



LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 - 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. August 12, 2021
 - 3. Permit Review**
 - A. None
 - 4. Study Items**
 - A. Goodwin Conservation Property Bridge Update
 - B. Linking Lands Alliance: Organization's web site for additional information
<https://www.linkinglandsalliance.org/>
 - C. Cole Property Overview Discussion
 - D. ADA Discussion
 - 5. Committee Reports**
 - A. **Reports from other committees:**
 - Conservation Lands Monitors (Various Members) (10 Minutes)
 - Lebanon Biodiversity Group (D. Lacey) (10 Minutes)
 - Workshops & Educational Opportunities (Various Members) (10 Minutes)
 - 6. Other Business**
 - 7. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. None
 - 8. Open to the Public**
 - 9. Adjournment**

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public that wish to attend remotely may do so by going to [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://www.lebanonnh.gov/live) where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupts virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

**Agenda
Conservation Commission
September 9, 2021**

**Agenda Item #2A
Approval of Minutes**

August 12, 2021

DRAFT

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
Thursday, August 12th, 2021
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernst Oidtmann (Chair), Sarah Riley (Vice Chair), Erling Heistad, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy, Chris Johnson, Darla Bruno (Alt.) Barbara Hirai (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce James, Suellen Balestra (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM

- Chair Oidtmann appointed Barbara Hirai as a regular voting member in place of Donald Lacey and Darla Bruno for Bruce James.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 8th, 2021

***Mr. Heistad MOVED* to approve the July 8th, 2021 Minutes as presented in the August 12th, 2021 agenda packet and amended.**

Seconded by Ms. Almy.

Amendments:

Move Suellen Balestra to Members Absent

Throughout the minutes Change “Ms. Almay” to “Ms. Almy”

Throughout the minutes change “Barb” to “Barbara”

Throughout the minutes Change “Lost” to “LOST”

Page 2, Line 43, Change “Vanderpole” to “Van de Poll”

Page2, Line 48, Change “Conservancy” to “Conservation”

Page 2, Line 48, Remove the first “4)” and add it to “Number #3.”

Page 3, Line 4, Change “uses” to “cares for”

Page 3, Line 4 “go on” to “access”

Page 3, Line 3&4 Make a new paragraph between those lines

Page 3, Line 6 Add “but the reopened river trail may endanger the biodiversity of the riverbank” after “to that field”

Page 3, Line 26 Change “is” to “it”

Page 3, Line 32 Replace “if the Commission has the properties” with “since the Conservation Commission currently have the conservation properties”

Page 3, Line 43 Change “water” to “river”

Page 3, Line 43 Remove “it is a good idea to have the path parallel to the bank and setback” and replace with “it is important to maintain a trail and establish it back from the shore.”

1 Page 4, Line 2 Capitalize "Cooperative Extension"

2 Page 4, Line 8 Change "Rainey" to "Ranie"

3 Page 4, Lines 31 & 32 Change "In the past, the process has been" to "The formal process is to"

5 * *The Vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).*

7 3. PERMIT REVIEW:

9 A. City of Lebanon-Final review and comment on an NHDES Wetland Standard Dredge and Fill
10 Application (Major Impact) associated with construction of a new multi-use path on LaHaye Drive, with a
11 total of 18,337 square feet of total permanent plus temporary wetland impacts on a 5.93-acre parcel
12 owned by Dartmouth College, under preliminary agreement for easement, located at 0 Mount Support
13 Road, Lebanon, Tax Map 10, Lot 24, Plot 200.

15 Ms. Rebecca Owens with the City of Lebanon started the presentation. She introduced Charlotte Brodie
16 and Brian Bresland with Dubois and King. Ms. Brodie explained that she was a Certified Wetland
17 Scientist in the State of New Hampshire and a Field Naturalist. She gave details on the LaHaye Drive
18 project. She explained that there would be construction of a 10-foot-wide multi-use path along the north
19 edge of LaHaye Drive between Route 120 and Mt. Support Road. The City of Lebanon was the
20 applicant. The purpose of the path was to safely convey bicycle and pedestrian traffic within the LaHaye
21 Drive corridor. The path would connect to the existing sidewalk at Mt. Support Road, south of the project
22 area, to the existing sidewalk along Centerra Parkway to the east.

