



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
March 26, 2025
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Carl Jacobs - Installation of a Peace Pole - Central Square
2. Councilor Jones - Request for City Council Communication to State of New Hampshire - Proposed Roundabout at Rt 9 and Whitcombs Mill Road
3. Continued Discussion: Proposal to Add the Necessary Infrastructure to Accommodate Banners Across Main Street
4. Monadnock View Cemetery: Section B New Cremation Lots - Parks and Recreation Director
5. Verbal Update: Former Findings Property and Keene Skate Park Project - Parks and Recreation Director
6. Verbal Update: Downtown Infrastructure Project - Public Works Director
7. Verbal Update: Route 9 Restriping Project - Public Works Director
8. Proposal for Installation of a Stop Sign on Wilber Street at Water Street - City Engineer

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Honorable Mayor and City Council

3 Washington Street, Keene, NH

March 17, 2025

We request that our proposal to donate, install, and provide maintenance of a Peace Pole on Central Square be brought back before the MSFI committee.

On July 18, 2024, the City Council voted to approve the MSFI report recommending that we work with City staff to incorporate a Peace Pole into a renovated fountain design. After considerable effort, we now understand the Peace Pole will not be a part of the fountain.

Our original submission was for a free-standing monument. Cameron Tease of Keene Rotary, Phil Wyzik of Elm City Rotary, Tom Julius of Monadnock Interfaith Project, and Carl Jacobs resident are ready and eager to continue our work to achieve that.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Carl Jacobs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Jacobs', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peace Pole Cover Letter

Honorable Mayor and City Council

3 Washington Street, Keene, NH

We propose to donate, install, and provide for the maintenance of a Peace Pole on Central Square in Keene.

The Elm City Rotary, The Keene Rotary, the Monadnock Interfaith Project are collaborating on this effort. Other organizations and individuals are also working in support of the effort. We want the Peace Pole to be a distinctive and inspirational monument representing "a symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family."

Attached is a description of our proposal. We have tried to follow the *City of Keene Public Arts Guidelines and Procedures* in the attachment.

We understand we will be working with a Project Manager who will work with us to move the project forward.

Thank you for your service.

Peace



Cameron Tease

President, Keene Rotary Club



Phil Wyzik

President, Elm City Rotary Club



Tom Julius

Chair, Monadnock Interfaith Project



Carl Jacobs

Keene Citizen

Public Art Proposal to Mayor and Council

Partners

A grass roots committee proposes to donate and permanently install a Peace Pole on Central Square Keene. The Elm City Rotary, The Keene Rotary, and the Monadnock Interfaith Project are leading the effort. The committee vision is for the Peace Pole to be a distinctive and inspirational monument representing a “symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family.”

One of the central themes of Rotary International is creation of peace. Rotary clubs in communities all over the world have installed Peace Poles like the one we propose.

Description

We propose an eight-foot high, four-sided granite monument. It will be a pyramid topped six-foot obelisk on a two-foot granite base. A photo below shows what we propose for the granite.

One side will carry the message **May Peace Prevail On Earth** written vertically in English. The other three sides will have the word **Peace** written in many languages, including languages commonly spoken in Keene and languages that reflect the origins of the people of Keene.

Location

The installation will take up only the area covered by the base.

The committee suggests that the location of the monument be visually symmetrical to the Civil War monument, such as on the other (north) side of Central Square. This location will provide easy public access and promote close inspection of how Peace is said throughout the world.

Public Safety

There are no public safety concerns associated with the Peace Pole. As with other structures on Central Square, people may want to attempt to climb it.

Installation and Maintenance

The monument will be constructed and installed by Keene Monument Company. They have installed many similar monuments at sites around Keene.

The installation will be permanent. Granite has proven to be durable.

The monument will require minimal maintenance other than trimming the lawn around it. Occasional cleaning may be needed.

No utility hook ups are needed.

Reflection of City History and Culture

Keene has a long history of seeking to live peacefully in community with our neighbors, both here and abroad. Our veterans fought to bring peace. The fountain on Central Square is dedicated to the City's partnership with Einbeck, Germany.

