



**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
JULY 13, 2022 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. June 8, 2022
 - 3. Public Review**
 - A. None
 - 4. Study Items**
 - A. Special Projects
 - Historic Districts
 - Landmark designations
 - Oral History
 - B. Dana House - review preliminary reuse input from public, relevant exemplar facilities and site plantings
 - C. Education
 - 5. Other Business**
 - A. Review of signage goals (rail trial, historic districts)
 - 6. Open to the Public**
 - 7. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. DPW projects/GAR follow-up
 - B. Oral history
 - 8. 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 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
Heritage Commission
July 13, 2022**

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

June 8, 2022

DRAFT

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
WEDNESDAY, June 9th, 2022
LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:00 pm**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep)

GUESTS: Barbara Hirai

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 6:24 PM.

2
3 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** May 11th, 2022

4
5 *Mr. Smith MOVED to approve the May 11th, 2022 minutes.*

6 *Seconded by Ms. Ford Burley.*

7
8 **The MOTION was approved (3-1-0)*

9 *Mr. Wilkie abstained.*

10
11 **3. PUBLIC REVIEW:** None

12
13 Ms. Rebecca Owens came online at 6:37PM.

14 Jeremy Rutter arrived at 6:38pm.

15
16 **4. STUDY ITEMS:**

17
18 **A. SPECIAL PROJECTS-**

19
20 **Historic Districts-**None

21
22 **Landmark Designations-**Ms. Owens gave an update. She said they had ordered the plaques and sent out
23 letters to the property owners. She will follow up with phone calls for the numbers she could find. She
24 were looking to see if the owners could give more unique property information. There are 86 designated
25 properties currently.

26
27 **Oral History-**Ms. Owens said that Ms. Barbara Slaiby indicated that the interviews were still going and
28 that she had spoken to Tomapo Farm and Mr. Erling Heistad. Ms. Owens said the Ms. Slaiby was
29 working with several other communities as well, so things were moving along, but she was busy. She
30 said that there has been some editing that needed to take place when people didn't like what they said, and
31 the library was still working on a way to archive the audio projects.
32

1 **B. DANA HOUSE**-Ms. Owens gave an update on the Dana House. She said a few facilities managers
2 met at the Dana House recently and noted that some shingles and siding pieces were not in place and
3 would need to be addressed to prevent moisture intrusion.
4

5 Ms. Owens suggested that the Commission think about what they want the Dana House to be as far as
6 future use. Vice Chair Ford Burley said she did not think the Dana House should be a house museum.
7 She would like to see it be a more community-oriented space. The Commission discussed other uses for
8 the house. Mr. Wilkie asked if the public had ever been asked for their thoughts on what to do with the
9 Dana House. Ms. Owens said they may be able to do something like that less formally through listservs.
10

11 Ms. Owens explained that the annex did have electricity and a bathroom but no heat. The original house
12 needed abatement to be safe for use. She pointed out that if the Dana House was to remain primitive then
13 that would really limit the uses for the property. If it was modernized that could change the possible
14 uses.
15

16 Discussion was had on trying to get thoughts on the Dana House from the Historical Society. Vice Chair
17 Ford Burley said they would be having a meeting in the next few weeks and perhaps Ms. Owens would
18 come and speak at it.
19

20 Ms. Barbara Hirai was a guest online. She said that her daughter did a Girl Scout project years ago and
21 created flower beds around the house. Ms. Hirai said that last year she had moved some of the plants
22 away from the house when the new roof was put on. She wanted to know what the people want to do
23 with the gardens. She said she could weed what was there now. Much discussion took place on the
24 flower beds on the property. They decided to get the information as to what is currently planted there,
25 and the Commission could look at it at the next meeting.
26

27 Ms. Owens pointed out that it was difficult to see the Dana House sign from the road. She was
28 wondering if they should relocate the sign to be better seen or not. She said at the next meeting she would
29 bring the most recent action plan the Commission had come up with in the past.
30

31 **C. EDUCATION**-None
32

33 **5. OTHER BUSINESS:** 34

35 Vice Chair Ford Burley gave an update on the GAR (Soldiers' Memorial Building) sculpture
36 conservation going on. She said she was contacted by the consultants of the conservation who were
37 looking for some of the historical context of the sculptures. They plan on moving forward with the
38 restoration. She said the statues were made of zinc and there is an identical one in Candia. The cannon
39 balls are iron and steel.
40

41 She also gave an update about the historical society. She said they were trying to be more present around
42 Lebanon this summer. They plan on being at the Farmer's Market on Thursdays and the Carter House
43 will be open during the alumni parade this coming weekend. The Historical Society will be participating
44 in the Juneteenth celebration this year as well.
45

46 Vice Chair Ford Burley also brought up the possibility of having signage put up in the Colburn Park
47 Historic District. Ms. Figart said she would like to see that happen. The Commission discussed different
48 signage.
49

1
2 Ms. Owens gave an update on the GAR statue conservation. She said she had forwarded the
3 Commission's questions about the statues to Public Works. They did not have any information available
4 currently. The questions did provoke some more thought about long term planning for the future.
5

6 The Commission also discussed having a joint meeting with the Historical Society. The Historical
7 Society meet every 3rd Monday of the month, online only. Vice Chair Ford Burley was going to talk to
8 the Historical Society to see if they would be interested in attending a Heritage Commission meeting in
9 the future.
10

11 Vice Chair Ford Burley said a member of the Conservation Commission reached out to her about getting
12 some historical information from the Commission for an upcoming walk they were sponsoring. They
13 were specifically looking for information about Native Americans in the area they would be hiking in.
14 Unfortunately, she could not find much information like that for the Lebanon area.
15

