

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
WEDNESDAY, June 8th, 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. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 6:24 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 11th, 2022

*Mr. Smith MOVED to approve the May 11th, 2022 minutes.
Seconded by Ms. Ford Burley.*

**The MOTION was approved (3-1-0)
Mr. Wilkie abstained.*

3. PUBLIC REVIEW: None

Ms. Rebecca Owens came online at 6:37PM.
Jeremy Rutter arrived at 6:38pm.

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. SPECIAL PROJECTS-

Historic Districts-None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. EDUCATION-None

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

Vice Chair Ford Burley gave an update on the sculpture conservation going on. She said she was contacted by the consultants of the conservation who were looking for some of the historical context of the sculptures. They plan on moving forward with the restoration. She said the statues were made of zinc and there is an identical one in Candia. The cannon balls are iron and steel.

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

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

Ms. Owens gave an update on the statue conservation. She said she had forwarded the Commission's questions about the statues to Public Works. The staff was not provided any information. The questions did provoke some more thought about long term planning for the future.

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

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

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

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

A. DPW PROJECTS- None

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Higgins