It would be naïve to assume that an object like a Peace Pole, or the effort behind its creation, will be enough to settle the conflicts that are present in communities, regions or nations throughout our fragile planet. However, a symbol of peace is a proclamation, a call to unity, a matter for education and action.

The Peace Pole enhances the understanding that life is not only about armed conflict. It is a positive statement against nothing, but for peace.

Aesthetics

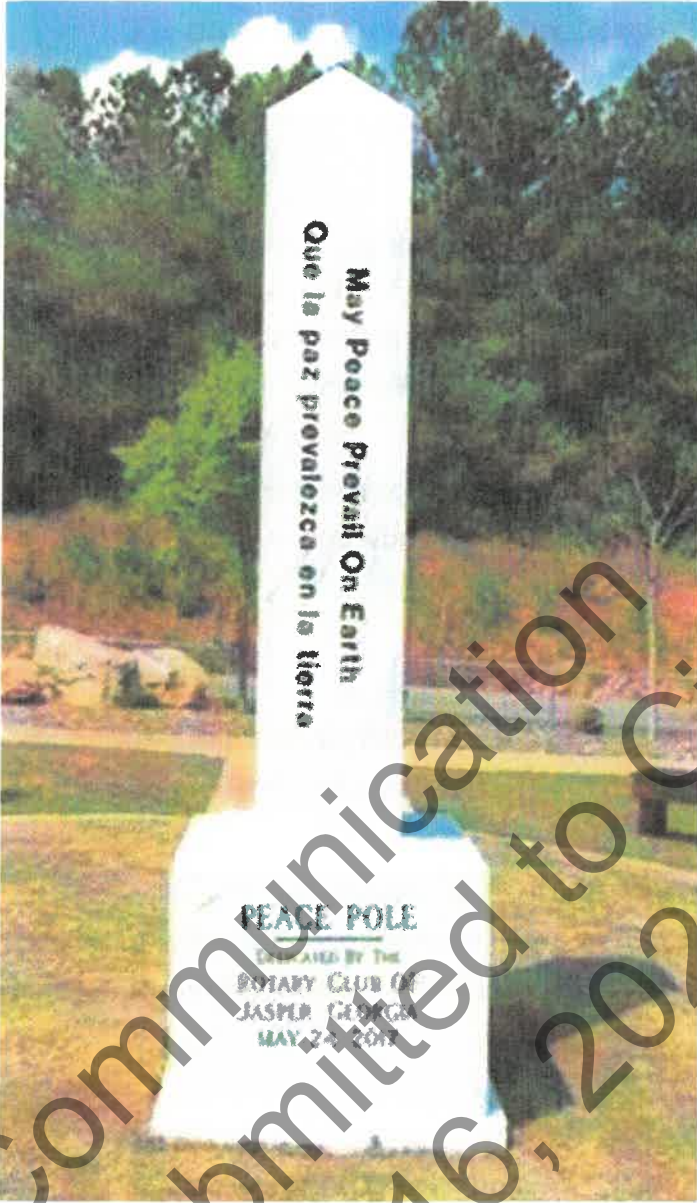
The Peace Pole will harmonize with other existing monuments on Central Square in its simplicity and materials.

Costs

All costs of installation will be met from fund raising efforts of the groups giving the monument to the City.

They will provide insurance coverage as required by the City during installation of the Peace Pole.

They will donate an agreed upon amount to a Capital Reserve Account for maintenance and upkeep of the monument.



March 17, 2025

FROM: Councilor Philip M. Jones



TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Intersection of Rt 9 and Whitcomb's Mill Road

Recommendation:

Recommend that the Keene City Council authorize the drafting of a communication to the State of New Hampshire, in a form deemed appropriate by the City Council, proposing a roundabout be constructed at the intersection of Route 9 and Whitcombs Mill Road.

BACKGROUND:

I am requesting the City of Keene to send a communication to the State of New Hampshire proposing a roundabout be constructed at the intersection of Rt 9 and Whitcombs Mill Road.

