

FINAL

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/Live)
January 13, 2022
6:30 PM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Megan Smith (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 30, 2021 & December 9, 2021

November 30, 2021

Amendments:

- Page 1, line 21: To read, "...sloping **land** along the sides."
- Page 1, line 24: To read, "Another part of the AoT permit requires **adequate** internal..."
- Page 4, line 24: To strike: "...parcels created in individual ownership that are less than 10 acres are placed into current use."

Ms. Riley MOVED to approve the November 30, 2021 minutes, as amended.

Seconded by Mr. James.

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

December 09, 2021

Amendments:

- Page 6, line 20-21: To read, "**removed a fallen** tree."
- Page 7, line 12: Change "Mr." to "Ms. Riley."
- Page 2, line 5: Change "Ms. Riley" to "Ms. Almy."
- Page 2, line 36: Change "Ms. Almy" to "Ms. Hirai."
- Page 5, line 16-17: To read, "**Enrique and Veronica** Darer..."
- Page 5, line 17: To read, "with the request it remains protected open space..."
- Page 5, line 22: To change "parcel" to "protected open space."
- Page 6, line 5: Change "Ms. Riley" to "It was..."
- Page 6, line 14: Change "monthly" to "quarterly"

Mr. James MOVED to approve the December 09, 2021 minutes, as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Almy.

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

3. ELECT OFFICERS

Chair Oidtmann MOVED to nominate Sarah Riley as Chair of the Conservation Commission.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

There were no other nominations.

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

Ms. Riley MOVED to nominate Bruce James as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

There were no other nominations.

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

4. PERMIT REVIEW

A. None

5. STUDY ITEMS

A. 2022 Goal Setting

There was discussion regarding moving a pile of lumber located on the Hirai property, to be used in various locations on conservation properties.

Mr. Goodwin suggested that proposed goals could be placed into various buckets, such as property stewardship (blazing, signage, new trails, etc.), educational outreach, zoning regulations, natural resource planning, etc.

Ms. Riley noted that she would like to hear from all Commissioners as to their goals for 2022.

Mr. James stated that the pile of lumber on the Hirai property can be moved to his property.

Ms. Hirai stated that she would like to get more involved and take the lead role in volunteer and stewardship outreach.

Ms. Almy stated that there has already been some work done on existing homeless sites on some conservation properties. She would like to see more involvement with schoolteachers and students on conservation properties.

Ms. Riley noted that there is an active homeless site on the Ticknor property near the vernal pool. Lynne Goodwin, Human Services Director, is helping with this item. It was noted that having cards available with local resources to hand out is helpful in these situations.

Ms. Riley stated that the Commission may need to reach out to the school board or Superintendent to begin outreach into the schools. Some of the schools are currently doing limited or no field trips due to the pandemic.

Mr. James stated that he would like for the Commission to look at each conservation property and set goals, or a general plan, for each. He also suggested the possibility of creating a standing Trails Committee, made up of Mr. Goodwin, a conservation ranger, and three Commissioners to look at all the trails and examine goals for these. This could be a bridge between policy and operations.

Mr. James noted concern regarding Mt. Support Road and the nearby wetlands being chipped away. There have been two major complexes that recently received support from the Commission, and another will be proposed soon. He questioned if the Commission might consider doing a more substantial analysis of this area so that there is more of a base of knowledge and resources, prior to additional permit reviews.

Mr. Lacey stated concerns regarding not having any mitigation projects ready to go. He suggested proactively working with applicant's consultants ahead of time to consider mitigation plan possibilities. The Commission could work as an advocate in the process.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the Commission could hire its own consultants for a full-scale analysis for certain areas, such as Mt. Support Road.

Ms. Hirai stated that one Master Plan outcome is to develop a wildlife habitat overlay zone for critical habitat areas.

Mr. Goodwin explained that the Commission's role is to advocate for natural resources and potentially pay for NRIs or other studies to be completed. The Commission then hands off its desires and knowledge to the professional planning staff to have further dialogue with the developers.

Mr. Lacey stated that his suggestion is to work with the natural resource scientists on possible mitigation projects for potential wetland impacts through future projects. Mr. Goodwin noted that he has a list of potential projects that he can suggest to developers for possible mitigation projects.

Ms. Almy asked if the wetland delineations done by the City are correct. Mr. Goodwin explained that the GIS wetlands or City depictions are trumped by developers who pay for certified wetland delineations.

Mr. Johnson stated that his goal interests involve stewardship, such as hiring someone similar to a Junior Ranger over the summer. This could help increase the number of people working on the lands.

