day, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day and Christmas Day, each year meter fees will be suspended at every metered space in the city, however established time limits will remain in effect.

(8) On Juneteenth National Independence Day, a federal holiday, each year, meter fees will be suspended at every metered space in the city, however established time limits will remain in effect.

(9) During any defined period where suspended by a vote of the city council under such terms and conditions as it may require.

In City Council November 7, 2024.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

City Clerk

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Jay V. Kahn, Mayor