

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2026

by Joe Pete Wilson, Town Supervisor



Keene Community Day celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

Friday, July 3, 2026
Join us for games, food,
live music, and
fireworks.
Starts at 5:00 p.m.
Rain date, Sunday, July 5

Community Master Planning

The Town of Keene Strategic Plan was adopted June 8, 2021 and now that 5 years have passed, it's time to review and revise the plan. In the process of developing the plan, many issues were identified but not addressed and many more have come into focus in the 5 years since the plan was adopted.

The stakeholder driven process we used to develop the 2021 plan was very effective. Over 100 people volunteered their time to generate ideas and turn those ideas into a focused plan. Community members have the best understanding of the issues and are motivated to frame clear solutions and goals that fit Keene. The kickoff meeting was held at the Keene Valley Library on May 13 and now we are working to recruit a steering committee to guide the process.

Issues that we should explore during this process include planning for the sustainability of volunteer emergency and fire services; sidewalks in both hamlets; the community center; and climate resiliency projects such as our road and culvert resiliency plan. The goal of the stra-

tegic planning process is to generate ideas for issues like the community center, for which one plan has already been submitted. All ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Keene Valley Water District #2 Well Initiative

The project to drill a new well and update our pump house equipment is moving ahead. The finance package of grants and loans is in place and this enables us to plan our first big step: drilling the new well. We already have a test well in place and it verified we have the volume of water we need for the production well. We have a drilling contractor under contract and are working on mobilizing them to the site. As soon as we have a date confirmed, we will let everyone know. This project includes removing the old wells that are on the edge of the school playing field and restoring the area.



Remote Worker Gathering

The Town of Keene is partnering with the Adirondack Community Foundation to host a remote worker gathering at the Keene Valley Library on July 22 at 5 p.m. This event's purpose is to help celebrate July 26 as Remote Worker Month in the Adirondacks and it is open to all location-flexible

workers, tech professionals, creative freelancers, hybrid employees, consultants, and anyone interested in connecting with this community. Please join us for this opportunity to talk, share ideas, and connect with other local professionals.

Youth Commission Summer Camp

Summer camp begins June 29 and runs until August 14. It looks like another great program of swimming, trips, and activities. Applications can be picked up at the town hall.

Community Enhancement Fund

Residents and local non-profits may apply for grants through the Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) to undertake projects that benefit residents, visitors, and/or support the recreation economy. Regular operating expenses do not qualify. Summer applications are due July 31. Funds are awarded September 1. These funds are available through the Occupancy Tax collected on lodging and short term rentals in Keene and Keene Valley. Contact our office or view our website for further details: townofkeeneny.com/apply-for-a-community-enhancement-fund-grant/

Traffic Safety Study

The town received Department of Transportation funding for a pedestrian traffic safety study thanks to Molly Lawrence and her work at Essex County Public Health. The goal of this study is to develop recommendations for how we can improve pedestrian and bicycle safety through Keene and Keene Valley, with an emphasis on planning for rebuilding our sidewalks to be safer, wider, and ADA compliant. The study will also incorporate recommendations for managing hiker parking and traffic calming measures. ♦



Upcoming Town Board Meetings:

Note: July and August meeting schedule varies.

JULY:

Tuesday, July 14, 5:30 p.m., regular meeting; Wednesday, July 29, 9:00 a.m., invoice approval

AUGUST:

Tuesday, August 11, 5:30 p.m., regular meeting; Wednesday, August 26, 9:00 a.m., invoice approval

SEPTEMBER:

Tuesday September 8, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, September 22, 5:30 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Town Hall and open to the public.

Town Board:

Joe Pete Wilson, *Town Supervisor*, Teresa Palen, *Deputy Supervisor*, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

10892 NYS Route 9N, Keene, NY 1294 • 518-576-4444 • townofkeeneny.com

Mon.–Thurs., 7:00 am – 3:30 pm