

Bi-Monthly Town of Keene Board Meeting
October 30th, 2025
5:30 P.M. Town Hall
Meeting #20-2025
Resolutions #253-266

Board Members Present: Joe Pete Wilson Supervisor, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Robert Biesemeyer Council Members

Absent: Teresa Cheetham-Palen

Town Officials Present: Savana Li Water Superintendent, Reggie Whitney Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall HEO, Ann Whitney Town Clerk

Town Counsel Present:

Members of the Public: Roger Allen, Janelle Schwartz, Glenn Glover

Call to Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M. by Joe Pete Wilson

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 9TH, 2025 MONTHLY BOARD MINUTES AND THE OCTOBER 6TH BUDGET WORKSHOP
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 253-2025
INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY
RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the October 9th, 2025 Monthly Minutes and October 6th, 2025 Workshop.
Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:
AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: Ann Hough

Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Glover from Bark Eater Trails Alliance, and East Branch Community Trails, came to thank the Town for the support the Town has given them. Glen also wanted to update the Town on what they have done:

-Opened 4 new trails, 2 miles of trails.

-They also created a skills trail, which is kind of a 5th trail, it is a playground with little technical trail features that kids and/or new riders will be able to have fun on.

-BETA has applied for a smart growth grant and hoping they get this then they will be able to complete all the work. In that, application is extending the parking area, finishing the trails, and working with DOT to ensure safety crossing over 9N.

-In 2026 they will be building a series of jump lines that kids are excited about or they will be building two more trails up to the height of the project.

Mr. Biesmeyer asked one question and that was if there were problems with restroom facilities.

Mr. Glover stated they were lucky they had a donor step up to furnish a Porta John.

Mr. Glover then added the trailhead for the Jackrabbit is going extremely well.

The Town took care of the clearing, grading, and surfacing of the parking lot, and BETA has taken responsibility for clearing off the trail itself. The entire project will be done before the snow flies.

Mr. Wilson added that the Highway did the work and a donor paid making this a revenue generator for the Town. It was a good partnership all the way around.

Mr. Wilson then reminded everyone that we have a Public Hearing set for November 6th, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. for the 2026 Budget.

Mr. Wilson then shared that the Ausable Freshwater Center has received a 2025 NYS Adaption and Innovation Award for their East Branch Restoration Plan. They would not have received this without the Town of Keene and Jay's support.

Town Operations

- **Town Clerk:**

Ms. Whitney stated she had provided the Board with a letter from someone looking to purchase two plots in Norton Brook Cemetery.

Ms. Hough asked if we had regulations on being a property owner.

Ms. Whitney stated yes, if they are not they can ask the Town Board.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated, in this case these people do not have any connection to the Town, only visit here and like it.

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER THIS REQUEST FOR TWO GREEN BURIAL PLOTS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 254-2025

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

Discussion: Ms. Hough asked how many have we sold since we opened the new cemetery.

Ms. Whitney stated 25 out of 100 that are marked out in the green.

Mr. Biesemeyer is apprehensive due to the fact there is limited supply. He also stated it could set a precedence for people with no connection to the Town.

Mr. Daly agrees with Bob.

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene has **denied** the request for Mr & Mrs. Buell to purchase a cemetery plot in Norton Brook Cemetery
Denied this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: None

NAYS: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

- **Highway Department:**

Mr. Whitney announced they have filled the upcoming vacant position with Norman Colliage. He also stated the new Tandem is in Plattsburgh so that should be here soon. Then he said the chipper should be here near Thanksgiving.

- **Water Department:**

Ms. Li announced:

- the new control systems are fully installed and in operation.
- the insurance payment for damages in Keene Valley has been received so we can now put that money back into the fund balance.
- both Water Districts passed their yearly DOH inspections.
- the easement agreement between the Town and KCS has been filed with the County.
- moving forward with the funding for WD #2 project
- releveling the 2025 water bills, which means we are no longer accepting water payments.