24 Ms. Brodie showed a map of the wetland impact plans and explained the lines on the map to the
25 Commission and the work to be done to build the multi-use path. Ms. Brodie spoke about the Northern
26 Long-Eared Bat habitat trees that were reviewed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She explained that
27 since the number of trees that would be impacted were low there were a few, simple mitigation measures
28 suggested by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

30 The chain linked fence that had originally been proposed to run along part of the multi-use trail was
31 changed to a split rail fence to allow wildlife to pass through. A summary of the environmental resources
32 and impacts were presented to the Commission which included the Northern-Long Eared Bat's summer
33 habitat and a NH rare species plant, the Barren Strawberry. It was explained what kind of mitigation
34 would take place for each. There would also be an in-lieu fee paid to the NH Aquatic Resource
35 Mitigation Fund for the wetland impacts.

37 Conservation Commission members asked questions which were answered by Ms. Brodie and Ms.
38 Owens. Ms. Brodie presented a slide showing the responses to the NHDES wetland pre-application
39 meeting comments and went over it. Discussion was had on the time frame of which the Conservation
40 Commission had to come up with a piece of property to be used for mitigation of the wetlands being
41 impacted.

43 Mr. Donald Lacey joined the meeting at approximately 7:30 PM.

44 Conversation was had about mitigation projects versus in-lieu of fees for wetland impacts. Discussion
45 also took place on the Barren Strawberry and the mitigation that will take place to lessen the impact to the
46 plant.

1 **Ms. Almy MOVED** that Lebanon Conservation Commission recommend approval by DES of the
2 **Wetland Standard Dredge and Fill application (Major Impact)** associated with construction of a
3 **new multi-use path on LaHaye Drive**, with a total of 18,337 square feet of total permanent plus
4 **temporary wetland impacts on a 5.93-acre parcel owned by Dartmouth College**, under preliminary
5 **agreement for easement, located at 0 Mount Support Road, Lebanon, Tax Map 10, Lot 24, Plot 200**
6 **with the following conditions:** 1) That the trees not be removed until the ground is frozen. 2) That
7 **the slope of the path be seeded with a native conservation mix or appropriate wildflowers.** 3) That
8 **the three areas that will contain rip rap will be, as expected, covered over with a vegetative matting.**
9 **Seconded by Mr. Heistad.**

10
11 **Roll Call Vote:**

12 **Susan Almy, Erling Heistad, Donald Lacey, Ernst Oidtmann, Chris Johnson, and Darla Bruno all**
13 **voting Yea.**

14 **Sarah Riley voted Nay.**

15
16 *** The Vote on the MOTION passed (6-1).**

17
18 **4. STUDY ITEMS:**

19
20 **A. Chapter 134 Scenic Road & the Role of the Con Com-** Vice Chair Riley said there was a meeting of
21 the Planning Board that she attended where there was an issue pertaining to scenic roads. She asked the
22 Planning Board if the scenic road issue should have come before the Conservation Commission? She
23 believed that the Planning Board did not think the issue needed to come before the Conservation
24 Commission. It was discussed that the Conservation Commission should have been notified of the scenic
25 road issue. Vice Chair Riley read Chapter 134 to the Commission members. The Planning Board will
26 notify the Conservation Commission from now on.

27
28 **B. Chambers Memorial Preserve Property Overview Discussion-** Vice Chair Riley gave an overview
29 of Chambers Memorial Preserve. She gave the property's location and explained the history of the
30 property and how the property had been donated. The property was protected in 1973 in collaboration
31 with the Hanover Conservation Council which is now the Hanover Conservancy. In 1997 the ownership
32 of the property was passed from the CRWC to the City of Lebanon and the conservation easement was
33 passed from the CRWC to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

34
35 Discussion was had about the old horse road on the property. Vice Chair Riley went on to tell the
36 Commission about rare plants on the property, botanical richness, and tress that could be found on the
37 property.

38
39 There was evidence of deer roaming the property. The property is a great habitat for amphibians and
40 salamanders. Many froglets and toadlets have also been observed and there is a kettle pond on the
41 property. Vice Chair Riley has also seen turtles on the property.

42
43 There is a plaque, rope swing, and a bench on the property, as well as a possible horse road. The property
44 could use signage and work with erosion happening on the property, and invasive plants. The
45 Commission discussed how to get better signage up on the property. Discussion also took place about the
46 different places' erosion was happening on the property, protecting younger trees from being browsed by
47 deer, and what kind of invasive species were found on the property. The Commission also discussed
48 whether the field at Chambers should be mowed or not.

1 **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

2
3 **A. Conservation Lands Monitors:** Mr. Heistad said that Signal Hill was cleared of all dropped down
4 trees.