Chair Oidtmann echoed concerns regarding having mitigation projects at hand. He noted two projects, including a 20-acre property bordering Signal Hill and one-acre bordering the Alana Cole Conservation Area.

Mr. Goodwin stated that the Commission already has four programs: the Volunteer Stewardship Program, Wild About Lebanon, the Amphibian Crossing Program, and the Land Conservation Program.

Ms. Riley stated that she believes it is important to continue the Wild About Lebanon program. She stated that a Commissioner would need to be available to lead the walks. Mr. Goodwin stated that he will continue to work with Ms. Riley and Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT) on this item.

Ms. Hirai stated that she and Ms. Riley are working on an amphibian crossing and vernal pool program. Mr. Lacey is also involved in this program.

Mr. Goodwin stated that there have been a couple of mailings sent out for the Land Conservation Program, to educate landowners about the options for possibly conserving their property. There will also be a webpage for this on the City website.

Mr. Goodwin noted that some of the items under property stewardship goals include finishing some kiosks, finishing, and hanging signs, boundary blazing, bog bridges, and larger bridges.

Ms. Riley stated there may be additional items to include under property stewardship, including stair management at Alana Cole.

Ms. Hirai stated that she would like to see the emerald ash borer issue tackled under a topic bucket as well. Mr. Goodwin stated that he would place it under the open space planning/conservation category.

There was discussion regarding the Ranger position and its roles. The Commission agreed to discuss this and how the position integrates with the stewardship program and Commission at a future meeting. Mr. Johnson suggested there be additional discussion regarding making the Ranger a full-time position.

Ms. Hirai noted that there is a current project for Taking Action for Wildlife Cohort to create an educational outreach calendar that lists all events and items to the community.

Mr. Goodwin stated that the Commission may also want to consider a speaker series at some point. Ms. Riley noted that she has a vernal workshop in the field tentatively scheduled.

B. Ticknor Conservation Area – Property Overview and Discussion

Ms. Riley explained that UFLT holds the conservation easement and reviewed some key points from UFLT baseline reports. The property is to be managed to be managed as a “community natural area.” The primary management purpose is to protect the ecology of the property, with the highest emphasis on the protection of wetland and wildlife resources. There is also a mention of low-impact recreation and heritage items on site. The baseline report recommends that the City, within a year of protection of the property, carry out a more extensive inventory of resources on the property, including invasive species. She believes this could be used to create a formal, comprehensive management plan. This is a large project to undertake and could include collaboration with the Historical Society. The baseline report goes on to state that following the

inventory of resources, the City can determine if additional trails are needed. The UVLT and City will continue to monitor trail impacts to the wetlands and wildlife, and possibly place barriers as needed. She noted that there are no wetland delineations on the southern parcel of the property. The City will have to work to find dry spots in the area to create sustainable trails.

Ms. Riley noted that there is a Trails for People and Wildlife video through Taking Action for Wildlife that is very helpful to watch.

Mr. Goodwin explained that there is a combination of logical and illogical spots for trails on this property.

The group reviewed existing and potential trails.

Ms. Riley stated that she reached out to the Twin State Trailbusters, a local snowmobile club, to confirm which trails on the property the group actively uses. While the Club actively uses the southern boundary trail, they do not use the bypass road and have never ridden on Ticknor Road. This is not an active property for the group to use.

The group discussed parking options and trail name possibilities.

Ms. Riley noted that there aren't supposed to be any wheeled vehicles on the conservation land. The group discussed this in terms of Ticknor Road and potentially limiting wheeled vehicle access. Mr. Heistad noted that abutters are allowed to access the trail for agricultural purposes. Mr. Goodwin stated that he believes Ticknor Road exists currently as a Class VI road.

Ms. Riley mentioned an area that needs to be cleaned up near one of the streams on the property near Dulac Street.

The Commission agreed to extend the meeting for 10 minutes.

Ms. Riley noted that some action items for Ticknor include having a management plan for the property, wisely promoting certain trails on the property, dealing with the Class VI road issue, a clean-up day for the property, invasive management, and a potential trail committee for the property.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Reports from other committees:

- Conservation Lands Monitors (Various Members) – None at this time.
- Lebanon Biodiversity Group (D. Lacey) - None at this time.
- Workshops & Educational Opportunities (Various Members)

Ms. Riley stated that the UVLT has a Lunch-and-Learn series on January 20, 2022. There are additional items in the series to come. The Connecticut River Speaker Series is continuing on January 18, 2022.

Mr. Lacey stated that the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists is having two Zoom sessions.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lacey noted that he will be asking former Commissioner David Jorgensen to place a few bluebird boxes in Baker's Crossing, per Matt Tarr's recommendations.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude
Recording Secretary