Town Discussion of Old Business:

- **Resolution for the Town of Keene hazard mitigation plan**

Mr. Wilson explained that we discussed on July 8th and approved this but it turns out the consultant rushed into the approval process so this is to amend the date of adoption to today.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE DATE OF ADOPTION FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 255-2025

**INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION,
SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2025, the Town of Keene Board adopted the Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan, in anticipation of receiving final federal approval; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) later completed their review and issued an **Approval Pending Adoption (APA)** letter for the Essex County HMP on **October 10, 2025**; and

WHEREAS, FEMA requires that jurisdictions adopt the HMP *after* the APA letter has been issued to remain eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town of Keene to formally amend the adoption date to reflect compliance with FEMA adoption requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Keene hereby:

1. **Rescinds** the prior resolution adopted on July 8, 2025 for the Essex County HMP for procedural correction.
2. **Formally adopts** the Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan as **of October 30, 2025**, following FEMA's APA designation dated October 10, 2025.
3. **Affirms** its continued commitment to implement the hazard mitigation actions and strategies outlined in the Plan, subject to funding availability and jurisdictional priorities.
4. **Recognizes** that this amendment ensures full compliance with FEMA requirements under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

- **CEF application review**

Ms. Hough stated they met with Janelle Schwartz, Executive Director of Little Peaks. Janelle clarified that the request is for a recreational and tourism effort, which the CEF regulations require.

ATTACHMENT #1-202025

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LITTLE PEAKS COMMUNITY
ENHANCEMENT FUND REQUEST
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 256-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION,
SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER**

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene has approved to fund the \$10,000 request from Little Peaks Preschool & Early Childhood Center from the Community Enhancement Fund.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

New Business:

- **Approve a 911 address:**

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PENNY LANE WAY

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 257-2025

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene has approved a 911 address, Penny Lane Way.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

- **Approve Yearbook Ad for Keene Central School**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AD FOR THE KEENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
YEARBOOK**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 258-2025

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene has approved a \$75.00 ad in the Keene Central School yearbook.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

Executive Session:

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL
DISCUSSION**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 259-2025
INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR
ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH
RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene entered into Executive Session at
6:00 P.M.,
Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:
AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Robert Biesemeyer
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WHERE NO
DECISIONS WERE MADE
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 260-2025
INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH
RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene return from Executive Session at 6:19
P.M.
Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:
AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough
NAYS: None

Budget Resolutions:

- **Resolution to Transfer Funds:**

RESOLUTIONS TO TRANSFER FUNDS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 261-2025
INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION,
SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY
Resolution to transfer funds within the General Fund:
\$3,000.00 out of 1990.4 Contingency CE
\$3,000.00 into 1490.01 Public Works PS
\$6,000.00 out of 1990.4 Contingency CE
\$6,000.00 into 1610.01 Central Services PS
\$500.00 out of 1990.4 Contingency CE
\$500.00 into 1620.1 Buildings PS
\$10,000.00 out of 1720.01 Parking Lots and Garage Appropriation
\$10,000.00 5650.01 Hiker Parking PS
\$750.00 out of 5650.02 Hiker Parking EQ
\$7500.00 into 5650.4 Hiker Parking CE
\$911.07 out of 7140.01 Playgrounds Recreation PS

\$911.07 into 7180.1 Recreational Facility PS

\$38.12 out of 8020.2 Planning EQ

\$38.12 into 8020.4 Planning CE

Within the Highway Fund:

N/A

Within the Library Fund:

N/A

Within the SW#1:

N/A

Within the SW#2:

N/A

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene authorize the transfers of funds.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

- **Resolution to amend the 2025 budget:**

RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE 2025 BUDGET

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 262-2025

INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION,

SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY

GENERAL FUND

N/A

HIGHWAY FUND

N/A

LIBRARY FUND

Resolution to increase line #7410.4 Library CE by \$28,000.00 to be transferred from 909.01 Fund Balance. For new heating system. Will replace with Grant monies.

WATER DISTRICT SW 1

N/A

WATER DISTRICT SW 2

N/A

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene accept the budget amendments for 2025

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene authorize the transfers of funds.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

Supervisors Report:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER SUPERVISORS REPORT

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 263-2025

**INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION,
SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene has approved the September 2025
Supervisors Report.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

Audit Bills:

RESOLUTION TO PAY THE ONLINE BILLS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 264-2025

**INTRODUCED BY ROB WERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

RESOLVED that the Town Board approve to pay the online bills.

