

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021
LebanonNH.gov/Live
7:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Boisvert (Vice Chair), Jeremy Rutter (Planning Board Rep.), Matthew Smith, Nicole Ford Burley (City Historian) and Devin Wilkie (City Council Representative)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

GUESTS: Erling Heistad (City Council/Lebanon Outing Club)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Boisvert called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 10, 2021

Amendments to the Minutes:

Page 1, line 18- change 1854 to 1855

Mr. Rutter MOVED to approve the November 10, 2021 minutes as amended.

Seconded by Mr. Smith. Mr. Wilkie abstained.

**The MOTION was approved (4-0-1)*

3. PUBLIC REVIEW

A. None

4. STUDY ITEMS

A. Discussion: Future CLG grant options

Ms. Owens has reached out for clarification regarding the timeline for the next CLG grant cycle; applications are due sometime in January. The Seminary Hill school building and Crafts Avenue historic district continue to be discussed as potential CLG projects.

B. Discussion: Review and Update of Historic District Regulations

None

C. Discussion: Landmark Designations

At the November meeting, it was suggested that the ski jumps at Storrs Hill could be recognized with a landmark designation for their historical and cultural significance in Lebanon. Mr. Erling Heistad of the Lebanon Outing Club, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2023, was invited to speak to the Commission about the history of the Outing Club and its ski jumps. His father, Erling Heistad, was a

1 Mechanical Arts teacher and winter sports coach at Lebanon High School. He started the Lebanon
2 Outing Club in 1923 and coached skiers until 1948. Mr. Heistad stated that his father, “wanted people to
3 have fun outside”. His students were taught the philosophy of skiing and leadership; they were involved
4 in all aspects of the club, from clearing trails to building ski jumps. In total, the elder Heistad built 8 ski
5 jumps in Lebanon; his vision was that every child in Lebanon would be able to walk to a ski jump. His
6 skiers, some of whom went on to be Olympians, dominated New England skiing for decades. The ski tow
7 at Storrs Hill was installed in 1935 and is believed to be the oldest continuously operating lift in the
8 United States. Mr. Heistad stated that thanks to a donation from the Olympic Regional Development
9 Authority, landing mats will be installed during the summer of 2022. This will enable year-round
10 jumping at Storrs Hill. After Mr. Heistad's presentation, the Commission discussed the possible landmark
11 designation of Storrs Hill, with the ski jumps and ski tow acting as contributing factors. The cultural and
12 historical significance of this property stems from the legacy of a community ski program which
13 dominated New England competitions and created Olympic athletes. Today, Storrs Hill continues to train
14 skiers and help people enjoy the outdoors with the support of community sponsors and volunteers. **D.**

15 **Discussion: Mall Kiosk Update**

Mr. Smith suggested using the kiosk and the upcoming Winter Olympics to promote the Outing Club/Storrs Hill and get more people out participating in winter sports. Ms. Owens asked Mr. Heistad about getting clear photos for a kiosk display; ideally, past and present pictures of the ski jumps and ski tow. Another idea was to create a map illustrating the locations of the 8 original ski jumps.

5. Other Business

Ms. Owens reported that the City renewed its membership in the NH Preservation Alliance. This organization provides education, planning resources and grants to its members. The Division of Historic Resources (DHR) inquired as to whether or not the Heritage Commission would like their input on the Mechanic/Mascoma Street Roundabout Project, slated to begin in 2023. This could include a consultation with the DOT, asking them to provide a more detailed explanation of their 10-year plan. The Commission agreed this would be beneficial. Ms. Owens also mentioned that the former Foundry building on Mascoma Street may not qualify to be added to the National Register. DHR is requesting more information about the property. Ms. Ford Burley noted that the building has survived two fires.

6. Open to the Public

None

7. Future Agenda Items

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wilkie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Boisvert.

** The MOTION was unanimously approved (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Castillo
Recording Secretary