

FINAL

**LEBANON CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

4th Quarter 2021 Board/Committee Reports

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Remote Via Microsoft Teams: [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/Live)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tim McNamara, Assistant Mayor Clifton Below, Erling Heistad, Karen Liot Hill, George Sykes, Devin Wilkie (Remote), Douglas Whittlesey, Jim Winny (arrived at 6:43 PM), and Karen Zook

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Shaun Mulholland, City Clerk Kristin Kenniston, GIS Coordinator Mark Goodwin

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McNamara called this portion of the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. 4th Quarter 2021 Board/Committee Reports:

Arts & Culture Commission: Chair Jessica Giordani

They have had a number of project progress as follows:

- Soofa signs have been installed.
- New Banners have been installed in West Lebanon and Downtown Lebanon.
- The Tunnel Art Opening took place in December with great success.
- Once the weather turns warmer, sidewalk poems will be popping up around the City.
- They have a public/private partnership between the Arts & Culture Commission, local businesses, and the Lebanon Public Libraries. This partnership allowed for the installation of a free crafts library at Kilton for use by the public.
- Their meeting in January will include planning for 2022.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusions Commission): Councilor Liot Hill gave the report.

- The DEI Commission met for the first time this month, and there was a desire to have some communications with the Arts & Culture Commission.
- They elected **Renee DePalo, Chair and Emily Walton, Vice-Chair.**
- Meetings will take place twice each month on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 PM.
- At the next meeting, they are going to be discussing some goals-setting.
- Preliminary discussions took place regarding their Mission and the City's Charter as adopted by the Council, as well as the budget.

Economic Development Committee (EDC): William (Bill) Dunn

- Business NH magazine will be featuring an article on Lebanon, NH. An interview time is being coordinated. Mr. Dunn spoke about the reasons why Lebanon is becoming a regional draw.
- At their next meeting, they will be meeting jointly/collaboratively with the Downtown TIF Advisory Board to examine the redevelopment opportunities of the back parking lots.
- Meetings will need to increase, most likely 2x's each month, with an increase in time as well.
- As preliminary steps, the EDC/ Leb TIF Advisory will be looking at 2016 Visioning Study recommendations. They will also be reviewing the City's Master Plan, specifically Chapters 1, 3, 6, and 7, along with some Smart Growth concepts, ultimately looking at the 2014 & 2017 Parking

Utilization Studies and using this as a guide to figure out how to undertake some of the same efforts in 2022. Hopefully, this work will be completed within the next 6 months so they can start putting together an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the City Council.

Pedestrian/Bicyclist Advisory Committee: Chair Colin Smith

- They have been working on a multimodal/complete streets implementation plan with support from the Regional Planning Commission” as it is a City project and there is no such mobile communications plan
- They have been engaged with the Rail Trail/Mascoma Greenway that includes installing a bike pump/repair station at the east end of the tunnel.
- The City Manager has been coordinating with the State on the extension of the Mascoma Greenway beyond Glen Road toward Riverside Park.
- The City now has a design approval for the final design of the Lahaye Drive multiuse path. Design approval for the preliminary design should be completed this spring and will then go into the construction phase.
- They met with the Lebanon Police Department and SAU Superintendent Joanne Roberts to discuss the Safe Routes to School Program and the walking school buses initiatives.
- Mr. Alan Schnur has been updating their accident analysis for several years now. Unfortunately, his preliminary analysis shows there was an uptick in Ped/Bike collisions with vehicles in 2021 compared to previous years, including another collision at the Evans Drive/Hanover Street Intersection where there was a fatality. When his analysis is completed, they will report back to the Planning Department.

Conservation Commission: Vice Chair Sarah Riley

- They had one large review for the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). It was an application from the Lebanon Crushed Stone Quarry (Pike Industries, West Lebanon), noting that the quarry will be expanding and already has an approved Alteration of Terrain Permit to expand. It is important the City and Council is aware of this project because it has such a huge impact on the City and the region. The mountain will be coming down and there are a lot of wetland losses as a result, including loss of vernal pools and other wetlands, as well as potential significant impacts to surrounding properties. There will be a NH DES Public Hearing, most likely in Concord, NH.

One of the main takeaways of this project will be a significant contribution to the Aquatic Mitigation Fund for wetland impacts. It would be nice if these funds would stay in Lebanon, NH, but that would require a mitigation project to be found within the City’s boundaries. If there are none, then these funds go to the ARM Fund Committee.

Councilor Liot Hill and Vice Chair Riley discussed the reasons for the City’s Natural Resources inventory; the advantages of having mitigation opportunities for the City, and the difficulties in meeting the NH DES criteria due to the impact on vernal pools, which is where the Army Corps. of Engineers gets involved.

Vice Chair Riley explained there is a formula for the mitigation impact(s) of vernal pools, which she is not familiar with, noting the Planning Staff is primarily involved in looking at mitigation options for this project and the Conservation Commission is not directly involved.

Councilor Liot Hill spoke about waiver options, noting it would be good to explore all options available, including asking the City Manager to make sure our City Staff is exploring all options available to us.

In response to Assistant Mayor Below's question, Ms. Riley noted this is an active quarry with approximately 57 acres, but over a considerable amount of time (decades) they are going to expand to a total size of about 250 acres, which has already been approved under the Alteration of Terrain Permit. What came to the Conservation Commission is the wetland application, which will impact about 2.5 acres of wetlands in that mining area, and includes 3 vernal pools. She also spoke about some possible ecological values of this property.

Downtown TIF Advisory Board: William (Bill) Dunn

- Mirrored the report from the EDC (Economic Development Commission)

Heritage Commission: Councilor Wilkie gave report

- They discussed the history of the ski hill/ski jumps, which the Heritage Commission will recognize.
- They are also working on continuing the process of the review of the Lebanon Historic District and the consideration of other Historic Districts within the City.

Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee (LEAC): Chair/Assistant Mayor Below

- There were only two meetings this past quarter (October & December).
- Updates were given on the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and related legislative and regulatory issues, noting that Hudson, Webster, Pembroke, and New London have joined the coalition making this a total of 17 towns now involved. They have issued a RFI (Request for Information) and are reviewing a business plan, as well as establishing their committees.
- Planning for the development of the City Action Plan has started.
- Mr. Woody Rothe has been compiling examples of best practices and other communities Action Plans that LEAC can borrow/learn from. Highlights of the Climate Action Plan from Mr. Rothe included: having community engagement; PACE Funding for housing; Clean Energy Funding; affordable housing being built to Zero Net Carbon Standards; and, financing for lower income residents such as a Zero % Loan Program. These are not all the options being looked at.
- They are turning their attention to planning for EV (Electronic Vehicles) in the City.

(NOTE: The Class VI Roads Committee will not be meeting until further notice.)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dona E. Gibson
Recording Secretary