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 772 THROUGH 821

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 265-2025

**INTRODUCED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

RESOLVED that the Town Board approve the following bills and prepaid bills.
Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 772 through 821, 2025 totaling \$140,463.50 as
follows:

General Fund Bills \$28,014.67

Highway Fund Bills \$78,939.42

Library \$22,720.47

Water District #1 \$1,208.46

Water District #2 \$8,877.86

Roost Enhancement Tax \$702.62

Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:
AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough
NAYS: None

Adjourn:

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 266-2025
INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY
RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene has completed all business and
hereby adjourns the Regular Meeting at 6:23 P.M.,
Duly adopted this 30th day of October 2025 by the following vote:
AYES: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough
NAYS: None

Ann Whitney
Town Clerk
Town of Keene



Little Peaks Preschool & Early Childhood Center

32 Both Meadow Trail, PO Box 261, Keene, New York 12942 | www.little-peaks.org

TO: Town Council Members Ann Hough and Bob Biesemeyer
Town Supervisor Joe Pete Wilson
FROM: Janelle A. Schwartz, Executive Director, Little Peaks
RE: Community Project Grant Proposal – Town of Keene Community Enhancement Fund
DATE: 10/17/2025

Dear Council Members and Supervisor Wilson,

Thank you for the opportunity to resubmit our proposal following our productive conversation on October 15, 2025.

Little Peaks Preschool & Early Childhood Center respectfully requests funding from the Town of Keene Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) to support a mission-critical project: the implementation of a shared, values-driven curriculum led by Education Support Specialist Dr. Katherine Norman. This grant would serve as part of the “first-dollars-in” needed to unlock a generous “last-dollars-in” challenge grant from The Cloudsplitter Foundation.

Request: \$10,000

This request aligns with CEF priorities outlined in the 2023 Essex County Occupancy Tax Revenues Guidance and adopted by the Keene Town Council on 2/13/24, particularly with regard to strengthening the local economy, supporting tourism, and enhancing community infrastructure.

Why This Project Matters

Economic Impact:

Little Peaks is one of Keene’s larger and fastest-growing year-round employers. Of our currently 21 staff members, 60% live in Keene and/or send their children to Keene Central School (KCS). We employ 3 recent KCS graduates and offer competitive wages, health insurance, paid time off and training, professional development support, and other family-friendly benefits. Our employment opportunities support working families and help retain young, as well as experienced, professionals in the region.

Board of Directors

Lissa Goldstein, Chair • Tori Oliver, Vice Chair • Fritz Sabbow, Treasurer •
Pam Gothner, Secretary • Rachel Carter • Emily Eisman • Emily Evatt • Corinne White

Tourism & Recreation Support:

Our new summer drop-in program—launched in 2025—offers flexible, high-quality child care for visiting families during July and August. This past summer, 20 families took advantage of this resource; 4 families have already asked to put down deposits for next summer; 5 families continued from summer into the 2025 - 2026 school year, creating an excellent pipeline from summer enrollment to preschool enrollment to KCS enrollment; 1 family relocated to Keene earlier than planned due to this program's availability; and we turned away approximately 10 families because demand exceeded the availability of open seats. With Dr. Norman's guidance, the summer drop-in program is designed to align with our new core curriculum while directly supporting the town's tourism- and recreation-based economies.

Mission Alignment:

Little Peaks is rooted in the arts, literacy, and the natural world—closely mirroring Keene's identity as a recreation-focused community. Our curriculum fosters a deep connection between children and the outdoors, ensuring that the next generation grows up with the values and skills to engage meaningfully with the Adirondacks. This project is central to our ability to expand this mission in a sustainable, measurable way.

Why Now

We undertook this special project in response to a pressing need. The Cloudsplitter Foundation's investment affirms the vision and potential of this project. A \$10,000 grant from the Town of Keene will not only help unlock additional funds; it will help ensure that Little Peaks remains a vital part of Keene's economy and community fabric.

Thank you for considering this request. We are proud to be part of Keene's continued commitment to working families and young children, to developing career pathways in young and experienced professionals, and to strengthening recreational and economic vitalities in our town.

Sincerely,



Janelle A. Schwartz, PhD
Executive Director