- The present intersection is already considered to be a failed intersection
- There is soon to be a 12 unit residential complex constructed on Whitcombs Mill Road. This complex will add hundreds of daily vehicle trips to the intersection.
- The intersection is commonly used by the employees, guests, visitors, service vehicles and delivery vehicles accessing the 73 apartment Langdon Place assisted living community.
- All delivery trucks, service vehicles, school buses, and emergency vehicles servicing Whitcombs Mill Road must access via Route 9 as they are prohibited from accessing from the north due to a small restrictive weight bridge.
- There recently has been a high number of tragic and fatal accidents along this stretch of Route 9 connecting Keene to Brattleboro. Being that a roundabout is a traffic calming device it could help reduce the volume of tragic accidents.
- There is a highly desirable need for improvements at this intersection. This intersection has no turning lanes, narrow shoulders, steep terrain, excessive curvature, and offers limited visibility.

- A few years back the state installed a roundabout a half mile east of this location at the Route 9 and Base Hill Road intersection. This roundabout significantly reduced the incidence of tragic accidents and was welcomed with acclaim by local residents.
- A September 14, 2023, editorial of The Keene Sentinel called for safety improvements at the Route 9 intersection with Whitcombs Mill Road.

I ask that a communication concerning this subject be sent to NH DOT Commissioner William Cass, NH Administrative Services Commissioner Charles Arlinghaus, NH Public Works Director Theodore Kupper, and NH Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn. Please copy Governor Kelly Ayotte, Executive Councilor Karen Liot Hill, and the Southwest Regional Planning Commission.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.4.

Meeting Date: March 26, 2025

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Carrah Fisk-Hennessey, Parks and Recreation Director

Through: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager

Subject: **Monadnock View Cemetery: Section B New Cremation Lots - Parks and Recreation Director**

Recommendation:

That the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee recommend City Council approval of additional cremation lots in Section B of the Monadnock View Cemetery.

Attachments:

None

Background:

In November 2024, the Trustees approved an expansion of cremation burial opportunities within the existing layout of Monadnock View Cemetery Section B, providing a temporary solution until the larger-scale cemetery expansion later this year. The approved plan for Section B – 27 lots in a 65'x20' space – is a thoughtful small-scale expansion to accommodate the current needs of our community while maintaining the serene and respectful environment of the Monadnock View Cemetery.

As the weather warms this spring, City staff will be able to officially GIS map and pin mark the newly approved cremation lots in Section B. The Trustees also financed the purchase of cemetery marker pins for these 27 lots in Section B, which have been ordered and received by Keene Parks and Recreation.

Pursuant to Section 22-61 of City Code – “Development and use of lots; platting: Before any new block of a municipal cemetery is opened for the sale of lots, the director shall cause it to be platted and recorded in the city clerk’s office” – we request that MSFI recommend City Council approval of these additional cremation lots in the Monadnock View Cemetery.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.8.

Meeting Date: March 26, 2025

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Bryan Ruoff, City Engineer

Through: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager
Donald Lussier, Public Works Director

Subject: **Proposal for Installation of a Stop Sign on Wilber Street at Water Street -
City Engineer**

Recommendation:

That the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee recommend that the City Manager be directed to draft an Ordinance to add a stop sign on Wilber Street at its intersection with Water Street.

Attachments:

1. Wilber St at Water St_Stop Sign

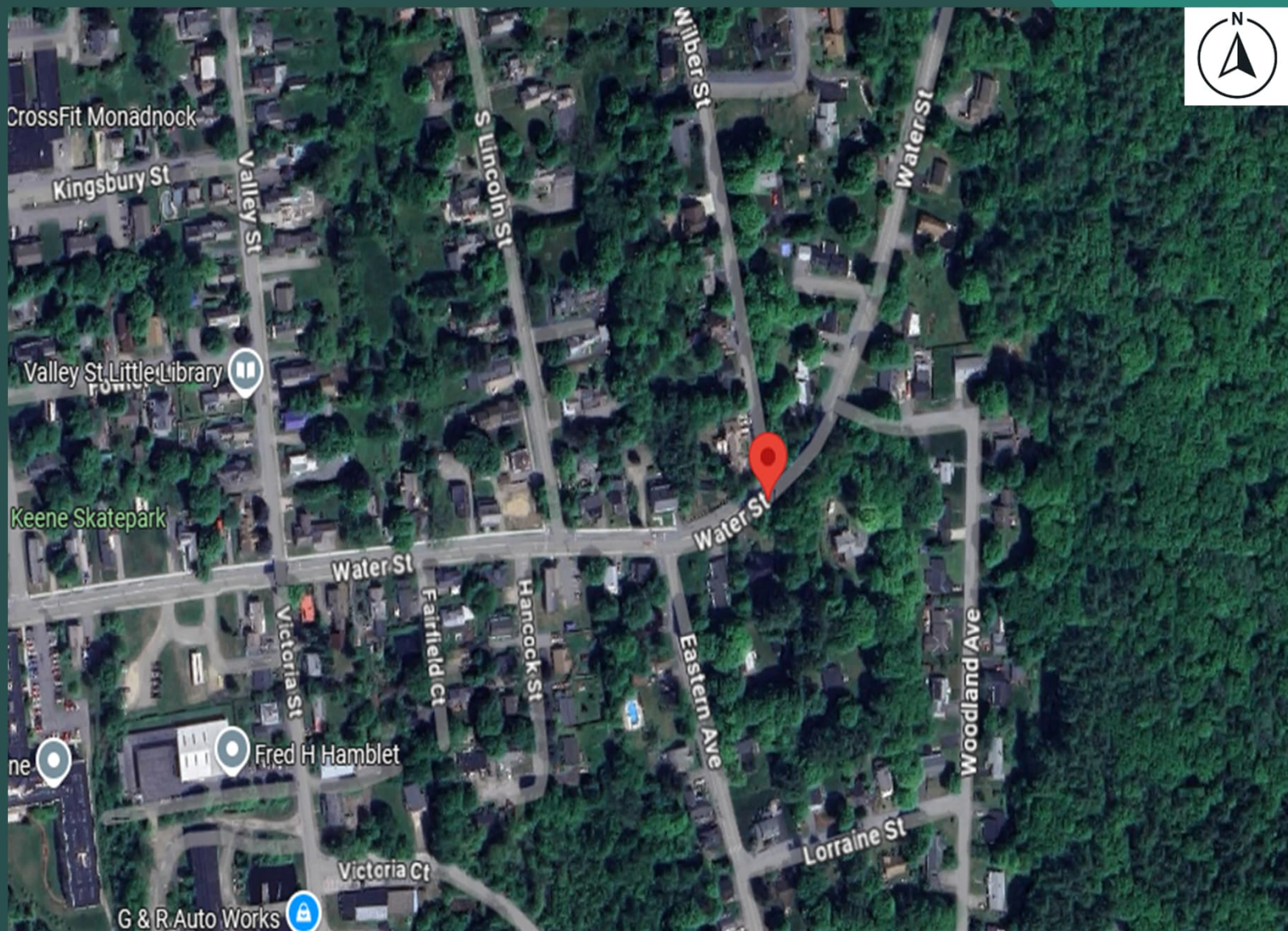
Background:

A request was received from the public to add a stop sign at the southernmost end of Wilber Street at its intersection with Water Street because of the limited line of sight to the East along Water Street. The City has adopted the Federal "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" as our standard for signs and traffic controls. Based on the Engineering Division's review of this location, Wilber Street at this location meets the criteria for a stop sign in conformance with MUTCD section 2B.04-09B due to the obscured line of sight at this intersection looking east toward west-bound Water Street traffic.



WILBER ST AT
WATER ST

OVERHEAD VIEW





WILBER ST AT
WATER ST

INTERSECTION
VIEW LOOKING
EAST ON WATER ST