16 **6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** None
17

18 **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Vice Chair Ford Burley suggested that they talk about putting up
19 signage in different areas of Lebanon such as on the rail trail, as a topic for the next meeting.
20

21 **A. DPW PROJECTS-** None
22

23 **8. ADJOURNMENT:**
24

25 *Mr. Wilkie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.*
26 *Seconded by Mr. Smith.*
27

28 ** The MOTION was unanimously approved (5-0).*
29

30 Respectfully submitted,
31 Barbara Higgins

**Agenda
Heritage Commission
July 13, 2022**

**Agenda Item #4B
Study Items**

**Dana House – review
preliminary reuse input from
public, relevant exemplar
facilities and site plantings**

“Seeking Community Input: Future of Lebanon's 1765 Dana House”

Background

The Dana House, circa 1765, is the oldest extant dwelling in Lebanon. The Dana House was moved in 1988 out of the path of development and permanently relocated at the corner of Elm Street West. Dana House was placed on the State Register of Historic Places in 2004. The City of Lebanon’s Heritage Commission is charged with facilitating protection of the community’s historic resources within their natural, built, and cultural context. One of Heritage’s ongoing stewardship projects is the restoration of the Dana House property in West Lebanon. Chapter 11 of the City’s 2030 Master Plan identifies the Dana House as “a primary preservation focus for the City”. A specific action listed in the Master Plan to implement this goal includes: Continue restoring the Dana House in West Lebanon and develop plans to convert it to a museum [and education facility].

Public Engagement

On June 13, 2022, the Lebanon Heritage Commission published the following inquiry (see *LebNews Content* below) at <https://flyleb.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2025>. The purpose of the inquiry is to help guide the Commission to document *current* public sentiment. The 2012 Master Plan reference to the Dana House as a museum is now ten years old, so present efforts hope to evaluate whether this goal is still relevant, with significant public support. The Dana House has a long history of study and documentation by professional consultants, including presentations about historical findings and recommendations for reuse of the facility, which is owned by the City of Lebanon, however public input has been limited to meetings and open house event participation.

This online inquiry seeks to broaden the opportunity for open-ended comment and inform the Commission’s development of a formal survey. Feedback from current efforts will build on past references to help the City and its partners, including the Historical Society and West Lebanon citizens groups, to transform visions for reuse into practical implementation planning and substantiate requests for support of associated projects.

LebNews Content

The 1765 Dana House (at 3 Elm Street West, near the SAU building on Seminary Hill in West Lebanon) is the oldest known house still standing in the City of Lebanon. It has been preserved as a historic resource with occasional use as a meeting space but it has not been made widely available to the residents of Lebanon.

Have you been to the Dana House? What does it mean to you?

What do you see as the future of the Dana House – should it be preserved as it is, or should it be put to use (e.g. as a house museum, as a community gathering space, or perhaps something else)?

Please let us know your thoughts! Stories, ideas, proposals, and requests can be submitted via the [Boards and Committees Form](#) to the Heritage Commission or by email to Associate Planner Rebecca Owens at rebecca.owens@lebanonnh.gov.

Visit the City of Lebanon [Dana House](#) webpage for more information about our oldest existing house.

Sample of Responses to LebNews Received to Date

1. I am responding to your request for feedback on the future use of the Dana house. I had the privilege of visiting it during the West Lebanon open house a few years ago and brought my school age daughter with me. We both appreciated the opportunity to look inside. The visit was made more impactful by the narrative of the host, who explained some of the early history of Lebanon. We were particularly compelled by the idea that the surrounding area was deeply wooded with giant trees and there were no roads. It gave us a new perspective on the changes that have taken place in just 250 years. We think the Dana house is an appropriate venue for a historical museum to educate the populace and particularly school children about the colonization of this area by Europeans. With input by local people of the Abenaki tribe, it could also tell their side of the colonization story.
2. I have some information on the early proprietor, Joseph Dana, 1700 - 1778. Not sure if you all have this. He may have been the builder/owner of the Dana House going back to 1765 when he is supposed to have moved from CT to Lebanon NH with his family. His wife was Mary Fulham Moore of Weston MA. From "the Dana family in America", p.241 -242: A long paragraph explains his early contributions to the town. Some day I would love to visit the Dana House. Joseph is my 5th great grandfather. I am enjoying researching him and his children. Rev. Joseph, his last child, became the 60 year pastor of Ipswich MA, Old South Church.
3. I'm responding to the solicitation for comment in Leb News. I have lived here for 15 years and never heard of the Dana house, but now I want to visit it. I love old buildings and would love to see this house preserved. A house museum would be kinda cool... maybe use it for some kind of craft for summer camps- I love that kids can go to Shaker Village and learn to make a broom! Could a garden club create a historic garden of vegetables and medicinal herbs? If it is one big open space inside, I wonder if it could be used as a dance hall. Right now, the only space for community ballroom dances is the RWB.
4. I have no proof except what my Mom telling me as a child. My sister Rae Jean Johnson was born in the Dana house when it was located on South Main Street in West Lebanon. My sister was born Aug.7,1931.
5. I think it would be great if it was made into a house museum with historical information/photos about West Lebanon and Lebanon. It would be great if it could be open all the time so that people could go in and read about the area whenever they wanted. I don't suppose we live in that kind of world though. So maybe open on Saturdays and Sundays during daylight hours, with any info and/or displays secured so that the house could be open even if it wasn't staffed. Lebanon has so much interesting history. It would be nice to have the info easily accessible at different locations around Lebanon and West Lebanon.