

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://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.”

Page 4, Line 2 Capitalize “Cooperative Extension”

Page 4, Line 8 Change “Rainey” to “Ranie”

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

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

3. PERMIT REVIEW:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Sarah Riley voted Nay.

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

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. Chapter 134 Scenic Road & the Role of the Con Com-Vice Chair Riley said there was a meeting of the Planning Board that she attended where there was an issue pertaining to scenic roads. She asked the Planning Board if the scenic road issue should have come before the Conservation Commission? She believed that the Planning Board did not think the issue needed to come before the Conservation Commission. It was discussed that the Conservation Commission should have been notified of the scenic road issue. Vice Chair Riley read Section 5A of Chapter 134 to the Commission members. The Manager will notify the Conservation Commission from now on.

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

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

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

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

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors: Mr. Heistad said that Signal Hill trail were cleared of all dropped down trees.

Ms. Riley MOVED to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Darla Bruno voted Nay.

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

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

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

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group: None

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

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

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

8. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting automatically adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara R. Higgins
Recording Secretary