5
6 *Ms. Riley MOVED to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.*

7 *Seconded by Mr. Heistad.*

8
9 **Roll Call Vote:**

10 Susan Almy, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Ernst Oidtmann, and Chris Johnson all
11 voting Yea.

12 Darla Bruno voted Nay.

13
14 ** The Vote on the MOTION passed (6-1).*

15
16 Mr. Goodwin said the Ranger wrote an update on his work on the properties and Mr. Goodwin said he
17 would share the information at the next meeting. Chair Oidtmann said there was a dead Birch on a trail
18 on Farnum Hill which people could get around it. Vice Chair Riley said there were several trees down at
19 Two Rivers.

20
21 Ms. Hirai said that the Stewards were not using the forms that were set up for them. The Commission
22 discussed a new program that the City of Lebanon was working on, and Mr. Goodwin thought things
23 would be heading that way as far as reporting problems on the trails.

24
25 **B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group: None**

26
27 **C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities:** Vice Chair Riley told the Commission that a
28 workshop was being put on by Taking Action for Wildlife and that Mr. Lacey, Ms. Hirai, and Vice Chair
29 Riley were signed up to participate and would be getting training to learn how to better engage the
30 community in actions to protect wildlife and natural resources.

31
32 **6. OTHER BUSINESS:** Chair Oidtmann asked about current use fees. Mr. Goodwin will ask the
33 Finance Department for that information, again.

34
35 **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

36
37 **8. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** None

38
39 **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

40
41 **The meeting automatically adjourned at 9:30 PM.**

42
43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Barbara R. Higgins
45 Recording Secretary

**Agenda
Conservation Commission
September 9, 2021**

**Agenda Item #4A
Study Items**

**Goodwin Conservation
Property Bridge Update**



The snowmobile bridge that was destroyed by Irene



The proposed bridge replacement design

This is the Collette Trail Bridge located in Enfield

**Agenda
Conservation Commission
September 9, 2021**

**Agenda Item #4D
Study Items**

ADA Discussion

With inclusivity in mind, efforts are underway to make the great outdoors great for all

By: [Amanda Gokee](#) - July 28, 2021 6:15 am



The All Persons Trail is under construction in Manchester's Cedar Swamp Preserve. (Amanda Gokee | New Hampshire Bulletin)

In the past year, the conservation movement has been grappling with its racist roots and history. Organizations are trying to acknowledge the ways those roots extend into the present day – and fix it.

Last July, the Sierra Club publicly [apologized](#) for its “substantial role in perpetuating white supremacy.” Key figures in the conservation movement, such as John Muir, who founded the Sierra Club in 1892, made “derogatory comments about Black and Indigenous peoples that drew on deeply harmful racist stereotypes,” the apology reads.

In his early writings, [Muir](#) calls Indigenous people “savages,” and refers to both Indigenous and Black people as “dirty.” Muir was friends with Henry Fairfield Osborn, a fellow conservationist who also helped found the American Eugenics Society. The eugenics movement centered on the idea of breeding a genetically superior race, and it led to practices like the forced sterilization of Indigenous women. The movement also targeted the poor and the disabled, who were seen as groups of people that were genetically unfit and who, therefore, should not be allowed to pass on their genetic makeup.

The Nature Conservancy, which released a statement around the same time as the Sierra Club, vowed to recognize the racism of the past to work toward a more equitable future. “We must acknowledge our movement and organization’s past and present struggles with racism and equity,” reads the statement, released July 19, 2020.

Across the nation, those who have greatest access to the outdoors are white and able-bodied. This is in part due to the legacy of conservation and barriers such as cost, transportation, and trail features, but also because of fear and an outdoor culture that is [overwhelmingly white](#).

These national problems about who has access to the outdoors are also felt locally.

“Terrible things have happened to people of color in the woods that make them feel unwelcome there,” said James McKim, president of the Manchester chapter of the NAACP. “Because of our nation’s history, people of color don’t feel comfortable in the woods.”



McKim

And the history of white supremacy extends into present day New Hampshire. After white supremacist vandalism was found on an Audubon preserve in Concord last year, the Inclusive Outdoors Act was introduced to require conservation officers to complete training in civil rights enforcement, anti-discrimination, and de-escalation. While people of color described the discrimination they experience in the outdoors, state park personnel were unaware of those incidents occurring on public land, [according to reporting from NHPR](#). The bill, which was introduced in the Senate, died in the House.

In Manchester this week, a groundbreaking event was held for the new, accessible All Persons Trail designed with input from communities that have often been held at arm's length of the outdoors. The trail in the Nature Conservancy's Cedar Swamp Preserve is just over one mile, and will be 6 feet wide to allow for the passage of wheelchairs.

