

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
Thursday, June 10th, 2021
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernst Oidtmann (Chair), Sarah Riley (Vice Chair), Erling Heistad, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy, Bruce James, Barbara Hirai (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Johnson, Darla Bruno (Alt.), Suellen Balestra (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

- Mr. Mark Goodwin reviewed the meeting procedures for remote meetings and NH RSA 91-A “Right to Know” requirements. A Roll Call of Commission Members who participated remotely are listed above.
- Chair Oidtmann appointed Barbara Hirai as a regular voting member in place of Chris Johnson.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 13th, 2021

Mr. Heistad MOVED to approve the May 13th, 2021 Minutes as amended and presented in the June 10th, 2021 agenda packet.

Seconded by Ms. Riley.

Since there was confusion over the version of the minutes emailed to the Commission, Mr. Goodwin suggested holding off the approval of those minutes until the next meeting when the minutes would be sent out without prior corrections. They should be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Lacey expressed concern that in the minutes there was no mention that an endangered species of plant had been found on the property owned by Dartmouth College. He requested that it be put in the May 13th, 2021 minutes.

Mr. Heistad and Ms. Riley withdrew their Motion and second to approve the minutes.

3. PERMIT REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. Discussion Re: Amending Rules of Procedure to Add Rules of Decorum-Chair Oidtmann explained that the proposed rules were addressed to the Cemetery Board of Trustees. Mr. Goodwin gave a quick background as to why the Rules of Decorum were before the Conservation Commission. He explained that the City Manager sent them out as a suggestion to add to each Committee or Board’s Rules of Procedure. Discussion was had among the Commission members about their thoughts and concerns about the Rules of Decorum and adding them to their Rules of Procedure.

The Commission expressed that they felt the Rules of Decorum that were presented to them were a bit confrontational and would like to see a less confrontational version to review. They were not opposed to adding Rules of Decorum to their Rules of Procedure but suggested something more similar to the Greg Lewis rules of engagement that had been displayed in the old council chambers.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors: Mr. Goodwin gave an update on the bog bridge building project. He said it was a huge success with many volunteers coming out to help build the bridges including many from the Rotary Clubs of Lebanon and Hanover and a few from the Mountain Biking Association.

Mr. Goodwin reported that the Hanover Conservancy has a trail/hiking challenge program. They have asked if they could use Chamber's Memorial Preserve property for part of their challenge. The Conservancy has temporarily put some small signs up for the program on the property.

He also reported that the Ranger was coming up to speed on Lebanon's properties and they have spoken about fixing the boy scout bridge at Boston Lot. They have also worked on a custom phone app for his use when he is working on the trails.

Ms. Hirai said she thought an app like that would be good for widespread use by the Stewards and Trail Monitors to report on the same system. She also indicated that she thought that Stewards may not feel valued or communicated with on the work they do or on work that may need to be done. She would like the Ranger to work more closely with the Stewards.

Mr. Goodwin responded to her comments and said the Ranger would be getting into contact with the Stewards as part of his acclimating to his new job. He said the program was still new and they were still working out how things would go.

More conversation was had among the Commission members about how communication should take place between Stewards, the Conservation Commission, and the Ranger and what should be communicated between the parties.

The Commission members also talked about wanting to review all the properties that they had, one by one, so that they could become familiar with them and what the easements said about each property. They also spoke about reviewing their policies that guide the operations. They decided that each meeting they could review a property, including maps, deeds, easements, and management plans. The decision was made that Baker Crossing would be the first property the Commission would review.

Discussion was had about how different issues that are discovered on conservation property were reported and dealt with.

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group: Mr. Lacey explained that he re-routed a trail at Baker's Crossing away from the bank where it was eroding and dangerous. Public works was not mowing the trail through the field, so he walks it every day.

Mr. Lacey said wild chervil was rampant in Vermont up until the bridge crossing the river on the interstate. There are a few instances of it popping up in Lebanon. He said the sites he looked at in 2014 still looked the same but wanted to be made aware of any new growths occurring in the City of Lebanon.

Ms. Riley reported that a lot of garlic mustard was pulled in the City of Lebanon including on Icehouse Road and the rail trail to the Enfield Town line.

C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities: Ms. Riley spoke about the Connecticut River Conservancy Citizen Science project. She will try to obtain more information about it. She said it had to do with locating Sea Lamprey nests in the river.

6. OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Hirai said she would like to get more information on mitigation sites and how to identify them and what criteria would need to be met for the State of New Hampshire to consider property a mitigation area. She thought that developing a list of potential mitigation sites within the City of Lebanon would be beneficial to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Goodwin explained how the process could go in the future to figure out what a good mitigation property could be.

Mr. Lacey left the meeting at 8:21 PM.
Chair Oidtmann left the meeting.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Baker's Crossing was added as an agenda item for the next meeting. Update to mitigation parameters was also added to the upcoming agenda.

8. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

*Mr. Heistad MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM.
Seconded by Ms. Almy.*

Roll Call Vote:

Susan Almy, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Barbara Hirai, and Bruce James all voting Yea.
None voted Nay.

** The Vote on the MOTION passed (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara R. Higgins
Recording Secretary