Through listening sessions, the organization realized the trail had to be wider than initially planned and the parking lot bigger to allow space for a bus to turn around. The trail needed to have a bathroom, and it had to have benches visible from the entrance to make it more welcoming for older people or anyone who might want to take a rest along the way. Each bench will show the distance to the next bench.

"All the things that me as an able-bodied white person with a car and means, you know, that I haven't had to think about, and we knew some of them but we didn't know all of them," said Mark Zankel, state director of the New Hampshire Nature Conservancy.

McKim, who spoke at the groundbreaking, said more organizations should follow this model and take the time to listen before a project is completed. "That's where the needs will be surfaced from the people who actually have the needs, which is something I wish more organizations would do," he said. "You don't know what you don't know until you ask. And once you ask, the money is there."

All those additions nearly doubled the cost of the project, from \$400,000 when it was announced to \$700,000. But Zankel said donors haven't balked at the bigger price tag. "I feel like it's attracted a lot of really wonderful gifts because people see this bigger vision benefiting more people," he said.

The Nature Conservancy has been working to make more accessible trails for the past three years, starting with an initial project in Ossipee. That project didn't involve community input but was well received regardless, according to Joanne Glode, a southern New Hampshire ecologist for the Nature Conservancy. Glode is also the project manager of the All Persons Trail, which is expected to open in October. She said impact to the sensitive wetlands area will be minimal since the new trail will be overlaid onto an existing one. The area is home to Atlantic white cedar – a globally rare species. It grows only in a constricted range in the coastal zone stretching from Georgia to Maine. But because of urban sprawl along the Eastern Seaboard, much of the tree's natural habitat has given way to development.

"Its natural native habitat has been pretty much decimated in a lot of places because of big city building and development," Glode said. It grows in a few patches, and one of them is the Cedar Swamp.

"This one here happens to be the only one that's growing with giant rhododendron," Glode said. Giant rhododendron is another state listed species which, while common further south in the Carolinas, is rare in New Hampshire.

For the Nature Conservancy, work conserving rare habitats and species is linked to equity.



Zankel

"We don't believe that we can achieve our vision, which is a healthy and sustainable world where people and nature thrive together, so long as humanity continues to be afflicted by gross injustice and inequitable access to nature," Zankel said.

The groundbreaking of the trail is being celebrated as a much-welcomed and needed addition to a slim roster of accessible options for people in Manchester. And Zankel is hopeful that the project could inform future policy efforts. But the broader problem of access is far from being solved.

"Where we are now is a mess," said Rep. Maria Perez, a Milford Democrat and the chair of the Latino Caucus.

She said the presence of white supremacist groups like the Proud Boys in the state is a serious cause for concern for people of color in New Hampshire, a concern that's preventing them from feeling safe outdoors. That discomfort exists when Perez is thinking about going for a hike, and now it's getting worse. She feels it even when she thinks about taking her dog for a walk around the block. Perez said that fear was heightened when she attended a Nashua School Board meeting on Monday and the Proud Boys entered "and started screaming and yelling." School Board President Heather Raymond confirmed that the Proud Boys recently started attending school board meetings.

Perez worries they'll start showing up elsewhere.

"I've been here almost 34 years in New Hampshire. And this is like the worst time ever, the feelings that I have and the feelings that other people have feeling unsafe," said Perez, who immigrated to the United States from El Salvador. "I don't feel comfortable going into the outdoors by myself anymore."

Perez testified in support of the Inclusive Outdoors Act, and she said the death of that bill was part of a bigger problem of a House that has been hostile to legislation aimed at inclusivity.

"To be honest, this session has been so difficult," she said.

8/25/2021

Without the political will to pass policy, fostering inclusion in the outdoors is left to local efforts.

The city of Manchester, for example, has allocated some of the \$43.2 million in relief funding from the American Rescue Plan to hire three park rangers.

“We want to make sure that people who are utilizing our outdoor space in the city of Manchester know that they’re available, feel safe while they’re there, and understand all of the opportunities when they’re there,” said Mayor Joyce Craig in an interview following the groundbreaking of the All Persons Trail. The rangers will be available seven days a week to answer questions and address issues.

While there has been talk of adding these positions for years, Craig said the city was never able to fund it. But the federal money changed that.

Manchester is also offering microgrants for community projects.

“There are opportunities for the community to actually apply for grants to do things together. So it could be in a neighborhood, it could be in a park, you know, the opportunities are endless,” said Shanon MacLeod, the policy director for Craig’s office.

For its part, the Nature Conservancy said that in addition to external work like building accessible trails, the organization is also working to diversify its board.

“We can’t go back and undo what’s been done, but we can think about the influence the power and the opportunity that we have in our sector to diversify,” Zankel said.

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